

Mayor Steven L. Schag

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

**State of the City**

February 4, 2019

Today I am delighted to communicate to you that the state of the City is very strong and fiscally sound. The year 2018 was marked by adaptations, additions, and accomplishments. We are entering the new year with a great deal of monetary momentum and justified optimism. Shelby is in this blessed Municipal condition as a result of careful planning, discipline and willing partnerships all across the board.

Once again, it has been my privilege and pleasure to work closely with Finance Director Steven Lifer, Law Director Gordon Eyster, Project Coordinator Joe Gies, Deputy Director of Finance Amber Cutlip, Deputy Director of Public Service John Ensmann, City Hall Staff, Police Chief Lance Combs, Fire Chief Mike Thompson and the dedicated members of Shelby City Council, namely: Councilman Charlie Roub, Councilman Derrin Roberts, Councilman Garland John Gates, Councilman Nathan Martin, and Councilman Steve McLaughlin.

President Reagan was wont to say, "There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit." We have a lot of good things that happened in 2018 and I want to give a good deal of credit to this Shelby City Council. We presently have an experienced Council that knows how to deal with initiatives and pieces of legislation with thoroughness and efficiency. Hence, together, we were able to get things done in a timely manner.

In 2018 we held ribbon-cutting celebrations for: Arby's Restaurant, Pivot Creative, Johnson's Unique Antiques, Ace Hardware, East of Chicago Pizza, Rabold Park Dog Park, Lloyd Rebar, and our brand new, state-of-the-art Fire Station.

After years of patient perseverance, the alternative access drive to and from the Drug Mart Plaza was completed in October.

The City Administration hosted another successful Business First Breakfast in February of last year. These events provide connectivity between Shelby businesses/industries and City government.

The City Health Department expanded its Annual Spring Cleanup with record collections.

The Shelby Historic Preservation Commission took a huge step forward in bringing on the Perspectus Group to prepare an Historic Preservation Plan for structures located in the Historic District of Shelby.

Last year City Council took legislative action that will provide some tax relief by way of increasing our municipal "tax forgiveness" (credit) from .67% to .75%. This is of benefit to Shelby residents who are employed outside of the City.

In 2018 we fulfilled a vision I have had for the City since September of 2017. It was my desire to establish Shelby as the Northern Hub of Economic Development for northern Richland County. The goal was to bring on an Economic Development partner that would focus on the economic development in Shelby and adjacent regions. The Path Forward Group of the Shelby Community Improvement Corporation took this initiative to a whole new level. Through their efforts and those of many others, they were able to pull together an impressive collaboration of public and private entities. Mrs. Jessica Gribben, who works primarily out of Shelby City Hall, has done a phenomenal job in her role since she was arrived on September 1, 2018. Her official title is: Economic Development Liaison For Shelby /Northern Richland County.

In looking ahead, 2019 promises to be a truly exciting and event filled year.

A very ambitious \$782,000.00 City Paving Project will commence in late spring or early summer.

The West Main Street sewer project should be ready to go out for bid in April.

The EDGE Design Group is in the early stages of producing a professional urban design report for the Main Street Corridor.

Our 8.7 million-dollar upgrade at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is slated for completion in mid-July.

Mr. Ensmann and I are still working diligently to find ways to further stabilize and hopefully lower electric rates for our utility customers. This could possibly come in the form of solar generation and other alternative forms of peak shaving in 2019.

The Administration is working with representatives of the Richland County Park District in general, and Mr. Kyle Bailey in particular, to revitalize the educational and recreational components of our Wetlands near Reservoir 3.

Mr. Gies, Mr. Ensman, and I are working with the leadership team of the Clean the Black Fork Project Phase 2 in order to provide guidance and floodplain management strategies.

It appears, that in the very near future, we will be preparing a presentation in regard to the “infrastructure of the future” – Shelby Municipal Broadband.

Shelby is truly a one of a kind City! We are not only blessed to live and work here, but we are also privileged to be public servants to the families and individuals that call this place home. Let us pledge afresh and anew to serve with creditability, common sense, and compassion.

God bless you. God bless the City of Shelby, God bless the United States of America.