

City of Monette

Mayor's Letter to Residents

2021

As I reflect on the past year of 2021 for the City of Monette, I think of the plans we made at the beginning of the year and ask myself...did we get everything done that we had planned? The short answer is "no", but we worked hard and I'm so proud of what we did accomplish. The list of things we were able to fulfill is lengthy, but well worth mentioning. First, we completed a four-year project consisting of cleaning and painting both water towers and installed a fence around one to maintain compliance regulations with the State of Arkansas. Secondly, we completed a water/sewer project adjacent to Highway 18 for both private housing and commercial businesses. Actual growth has already begun in this area.

Next, we installed a new lighted LED marquee/message board in front of City Hall which will help to keep our citizens informed of current news and events.

In addition, we received Covid-19 stimulus funds for the improving the city's infrastructure. These funds come to us in two installments in 2021 and 2022. The total amount will be approximately \$330,000. We are in the first phase of updating almost 700 residential and commercial water meters.

We have added new warning sirens to the three that we already have in service to help protect our citizens in the event of dangerous storms.

We have added three new employees in 2021. Layne Sanders has been hired as our new Water Superintendent. His years of experience will be a great asset to our city. Layne replaces our long-time Superintendent, David Moore, who has retired after 34 years of loyal service to the city. Chad Williams is our new Wastewater Superintendent and will work in many areas to serve our citizens. Last, but certainly not least, is our new Treasurer, Recorder, and City Clerk, Ms. Terry L. Thomas. We are grateful for these three individuals, their talents and expertise.



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Events

2nd Annual Fall Festival

Our second Fall Festival was a great success with many vendors, a car show, and lots of entertainment. We are grateful to the host of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this festival happen. We hope to make this event bigger and better in 2022.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

We also added a new and very successful program in 2021 with a city-wide “Christmas on the Square” tree lighting ceremony. Santa joined our citizens for hot chocolate, singing, and prayers.

City Council

We want to recognize Tom Carroll, who retired from the Monette City Council with 22 years of faithful service. We thank him for his willingness to serve the citizens of our community.



December 10, 2021

Monette and our surrounding communities experienced a very destructive tornado on December 10, 2021. We lost our nursing home, Monette Manor. Many families lost their homes, and others suffered damage to property and businesses. While this is a sad time in the life of our town, I was so proud of the way our citizens came together to help their friends and neighbors. Everyone went out of their way to lend a hand and help in any way possible. I had so many individuals from surrounding towns and communities contact me to tell me how impressed they were with the way our community responded to this disaster. We are experiencing successful recovery efforts because of it.

Future Growth

Looking to the future, growth in new home construction is on the rise. The third phase of a new apartment complex is almost complete. Commercial business growth is also rising with the addition of the new Jordan’s Kwik Shop on the Highway 18 bypass.



As I conclude, I want to say that 2021 was a successful year for the city of Monette. We hope and pray that we will continue to be blessed in 2022.

Bob Blankenship, Mayor, City of Monette