

Good Afternoon, I would like to thank you all for attending on such a cold day and allowing me the opportunity to share the excitement around last year's accomplishments and what's ahead in 2018. First of all I would like to thank City staff on both the Government and Utility sides, none of this is possible without them, I would also like to thank our past and present City Councils for their hard work and due diligence making this growth and development possible. I would also like to thank our community partners that we have collaborated with over this past year. Fremont Area Chamber, Greater Fremont Development Council, Main Street Fremont, Dodge County Visitors Bureaus, Community Foundation, Dodge County Board, Fremont Health, Fremont Public schools, Arch. Bishop Bergan and the YMCA. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL THANKS TO MY WIFE Judy for her continued support as well.

2017 WAS AN EXCITING YEAR FOR THE CITY OF FREMONT.

In early January the closing of the Hills farm property with Costco/ Lincoln Premium Poultry was completed. Paving the way for final layout plans for the Feed Mill, Processing Plant, and the Hatchery. The formal Ground Breaking took place on June 19, and they received their air quality Permit from NDEQ September 14. The Feed Mill tower went vertical in December with a 160' continuous concrete pour. The city also closed on the purchase of approximately 40 acres, south of the wastewater treatment plant to construct the lagoons that will be necessary for our industrial customers.

A Request of LB840 funds for the filming of 12 days of giving was approved in January, filming took place in February. This was an exciting time for several Fremonter's that played a part in the movie. The premier took place at Midland University on December 2nd, and the film aired on the UP channel in early December.

During March and April the City Council reviewed several developments. Town Center located at 2050 east 30th, Brooks Hollow, and a PUD request for Gallery 23 East LLC.

This was an exciting year for economic development besides the ongoing Costco Processing project; we saw the completion of the Redevelopment project at 23rd and Yager, now serving the Fairfield Inn and Suites along with adding Buffalo Wild wings, Firehouse subs, Starbucks and ME EXPRESS. We also saw the opening of 32 Senior Housing Apartments at Fountain Springs. We continue to work with Developers in regards to other Retail Companies wishing to locate in the Fremont area.

Council reviewed the Organization of City Hall; they approved the creation of the Utility and Infrastructure board eliminating the Board of Public Works. The Utility General Manager position was eliminated creating a City Administrator position over the utility and the city. We also created an assistant City Administrator Utility and City. In late June, Brian Newton became City Administrator, Troy Schaben became Assistant City Administrator - Utility, and Shane Wimer splits his Lieutenant duties along with Assistant City Administrator - City responsibilities.

Utility Projects: In 2017 we began a 1.55 Mega watt Solar Farm, and a 40 Mega Watt wind farm, the wind farm went live in December its located approximately 60 miles south of Hastings. This will provide Fremont with 2 renewable Energy sources. OPPD continues to progress on the new Transmission line,

the new line will provide redundant and stable power source for the future, completion is set for fall of 2018. The Wastewater treatment plant began facility upgrades necessary to meet NDEQ standards, this project is necessary regardless of Costco/ Lincoln Premium Poultry. We began our upgrade project on Substation B, and we began the Utility build-outs of Water, Sewer, Gas and Electrical to serve the Costco site.

This Year we completed the Main Street Asphalt overlay project from 1st to 3rd, the Hancock Street project was finalized, The Ridge Road Trail Project from the lakes to Hormel Park, Safe walk to School Project providing sidewalks in the Washington School Area. Installed new Pedestrian Signals across Fremont in 8 locations, completed the Johnson Road widening and storm drainage project, eight concrete rehab projects were completed. We approved the design and installation of the 23rd Street electronic signaling project to be finalized and completed in early 2018. The City of Fremont parking facility located on the Memorial complex was completed it will serve the Veterans Memorial Park, the YMCA and Heedum field. At the Airport, the existing apron was sealed and one more Private Hanger was added.

The City of Fremont and the City of Blair signed an Inter-local agreement to apply for a \$475,000 NDEQ grant to purchase a community Wood Chipper and Grinder. We were awarded the grant, and we received the New Chipper in November. The chipper will be used in both communities as we deal with ASH Borer issues facing our communities.

Hansen Mueller bought the old Shade Pasta facility on South Main; they have remodeled the plant and will produce animal feed. Legacy Post and Beam and American Underground bought lots at the Morning Side Business Park both are in the construction phase of their projects.

In September we adopted the 2017-2019 budgets. The budget process included negotiations with all 4 unions and working through a 1.5 million dollar shortfall. We were able to use unused funds from 2017 that would have been returned to reserves to help offset the shortfall. City Staff did a great job working thru the process to balance this budget. The budget will continue to be tight thru 2020.

During the budget process we were able to identify several capital projects and their funding sources during City –wide strategic planning meetings. We will fund \$20 million over a 3 year period, matching \$20 million from Nebraska Department of Transportation to build the Southeast Beltway. This project provides a huge economic impact but also impacts safety as well. This is a project that wasn't expected until 2030, now we expect construction to begin in 2019 and completion in 2020. We will also see considerable progress on the Highway 30 expressway from Schuyler to Northbend with overall completion of the Fremont Leg in 2021. We have set aside 4.3 million for the design and construction of a new relocated Street Department. We set aside 1 million dollars for improvements at the police station; we also have set aside dollars for 2018 construction at the airport for a new Apron and possible new Terminal in 2019. Council also decided to place three Quality of life bonding questions on the May Primary ballot, \$2 million Library Expansion, \$2million City Auditorium remodel, and adding a \$2 million Lazy River Feature at Splash Station.

