

2019 State of the City

February 26, 2019

Welcome to the annual State of the City Address.

I want to start by offering a special thank you to the Wylie Chamber of Commerce for once again hosting this event, and to Linebarger for sponsoring today's luncheon.

Thank you to the Wylie East Jr. ROTC Saber Team, to Wylie Fire Rescue Honor Guard for the presentation of the colors and to Police Chaplain Dan Rainey for leading us in the invocation.

I want to welcome my special guests ... my father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mac and Geraldine Mathis, the first lady of Wylie and my absolute better half, Tammie and our youngest son, Mason.

Today, it is my honor and pleasure to deliver the 2019 State of the City Address.

And today marks the 11th time I've had the honor of presenting this Address.

I also honored to officially be serving as the longest continually serving Mayor in our city's 131-year history

What does it take to run a city?

We are so fortunate to live in a growing city with a population of now over 52,000 people ... yet we have worked to maintain that hometown feeling.

We could say it's because we still have our downtown area with active businesses for our citizens, which so many other cities have lost.

We could say it's because we have our own school district ... the award winning, Wylie ISD and its 118-year history and nearly 17,000 students.

And while both of those are valid reasons ... the true reason we still have our hometown feel is simply because of the people ... as citizens we desire it, we want it, we demand it and we work for it.

We are a suburb of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex that hasn't realized we are a suburb ... we are Wylie proud and we stand on our own!

But, what does our city government do for its citizens?

You know property taxes has become a hot topic of discussion from a local level, to the appraisal district, to the county government and all the way up to the state level. It's

been used in political campaigns, it's been reported on in the media, it's been a topic of debate in social media and at the Ballard Street Café.

So, what do your property taxes that are earmarked for the city pay for?

The city of Wylie's total general fund, which is your property taxes, has operating expenses of \$42.7 million dollars.

Sounds like a lot ... right ... so what are we as a city council doing with your money...

Well, let's take a look ...

Let's talk about the BIG stuff first.

Did you know that half of our expenses goes to pay for our public safety?

Wylie Fire Rescue

Last year, the 56 employees serving in Wylie Fire Rescue answered over 4,755 emergency calls for help. Those calls included fires, car accidents, and lake incidents.

They also made over 2,724 inspections ... the reason why these annual inspections are so important is it helps our city to maintain a lower incidence of fires in high-value and commercial properties.

Imagine how much higher our emergency calls might be if we didn't have the fire marshals doing those inspections.

We are proud to say that Wylie Fire Rescue is one of 19 departments in the state of Texas to have obtained a Recognized status through the Texas Fire Chiefs Association Best Practices Program.

BUT ... it does come with a cost ... just to maintain our department as it is at this moment, not taking our city's continual growth into consideration or the need for additional fire stations ...this year's expenses to have our fire department is \$9.7 million.

PLUS another \$1.7 million in our 911 Emergency Communications Department, who answered nearly 89,000 calls for help this past year.

That's a total of \$11.5 million dollars

Wylie Police Department

In Wylie, Texas CRIME is being run out of town. This past year, thanks to the efforts of our police department, our crime rate dropped 14% despite an increase in our population ...

And, a 5% reduction in motor vehicle crashes

We added the Crime Victim's Advocate position, taken on by Officer Angie McIntosh. This position allows us to assist those that have been victimized by a crime and help provide resources to them in a timely manner.

Wylie PD kicked off the first-ever Christmas package drop-off at the department during the holiday season, which helped cut our theft calls in half from the previous year.

Wylie P.O.L.I.C.E. Club (Practice of Leadership, Integrity and Character Education) program for our high school students was honored by the Texas School Safety Center as part of its School Safety Spotlight Program.

The Wylie group was the winner in the Student/Peer-Led Groups and Programs category, defined as "programs that allow students to take leadership roles in creating and promoting a safe and secure school environment that encourages positive peer interaction."

The Wylie P.O.L.I.C.E Club started six years ago with 16 students and has grown to 85 participants who assist the community in many different ways.

But all this too comes with a cost.

Currently we have 64 sworn police officers ... and with the size of our population, we really need three more.

But to bring in a new officer, to get them ready to go out on the streets, to get them the tools and equipment they need to serve and protect our city, we will invest nearly \$100,000 per officer.

Additionally, we have 18 school crossing guards and 7 animal shelter officers

And our police department's budget for this year is \$10.4 million dollars

All together, just to protect our city, costs us nearly \$22 million dollars a year.

