

Lowell City News

**2019 Spring Edition
March, April, May**



2019 Mayor State of the City Address



Good evening. It is my privilege to address you this evening. I would like to greet Mr. Burns and his staff, of the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. I extend my gratitude to the city officials in attendance this evening, the city employees, and most importantly, the citizens of Lowell. Thank you for spending your time here, with us, this evening. I am pleased to present to you the City of Lowell, State of the City Address.

The past six weeks have been somewhat of a whirlwind here. After taking my oath of office, I immediately began the task of stream lining this government. For many years before, this government has bloated and is now living beyond its means. For governments, there are three possible ways of easing that pain. Federal governments can print money to pay for the things they cannot afford, while States and Municipalities can borrow money to pay for the things they cannot afford. This is not an option for me, as I will not preside over the financial destruction of this city over pet projects which we cannot afford. Secondly, a government can raise its means by implementing taxes upon the governed. This, too, is not an option for me. Increased taxation due to failed economic policies is tantamount to theft and only treats the symptoms of the problem and not the underlying issues. Thirdly, a government can streamline itself and increase its efficiency. This is by far the best option for tightening the financial belt and living within our means. Most everyone knows how to live within their means. Unfortunately, that sentiment seems to be lost on governments, both large and small. As government leaders, we must be careful to evaluate our city properly. This proper evaluation, coupled with the following steps taken to increase efficiency, will be a good start to turning the financial tide in the future.

We have taken several steps toward stream lining the City of Lowell over the last six weeks and I am extremely confident in the outlook for the future. I again would like to thank the city officials in attendance for accepting these changes implemented in the face of the large financial burden ahead.

The finances of the City are currently our biggest challenge. However we have great employees and wonderful businesses and patrons here, so our finances should soon be under control. County and City Sales Tax collections have increased from 2017 to 2018, by 9.8%. This equates to an increase of \$5,324,615. While this is something to celebrate, we can do better. The best way to increase these numbers is through free market principles of true capitalism. Instead of capitulating to only a set size of pie from which we pull, the government should do as our ingenious founders envisioned which is to clear the road of encumbrances, so our business owners and entrepreneurs can make more pies.

This leads me to our Community Development Department. This, like all our departments, is near and dear to my heart. This is an area where we have, as a city, quite honestly, failed our constituents. I pledge right now, that will no longer happen. We can do many things to help those who want to create or grow their businesses in Lowell. This City is primed for growth, we only need to step out of the way, so we can help people realize their own visions for their own businesses. I commit to investing myself, my time, and my energy, to bringing point of sale businesses to Lowell, like retail and entertainment businesses. My first step toward seeing this reality is stream lining our planning and construction policies and procedures. We will also hold accountable those who stand in the way of real progress by not adhering to written policies and procedures. This will increase our value, as a City, to prospective developers. We have changed the structure of the building services department. This is not the only change in this area. We are continuing to update the land use code and fee schedule to make building ones dream business in Lowell within reach.

Community Calendar

City Council Meeting

6:30 PM

March 19, 2019

April 16, 2019

May 21, 2019

Planning Commission

6:00 PM

March 4, 2019

March 18, 2019

April 1, 2019

April 15, 2019

May 6, 2019

May 20, 2019

Court Dates

Arraignment

8:00 AM

March 11, 2019

April 8, 2019

May 13, 2019

Discovery

9:00 AM

Trial

10:00 AM

March 15, 2019

April 12, 2019

May 17, 2019

Holidays

CLOSED

May 27, 2019

Memorial Day

MUDTOWN DAYS

June 7—8, 2019

www.lowellarkansas.gov 479-770-2185



Another, very important, issue which walks hand-in-hand with community development is infrastructure. This is a high priority for Lowell. We have several projects in place. One such project is the South Dixieland Road Extension. The bidding process for this project will begin soon. Because of its regional significance, it will be funded by a Federal Grant in at a rate of 80/20. When completed, it will be an additional North/South corridor to help relieve traffic congestion. The completion of this corridor will, no doubt, be a draw of people traveling through our great City. We must, as leaders, do what is necessary to increase the draw along that corridor to entice travelers to stop and spend their hard-earned money in Lowell. Additionally, the Arkansas Department of Transportation completed the Old Wire Road project this past year. We look forward to the opportunity which presents itself with that new corridor.

