

Murphysboro Minute

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

January/February
2014

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From the Mayors Desk,

I hope that you and your family enjoyed the Holiday season as much as I did. As we move into 2014 I am excited about a number of things that are on the horizon for Murphysboro. First of all, during my campaign I made a pledge to hold annual town hall meetings. I am happy to announce that I will be hosting the first of those town hall meetings on Thursday February 20th at the Senior Citizens Center in Murphysboro. The meeting will begin at 6 pm and will run as long as people have questions to ask, or concerns to express. Although residents have the ability to express themselves at every city council meeting, the town hall setting allows a more casual environment where residents don't have to worry as much about time constraints. I strongly encourage everyone to come and participate. There will be coffee and snacks available that evening for those in attendance, and a suggestion box placed in the back of the room for people to place written concerns or questions. The more I get to hear from residents, the better I can serve the community.

Some may have read in the newspaper that the city council passed a surplus budget. Several people deserve the credit for a surplus budget, none more than Scott Evans, the city financial officer, Sandra Ripley my Administrative Assistant, and Vicki Ardrey the budget and finance chair. Their leadership and guidance helped me tremendously in making sense of the budget numbers, and because of them we are going to be able to do some things in the coming year that have needed to be done for some time. Those things include a new hire in the public works department and the fire department. Over the last decade both those departments sustained numerous cuts, leaving both departments shorthanded. These hires should get the city closer to full strength and result in better services for residents.

Also worth mentioning are my hopes for a revamped farmers market starting in May, and a "sunset concert" series which I hope to get under way this summer. Details on those two developments are still being ironed out, but I have been in communication with the Agricultural department at SIUC and believe a partnership with them will happen to help coordinate the Farmers Market. This would give SIU students real world experience and benefit the community at the same time, a "win win" for the university and the city.

Business Developments

Chuck Stuhrenberg recently purchased two lots in the Industrial park from the city. He is looking to expand his business, Big Muddy Brewing, and I want to tip my hat to him for doubling down in Murphysboro. Business growth is critical to the development of the city, and his willingness to reinvest in Murphysboro is commendable.

Appointments

In December Darby Ortolano was appointed to the Murphysboro Tourism Commission and Carol Dreith was appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission. I could not be happier with these two appointments and look forward to working with them into the future. Tourism and Historic Preservation go hand in hand and with Darby and Carol on board 2014 will be all the brighter.

CALENDAR

Council meetings

2nd Tuesday
7:00 p.m.

Committee Meetings

3rd & 4th Mondays
5:30 p.m.

Mayors Office Hours

Wednesdays
and
Thursdays
5:00 –7:00 p.m.

Landscape Disposal

City Storage Yard

2nd & 4th Fridays
7:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.