

2016 Annual Report to the Electors of the City

It is my honor to give the State of the City address and to welcome Mr. Helsel and Mr. Parker. I would like to thank them, as well as the rest of Council, for their service and dedication to the people of this City.

I would also like to recognize Christine Hayward for 35 years of service to the City of Harrington. Without the dedication of Public Works, City Hall, Parks and Rec, and Library, this City would not be in the fine shape that it is. The Police Department has added a community police officer by the name of Carl Klotz. We have hired two additional police officers: Sam Wilkes has assumed his position and Brooke Watkinson is in the police academy and will be joining the City in the very near future. This strengthening of the police force will make our City safer and relieve some of the burden our other police officers are facing on a daily basis. We are also looking for a city planner to put on staff to help with economic growth and to speed up the process of building with in the City.

The City had a referendum this year to refinance some loans to a lower interest rate. In doing so, we will shave about one million dollars off of the city debt. For the last two decades the City has talked about infrastructure needing repairs and put it off, well no more. The leaking sewer lines are near completion and have saved and will continue to save untold amount of monies in the future due to the reduction in sewer treatment costs for rain water.

This past year we have formed a Builder and Developer Committee with local builders and through their insight have made changes that will attract new people and businesses to our city. We have established an Employee of the Year program to recognize those that go above and beyond in their daily activities. This past year we had a tie in Dudley Clough and Kelly Blanchies. They have exemplified the best of our employees. Council and City Manager Terry Tieman have presented and passed a balanced budget for FY17 with no rate increases to the citizens.

The City has applied for downtown development district designation, which if we are accepted, will open doors for grants and other means for growth. We have also expanded the downtown district to open opportunities for cottage business.

In closing, I would like you to know that I feel blessed to have been a part of the changes the City has had in the past three years. We are financially sound, and we are starting to see growth. There will be more changes instituted this year to assist in this growth. The City of Harrington is the home I chose 28 years ago and will be my home until my time is done. Thank you.