Along with street infrastructure, businesses want to see other mainstays in order to be enticed to build here. These include a robust water and sewer system capable of handling the needs of the businesses. To answer this call, Lowell is tackling the Zion Church Road project. This is an improvement project aimed at extending water and sewer services in that area.

We have recently seen an improvement of services on the west side of I-49 with an additional Fire Station which went into service in April of 2018. The increase in service has brought very real monetary challenges to this City. I am currently working with the Fire Chief to stream line the response policy. This will ensure only needed personnel will be responding to a call for service and others will still be available for additional calls. This will cut down on a number of costs associated with operating this emergency service. We will find the optimal balance, for Lowell, between providing excellent emergency services and doing so in a fiscally responsible manner. In the coming days, the fire department will see many changes. I would like to thank Chief Mike Morris for his many years of service to this community. Chief Morris has notified me of his intention to retire from the Lowell Fire Department, effective in June. He will assist in transitioning his duties to others, so the citizens will not see a lapse in service.

The other side of the emergency service coin is the police department. It, too, is filled with highly competent individuals who are driven to provide professional, customer service oriented, police service in order to preserve life, liberty, and property while promoting public safety. The steps we are taking to consolidate the department for efficiency are, new shift assignments with more officers overnight, as well as retaining the Animal Shelter as a part of the police department, instead of its own department, and restructuring within the department. For the police department, I am focused on taking this great group of employees and empowering them with training. At one point, our police department was one of the most well-trained departments in the area; we aim for that goal again. We have also taken steps to retain our officers at a higher rate, through benefits. We are working on a minimum staffing policy which will ensure enough officers will always be available to handle any issue. With more resources, that means crimes will be more effectively investigated. This should mean more closed cases.

As criminal cases close and criminal charges are filed, that will increase the docket for the district court. Our court employees are some of the unsung heroes of this City. They constantly deal with overcrowding in the court facility and a steady stream of criminal and traffic violations from a variety of agencies. This case load will only increase as our population increases and our rate of case closure increases.

As our population increases, all facets of the City will be impacted. As more people inquire about our great City, the city hall employees have a larger and larger impact on perspective residents and business owners. They serve as ambassadors for the City of Lowell. I thank them for their continued commitment to customer service.

As you can see, the State of the City is a challenge. This is a challenge I eagerly accept. This challenge will be overcome, and we will be better than ever. Through stream-lining and efficiency, we will master these tests. The trials we face will make us better, once we repair the damage. We must have resolve. Resolve to stick to our principles, principles which are tried and true. Principles as old as the country itself. President Reagan famously warned us, “As government expands, liberty contracts.” and “Government exists to protect us from each other. Where

government has gone beyond its limits is in deciding to protect us from ourselves.” This government is committed to taking the necessary steps for private citizens and businesses to succeed, then getting out of their way so they can. We are all in this together. We must all work together to be successful. I encourage everyone to participate in their government. One can volunteer to sit on committees or regularly attend meetings. Participation is the key; no matter how small a part you may feel like you play, it is integral. I look forward to working with everyone to make the City of Lowell the best it can be.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, I am reminded of our solemn obligation, to serve our veterans as well as they have served us. As more members of our military return to civilian life, they are in need of support during their transition. The Veterans Health Administration is one resource that ensures that our Veterans receive both medical, surgical and mental health services.

WHEREAS, as Mayor of Lowell, I pledge to support our local VA Hospital and endeavor to ensure that veterans within Lowell have access to all services offered.