Fremont was very successful this fall receiving a \$350,000 Community Development Block grant that will fund remodeling at the Friendship Center at Christensen Field, ADA restrooms for Keene Memorial Library and Rehab of 4 single family Dwellings.

We also received donations for our First responders from Diers Ford and the Debbie Durham trust. These donations are greatly appreciated.

Dodge County and the City of Fremont have signed an inter-local agreement to share costs for a study to determine the feasibility of a Future Joint Law Enforcement Center. From this study hopefully we can determine next steps for both the City and the County.

In early December the City Council and County Board hosted an open house at Christensen Field to Present the Housing Study to the Community. This was a joint collaboration, including GFDC, Chamber of Commerce, and Community Foundation. The information revealed the need for more housing with or without the Costco Processing Facility. That being said we currently have 3 developments locally on top of our existing developments. The new proposed Developments going through the design process are Sun Ridge Place located at 3001 East Military, Duke Estates located 1045 W South Street, and GALLERY 23 East. The first 2 are in the initial design and zoning phases, the 3rd Development Gallery 23 became Dodge County SID #8, The Memorandum of Understanding of the sanitary improvement district was approved in November, and considerable grading was done this last fall.

In 2017 we purchased and integrated to 800 mega hurts radio control for both our Police and Fire Departments. The radios were a big help during the First State Bank robbery on East Military this fall. It allowed state of the art communication from all involved on this case. The radios have been helpful on the fire side and increase the level of safety for our Firefighters; our fire fighters have seen close to a 28% increase in Emergency calls this past year; over 2800 calls.

Finally, after several years of study by the planning commission, local developers and contractors, and a beta test group, the City council formally approved the Unified Development code. The new code took effect January 1st. Council will continue to tweak the new code over this next year.

2018 WILL BE ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR FILLED WITH CONTINUED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT:

We begin the year with lots of Projects in front of us. On the Utility side we will continue the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrades (UNRELATED TO COSTCO), Roadway subdivision will see Water improvements. Installation of 3 new wells at the well-field, continued utility infrastructure, serving the Costco site and Hormel. Begin development and construction of the new Lagoons serving our Industrial users. Completion of the new Elkhorn Valley Transmission Line and its tie in to Substation B, completion of Solar Farm 1 this spring and beginning Solar Farm #2. Implementation of a new LIDAR mapping system, and GPS Coordinates of facilities including storm sewer outlets, fire hydrants, water valves and meters. We will also be providing Utility upgrades to both Gallery 23 East and the Morningside Business Park.

2018 will see the completion of the Memorial Complex Parking lot, the Veterans Memorial, and the opening of the Sid and Hazel Dillon Aquatics Center. This is a \$17 million investment into our community, what a great addition for Fremont YMCA and the Memorial Complex. Nebraska Irrigated Seeds is working on a possible 100,000 sq. ft temperature controlled warehouse, just north on Highway 77. We also just received news that Lawrence Paper Company announced a \$5 million dollar investment adding a 60,000 sq. ft. addition to expand Jay Hawk Box Company. We will also see the completion of a new Aspen Dental in the Diers' Development.

Public Works and Engineering will be busy this spring and beyond, as they will begin work on Johnson Road from Jack Sutton to Morningside to be completed this summer. We will see construction on the Johnson Road Trail and hopefully completion of design on the Rawhide trail project with construction in the fall. Garfield street re-development from 16th to 19th will take place, completion of the Park Street Sidewalk and Street improvement project from Military to second, along with multiple concrete rehab projects. We currently are completing a study on the Military and Luther Intersection which would include possible lights and turn lanes. Early this spring we will complete the Burlington Railroad Train Notification project sensing the intersections at 23rd, Somers, and Linden. This will allow us to notify First Responders if the rail crossing is blocked. We will also develop an App for your phones so anyone can know if the tracks are blocked. We will also continue working on the Capital projects identified during the Budget process.

Financially our fiscal year began October 1. In regards to Sales Tax, we are currently showing a 7.6% increase over the same time period last year, averaging \$569,767 compared to \$529,666 per month in 2016. Franchise taxes (Spectrum) \$66,000 in 2018 compared to \$57,825 in 2017, Fire Department receipts are up 31% from 2017. Gas Tax receipts are up 4.5% higher, Keno receipts are up 7.3% compared to last year. Tipping fees at the waste water treatment plant are stable with last year. Expenditures are approximately 25%. Staff is doing a great job controlling costs.

As we move forward into 2018 we have a lot to be thankful for. Not every community has the opportunity to impact the region like we will over the next 2 years. I just want to say, the progression we are seeing today doesn't happen without a strong commitment from our community to grow and the support, the dedication and collaboration from all of our partners. Thank you all for all you do to move Fremont Forward.