

2019  
State of the City  
Mayor Kyle Osborne

As your new Mayor let me begin by saying, “thank you”.

Thank you for having faith in me to be a member of this governing body. I am looking forward to working with all the dedicated city employees and accomplishing great things for the city.

What is a strong community?

A strong community works together to accomplish the impossible. As you all witnessed with the Small Business Revolution, this community came together like never before to achieve a goal and the impossible became a reality. All things are possible when we work together.

The Small Business Revolution is just our beginning.

The one-cent sales tax passed four years ago allowed us to build an indoor pool facility with splash pad, begin an aggressive drainage program, build not one but two concession stand/press box/restroom facilities at the sports complex and pave more streets. Also, included in the list of accomplishments from this tax was the construction of an information technology building and the relocation of Fire Station #2, the replacement of worn out sanitation trucks and police cars along with the upgrade of two fire trucks.

So, what are we going to do now? Well, here is part of my plan. I hope to

1. repair or replace sidewalks
2. get more aggressive with our drainage plan
3. make downtown even more beautiful and expand our beautification program to include the entire city of Searcy
4. work with investors to purchase empty building and repurpose them through city grants
5. add street lights on Beebe Capps from Country Club Road west to Highway 13 and on Highway 13 both north and south to the city limits
6. resurface even more streets and purchase proper equipment to repair pot holes
7. fill ditches with drain pipe making them safer, more attractive and decrease mosquitos
8. complete our School Resource Program by placing officer in all our schools, as well as, patrolling throughout our city to keep all our citizens safe

9. work with the Chamber of Commerce and the Searcy Regional Economic Development Corporation to create jobs by locating new businesses to Searcy and grow our current businesses
10. There was a time when Searcy was called the “clean city”. Why not again; what has changed?

These are the ten improvements I would like to initiate in 2019.

The balances of city funds as of December 31, 2018, were as follows:

General Fund: \$1,684,743.54

Street Fund: \$1,675,661.10

Capital Equipment Fund: \$17,731.10

Airport Fund: \$34,319.53

Special 1% Connector Route Tax Fund: \$4,050,496.81

2014 1% Eight Year Plan Fund: \$7,201,230.95

The one-cent sales tax passed four years ago and is earmarked for necessary projects throughout the city and we could not survive without it.

But, with the bold step the Council took tonight by implementing for the A&P tax, we will now have beautiful parks for all our citizens and visitors to enjoy and get much needed improvements to our sports complex enabling us to host ball tournaments thus filling up our hotels and restaurants. We can revive the events center for open air concerts/special events and show movies in Berryhill Park. We can add a large outdoor pool next to the current indoor pool, and build a new community-visitor center so our citizens will not need to go to Cabot, Heber Springs or Batesville to enjoy these activities.

We will also advertise and promote Searcy so that all will know “we are the revolution” and we are “a city where thousands live as millions wish they could”.