BUT wouldn't agree that every life in this city is worth it?

So that's half of our annual expenses ... what else is there?

Truett and Rita Smith Public Library:

This year our library will cost us \$2.1 million dollars

So what do we get for \$2 million dollars??

This past fall, our librarians established the Family Place Library.

The Family Place Libraries initiative is a national model for transforming public libraries into offering developmentally appropriate early learning environments for very young children, their parents and caregivers.

Based on research on early brain development, the Family Place Library supports the essential role of parents as first teachers and addresses the physical, social, emotional and cognitive aspects of child development to help build a foundation for learning during the critical first years of life.

With sessions focused on specific topics and includes a specialist in each area where parents can talk one-on-one with the specialist about their child's development.

Topics included:

- Early Literacy and General Parenting
- Speech, Hearing and Language Development
- Child Development
- Nutrition
- Music and Movement.

The library will offer another session in the spring.

The library has also designed a welcoming space for families with very young children to explore, play and share books together. This space has a collection of books, toys, music and multimedia materials for babies, toddlers, parents and service providers.

This year our library received the

Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award from the Texas Municipal Library Director's Association.

The library was recognized for:

- Providing services to underserved populations
- Offering cultural and educational programming for adults and families.
- Providing literacy support for all ages.
- Conducting a Summer Reading Program for children, teens and adults.
- Supporting digital inclusion by providing public internet access, digital literacy training, and offering library services online.

The library is not just a building with books ... it continues to be a gathering space for learning.

Our Summer Kick-Off program brought in 1,839 attendees.

AND out of 52,000 citizens, we have over 48,000 library card holders.

I think the library is pretty important to the citizens of Wylie.

Parks and Recreation:

Over \$2.6 million dollars of our budget will pay for our parks, recreation facilities and special events this year.

We dedicated approximately 1.5 miles of hike and bike trails in the East Meadow of the Wylie Municipal Complex.

Parks and Recreation staff supported many special events throughout 2018 including.

- The Downtown Pedal Car Races,
- The Library and Recreation Center Summer Kick-off,
- Bluegrass on Ballard Festival,
- Art Dedications,
- Boo on Ballard,
- The Wylie Rodeo,
- And the Christmas Tree Lighting in Olde City Park.

Nearly 12,000 Wylie Recreation Center passes were issued.

At the Wylie Senior Recreation Center, nearly 3,000 guests participated in special event activities, including our Christmas celebration.

At the Brown House, formerly known as the Birmingham House, we had over 2,500 guests attend different events.

Nearly 5,400 children play on our athletic fields in soccer, baseball, football, and softball leagues.

And our staff spent over 14,000 hours maintaining those fields.

National Parks and Recreation Month was held in July, and our staff held many programs throughout the City and recreation facilities celebrating the theme, "A Lifetime of Discovery."

The Wylie Recreation Center and The Wylie Senior Recreation Center both received the Texas Recreation and Park Society's Excellence in Programming.

The Parks and Recreation Department began its Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan that will be completed in late 2019 with citizens giving us direction on what they want in our parks as we plan for the future.

And some of those wants we have already heard from our citizens are ...

More park space, a swimming pool, a dog park ... and the list goes on ...

Development Services

In Development Services, which includes Planning and Zoning, Building Inspection and Code Enforcement

Last year they oversaw...

- 42 Commercial lots zoned, and platted
- 92 Commercial building permits issued.
- 103 Commercial Certificates of Occupancy issued.
- 609 Residential lots zoned and platted
- 553 Single-Family Dwelling permits issued.
- 286 Multi-Family tracts zoned and platted
- 118 Manufactured Homes platted

Planning for homes to meet the needs of people from all walks of life.

In 2000 you could build a 900-square-foot wood-frame house in Wylie, Texas. We were a town of starter homes.

When people wanted to move up, they moved out of Wylie.

We made the decision to up our standards, to require developers to build bigger homes with higher standards.

We need to not only have those great starter homes, which we still have, but also those second and third homes for people to move up into.

But making this happen, takes hours and hours of work from knowledgeable and dedicated employees with the skillset to do the job properly.

This year will this department will cost us over \$1.4 million dollars to maintain these services.

Public Works:

The Public Works Department Maintains our sanitary sewer collection system ... in other words, they made sure your toilet flushes.

