

## Ward 3 (Western Shawnee) Residents –

### My First Two Months on City Council in review:

It's been a busy start to my tenure on City Council, and I've enjoyed every moment. Thank you for allowing me to serve you! Please reach out to me at any time. Here are a few highlights from first couple of months:

- **I spent my time off over the Holidays at City Hall meeting with the heads of each Department and getting up to speed on a wide variety of issues including:**
  - Shawnee Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Team
  - Public Works Department
  - Police Department (completed previously)
  - Finance Department
  - Parks & Recreation Department
  - IT Department
  - Communications Department
  - Human Resources Department
  - Several meetings with Senior City Staff
- **City Highlights worth noting from our 1<sup>st</sup> Class City:**
  - Shawnee recently became Triple AAA Bond Rated for the 1<sup>st</sup> time
  - Shawnee recently named Money Magazine Top 100 Places to Live
  - Shawnee Police Department became Nationally Accredited
  - Public Works became Nationally Re-Accredited
  - Shawnee Fire Department remains Nationally Accredited
  - Shawnee Parks and Receptions Department currently working on accreditation
    - These Accreditations put us in the Top 15% or less of all cities our size & represent “good governance”
- **Positive actions taken already in 2020 by new City Council:**
  - We approved Phase 1 to upgrade Monticello Road South of Shawnee Mission Parkway!
  - Wilder Park (Western Shawnee near Belmont) name approved and set to break ground w/ neighbor concerns successfully considered.
  - 3-Day Council Retreat completed with a sense that this Council will collaborate effectively.
  - We will be working in March to come up with a new process for selecting our Council President since we were deadlocked at the first meeting on our selection. A new process needs to be implemented and we are committed to legislating a better process.
- **Especially excited about:**
  - City Manager selected Sam Larson, Deputy Police Chief, to become our next Police Chief effective February 24<sup>th</sup>. Sam Larson was my locker partner at Shawnee Mission North High School and has dedicated his entire life to service for the Shawnee community. He will be an outstanding Chief of Police.
  - A sidewalk from the local neighborhood to Erfurt Park has been installed! Also, we were able to respond to additional resident requests for a crosswalk and accompanying signs to slow cars and protect pedestrians crossing over to Erfurt Park... this should be completed soon.
  - Successfully responded to local resident concerns regarding dogs off-leash and dog droppings at Garrett Park. Additional signs are going up and doggie bags will be available moving forward.

- Again, Monticello Road will be improved over the next 2 years! Huge need. Safer for our kids that drive and everyone.
- In all, I've made 6/7 official meetings in the first 2 months and attended countless other meetings along the way. All very informative. I did miss 1 due to a required work mt.
- **Concerns/Issues:**
  - Over the past months I have met w/ our fellow Ward 3 City Council-Person Lisa Larson Bunnell, the City Manager, Prieb Development and Woodsonia Representatives in the hope to find a successful conclusion to the Woodsonia Apartment Development. Prieb Construction has sued the city over this development so we will see how it plays out.
- **Biggest Surprise so far:**
  - Meetings spent talking about and to developers. Whether it happens or not, please know that all of us are constantly working to bring new businesses, restaurants, etc. to our city. I am committed to SMART GROWTH, not just fast growth. I believe that's what Western Shawnee wants based on my time talking to you at your doorsteps.

**Join us on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**for the Family St. Patrick's Day Parade from 1 – 2:30pm**

PLEASE JOIN ME FOR

**A TOWN HALL DISCUSSION ON SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 3-5PM** AT THE MONTICELLO LIBRARY! **EVERYONE WELCOME!** HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD! I WILL BE THERE TO PROVIDE CONSTITUENTS AN UPDATE AND LISTEN TO YOU.