WHEREAS, I call upon all Lowell citizens to help support our local Veterans Health Services. If you have the time and a desire to help, opportunities to volunteer are available. There are many needed services that you alone can provide.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Chris Moore, Mayor of Lowell, Arkansas, do hereby proclaim that:

“LOWELL SUPPORTS VETERANS HEALTH SERVICES”

And call upon all Lowell Citizens to help support our Veterans and the Veterans Health Services.

In witness whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed on this 19th day of February, 2019.

“A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.” President John F. Kennedy

Kelvin Parks spoke with the City Council and attendees concerning the various services available to Veterans and their families. The Mayor issued a Proclamation to bring attention to the importance of supporting our veterans.



Kelvin L. Parks, MA
Medical Center Director
Chief Executive Officer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



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CONGRATULATIONS!

Johnny Rice, 2018 Employee of the Year
is presented a certificate and plaque by
Aaron Pile, the 2017 Employee of the year!
Thank you Johnny for all of your hard work!



MUDTOWN 2019

The 2019 Mudtown Days Information is now available on our website—

www.lowellarkansas.gov — EVENTS TAB or our FB page

More information and forms are being added as they become available. Check back
periodically for the events that interest you. Plan on joining us from the
opening ceremonies June 7, 2019 until the Grand Finale Saturday night!

There is always something for everyone.

JUNE 7-8, 2019





The long awaited ribbon cutting of the newly completed Old Wire Road/Dick Trammel Highway was held recently at the Jones Center due to inclement weather. A great honor for recently retired Dick Trammel!

THANK YOU!

VILLAINES

BIRTHDAYS

DONATIONS

Lowell Animal Shelter appreciates all donations!

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Rogers-Lowell Chamber

Presents

The Elbert S. Graham/Elza Tucker Award

Bette Tatum

As former President of the Lowell Kiwanis Club, Bette organized the Family Christmas food baskets, was instrumental in the Lowell Kiwanis sale of poinsettias for the Lowell Children Christmas fund, and shops every year for underprivileged kids at Christmas. Bette is a huge supporter of the Arkansas Children's Hospital walk for kids. She has served First Baptist Church of Lowell in many ways through the years, including organizing and overseeing the food pantry. She started a program called Angie's Closet that provides clothes to those in need and is named after longtime Lowell leader Angie Bishop. She was in charge of the kitchen at First Baptist Lowell and has prepared enough meals to literally feed thousands. Bette is always out front leading the effort to help a family in need with food, clothes and even furniture. There are so many ways that Bette has served her community it is virtually impossible to count.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019

Easter

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LOWELL

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WORSHIP: 9:00/11:00 AM | BRUNCH: 10:00 AM

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**EPIC
EASTER
EGG HUNT
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019**



**10:00 AM
BRUNCH
AND HUNT**



we
love
you,
moms

you are invited to join us for a very special mother's day celebration service on sunday, may 12, at 10:00 a.m. at first baptist church lowell

Happiness... consists in
giving, and in serving others.
Henry Drummond



Donald Stallings, a 90 year old Marine Veteran and resident of Lowell, with a little help from his daughter, Terri Burns, makes triangle peg games and donates them to different charities in Northwest Arkansas. The charities they have donated to include Ronald McDonald House in Rogers and Fayetteville, Veterans Hospital , Children's Shelter, Children's Safety Center, Peace At Home, St. Jude's, Children's Advocacy Center, Highlands Oncology, Children's Hospital, The Call and Samaritan House. So far, he has made over 5,000 games! He's worn out a miter saw, two sanders and a drill. He has drilled over 75,000 holes and used over 70,000 pegs (golf tees). He is proud to say that he still has all of his fingers!



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MICROCHIPPED AND ALSO
REGISTERED AT THE
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BE PICKED UP AT THE SHELTER.**

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**Lowell Animal Shelter
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REMINDER:

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only accepts Check or Cash for all services**