They continually collect water samples to insure the safety of our drinking water

They worked with TxDOT on the signal timing of our traffic lights on FM 544 and HWY 78 through Wylie, Murphy and Sachse.

This past year, they worked to finalize engineering and identification of right-of-way needed for the future widening of McMillen Road.

Not glamorous or glitzy, but imagine a day without toilets, drinking water or stop lights.

The money for the Public Works department comes out of our utility fund ... our water and sewer bills.

Now when it comes to city-owned streets, this year alone, we'll spend over \$3.4 million dollars of our budget just to maintain those streets.

And then we have the administrative departments that are like the oil that keeps the engine running...

City Manager's office, the City Secretary's office, the City Attorney, Finance, Purchasing, Municipal Court, Human Resources ... which will cost nearly \$4 million ...

We'll spend nearly \$900,000 to maintain our buildings ... to keep the lights and phones on and the water running.

I.T. will cost us over \$1.4 million ... but just try to run a business without computers, servers and a network.

THE LOAN:

In 2005 the voters of Wylie approved a bond to build City Hall, the Library, the Recreation Center, Fire Station 3, Road improvements to FM 1378, West Brown, East Brown and Stone Road, and to refurbish Founders Park and Community Park.

These are all important and were needed ... BUT when you take out a loan, you have to pay it back over time ... which means for over 20 years we will be paying back that bond debt ...

For example, this year we will pay over \$8.4 million dollars toward that debt ... in other words 20% of the \$42.7 million of our budget goes just to pay for our debt ...

While we have the experts, our city staff, who go to work for us every day in our city ... someone has to set the budget.

One of the most important roles of the City Council is to set that budget, and as you can hopefully see, it is not that easy of a job.

To try and meet the **wants** of our citizens **and** to be as fiscally responsible as possible.

It's about providing the services our citizens have come to expect ... and being good stewards of our tax dollars.

BUT don't take my word for it.

There is a reason our Finance Department has been awarded the State Comptroller's Financial Transparency Star Award year after year.

This award is to show how the state of Texas recognizes local governments for going above and beyond in their transparency efforts.

Recipients of this program are recognized for providing clear and meaningful financial information not only by posting financial documents, but also through summaries, visualizations and downloadable data ...

In other words, EVERYTHING I have shared with you today, regarding our Finances is available for every citizen in Wylie and actually every person in the world to view it, download it, and print it from our City website.

We've got nothing to hide in Wylie, Texas!

We are fortunate to have an outstanding city staff, who understands these financial challenges and works each day to meet those wants and needs of our citizens...

But it helps that they have been led by an outstanding City Manager ...

Mindy Manson has served as our city manager since October 2007. Before that she served as our assistant city manager from 1995 until she assumed the role of city manager. She is the longest-serving city manager in our city's history.

As city manager she has overseen the growth from around 30,000 citizens to our current population of over 52,000 citizens.

She oversaw the implementation and completion of ALL of the 2005 bond projects, including our City Hall, Library and Rec Center.

When the recession hit in 2009 ... she worked to insure the city did not go in the "red" financially.

She has grown our staff into one of the more professional organizations in city government.

She is the "City Manager's City Manager."

And now she has decided to retire effective April 30, 2019.

So it is an honor to Name April 30th Mindy Manson Day in Wylie, Texas.

Thank you, Mindy ...

Today we continue with something we started last year, we will be giving **Wide Awake Wylie awards** to people who embody the three elements of the city's mission statement.

Honoring our past; Embracing our present; Planning our future

Honoring our Past is the first award, and it goes **to Jon Lewis**.

Jon is the executive director of the Birmingham Land Trust. In 1940, Frank and Hattie Birmingham set up a trust in memory of their son Ovid to benefit the students of Wylie Independent School District in the areas of manual training and domestic economy.

In 1950 the Birminghams added an additional trust that expanded the subjects to include Advanced American History and Chemistry. With these being the core areas in which the trusts benefit the actual number of subjects have grown. Approximately 20 different classes are currently being supported and/or benefit from the grants given by the Birmingham Trust.

Jon loves history, especially Wylie history. Thanks to his efforts, we now have historic markers in the Wylie Cemetery, at Olde City for the railroad and soon there will be one on the Birmingham Cottage, the oldest existing house in Wylie, Texas.

Jon, thank you for your love of history and your love of Wylie.

The second part of our mission statement says we **Embrace our Present**. And this award goes to Michelle Glover.

Dr. Michelle Glover is originally from San Antonio, Texas. She graduated from Sul Ross State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Range Animal Science with a minor in Horse Science.

Michelle and her husband, Danny, lived in Germany for four years where Danny served in the military and Michelle worked in Civil Service.

After returning to the United States, Dr. Glover attended the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University, graduating in 1985 becoming a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Then she landed here in Wylie, Texas ... making it her home and having an impact on families with care for our four-legged citizens. She is passionate and dedicated to her

work ... but after over 30 years of service to our community, she has decided to retire ... to enjoy the next phase of her life ...

The third leg of our mission statement says we will **Plan for our Future** award goes to Dr. David Vinson.

David Vinson joined the Wylie Independent School District in July of 2011, bringing with him more than 20 years of experience in public education. One of the first things he noticed, was our **Wylie ways** ... and from that he developed the school district's Wylie Way which is designed to set our students on the path to achievement in every area of their lives. It is built on the foundations of:

Relationships, Strengths and Interests, Plan and Purpose, and Core Ethical Values. Our children are our future leaders of tomorrow and Dr. Vinson's efforts are having a huge impact in our community.

WYLIE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Now ... Let's spend just a few minutes talking about our Economic Development ...

The Wylie Economic Development Corporation had another busy year ... but their attitude is that *"2018 was a great year ... but we're looking ahead to an even better 2019!"*

We had new Businesses open and there are plans to construct in some of our existing retail centers and redevelopment along Hwy 78.

Some of the BIG News is ...

Woodbridge Crossing, the Target-anchored center on FM 544, began construction on 24,000 square feet of retail space between Kohl's and Dollar Tree, which will include Ulta and Sketchers opening later this year.

AND an additional 5,400-square-foot building next to McAlister's will be occupied by MOD Pizza.

Woodbridge Centre, the Kroger-anchored center also on FM 544 near the intersection of Country Club, saw the opening of Credit Union of Texas and Pet Supply Plus.

And coming soon we'll see the addition of Burgerim – a high-end, gourmet burger establishment.

The opening of the Chick-fil-a was the result of an almost a decade long plan to reshape the look of Hwy. 78 through Wylie.

Construction is now underway on a second pad site that was recently sold to a developer with plans to build a 10,000-square-foot, multi-tenant building, which will include a Schlotzsky's Austin Eatery, some offices, and an additional 3,500 square feet of restaurant space not yet leased.

In 2018, the WEDC worked with community representatives, local industries and Wylie ISD to hold the first ever *Manufacturing Appreciation Day*.

With the help of the school's CTE administrators, educators and students, the event was a huge success and provided nearly 120 students and educators with an eye-opening peek at the high-tech world of manufacturing ... right here in Wylie!

The WEDC plans to make Manufacturing Appreciation Day an annual event.

No look at Wylie's 2018 growth would be complete without acknowledging the ground breaking of Collin College's Wylie Campus.

This educational facility will draw students, shoppers and diners into our community along with providing a valuable resource for businesses and citizens for years to come.

The campus is being constructed on about 100 acres on Country Club Road across from the Wylie Municipal Complex.

The first phase of development includes three multi-story instructional buildings that will function as the library, campus commons and a student center with conference center facilities.

Classes begin in Wylie in the Fall Semester of 2020.

THE FUTURE

So what does all this say about our city ...

That we are working to meet our goal of fulfilling our Mission...

Honoring our past; Embracing our present; Planning our future

From our earliest days ... through our growth ... through our changes of leadership ... through our tough times and our prosperous times ... Wylie's heart continues to beat with love and with strength ... it's the Wylie Difference.

As we move forward, we will not forget those who came before us, creating a town where there was none, improving it with each passing year, and laying the foundation for those of us who enjoy living and working here today.

We celebrate our present-day successes without taking them for granted ...

We exercise mindful planning to move forward without sacrificing the heart and soul of this community that we all treasure.

And as the future becomes the present, we will be ready, to keep growing forward ...

You may have noticed the song at the beginning of our presentation ... it is from the Backstreet Boys...we choose it not because it is so upbeat ... but because of the words ...

“All you people can’t you see, how your love’s affecting our reality ... you make us larger than life.”

Ladies and gentlemen, that is what you have done...your love of Wylie has made it Larger than Life!!

May God bless you,
May God bless the United States of America,
May God bless the State of Texas ...
And, as always, may God continue to bless THE GREAT CITY OF WYLIE, TEXAS