

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

City of Center Point, Alabama

January 14, 2020

I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for inviting me to make this report about the City of Center Point. It is always an honor to speak to this organization. I also want to thank the Chamber for all they do to promote the City and to attract new businesses to the City.

There are so many things that have taken place in the last year and new things happening in the New Year. One of the most exciting events was the opening of the Community Center on April 30, 2019. The Center has been a great success. Also, the Splash Pad at Reed-Harvey Park opened in July and has been very successful. Construction on the Storm Shelter at Fire Station One is complete. It should be available for use soon. Also, the additions to Fire Station One are nearing completion.

The Library construction is complete with an opening planned for February 2020. If you haven't seen the library, you are in for a pleasant surprise. Mrs. Nelson and her staff are working diligently to stock and catalog books. This is a significant addition to our city.

We look forward to the completion of the Cherry Parmer Dog Park on Saturn Lane in the Spring. This is an addition service to our citizens. On October 18, to coincide

with the one-year anniversary of her accidental death, the Cherry Parmer Memorial was dedicated in the front of City Hall. It features urns, benches, a garden & a photographic monument to her. Ironically, it replaces a decades-old cherry blossom tree.

The Office of Justice Program through the Department of Justice has completed their study of crime in Center Point. At this time, there are two training classes scheduled to aid in implementing initiatives on safety in Center Point. The first is scheduled for February 5 & 6, 2020 on diversity and inclusion for law enforcement - Enhancing Cultural Responsiveness. This will include sections on community policing. The second is scheduled for June or July and is for extensive training for school resource officers, especially for events at the schools. We are meeting with the Sheriff's Department to complete our responses to the recommendations from the OJP. When this is completed, we will release the report to the public. We hope to have this completed in the next couple of months. To better meet the needs of our city, we have added two additional contract deputies. We hope you will get to know them, so they can better serve you. That gives us a total of 6 contract deputies, in addition to those on regular patrol.

Once again, we have had a net increase in businesses. Even though we lost two businesses, Fred's & Dollar General, we have replaced the old Taco Bell with El

Taquero and celebrated the return of Taco Bell. Mr. Buddy Adyelette, our economic development specialist, is working diligently and searching for new businesses. Some of the ones that have opened or are opening soon are Family Thrift Store, Grikey's Meat & Vegetable Market, Famous Ted's Bid Deal & Double Sweet Cakery.

The City continues to have a very good financial position. Our sales tax increased from \$2,505,000 in the 2018 fiscal year to \$2,662,728 in the 2019 fiscal year. Business licenses also increased from \$516,990 in 2018 to \$640,287 in 2019. Building permits also increased from \$178,979 in 2018 to \$326,048 in 2019. This shows a significant increase in construction in the City. As of September 30, 2019, we had a balance of \$1,669,120 in our dimensions account. All of this indicates that the City is in very good financial condition.

Our recreation programs continue to expand with the addition of the Community Center & Splash Pad. The Center offers a variety of classes such as boot camp, spin classes, Zumba & Tai Chi. We offer a silver sneakers program, walking club, pickle ball, volleyball & badminton. Our football program had a successful year with our 12U team winning the metro championship for the 4th year in a row. We had 175 football players and 35 cheerleaders. Our new basketball program has 100 participants. We have teamed up with Ingrid's Gymnastics to offer a new gymnastics program. We offer rental opportunities at the

Community Center, as well. We have booked 18 rentals since October 1. Concessions for all events have had \$13,000 in sales.

Hillcrest Manor is now being operated by the Parks & Recreation Department. The Center Point Women's Preservation Society fulfilled their agreement to operate it for two years, free of charge. Betty Henderson and the other ladies did a great job in renovation and getting the venue up and running. Parks & Rec has continued the progress with 9 rentals in 2019 and 20 already scheduled for 2020, with additional reservations being made every week. I personally want to thank President & Founder Betty Henderson & her society for the work they did on this project.

The mandatory garbage service which began in 2019 has been a success, even though we still have glitches to work out. This year, we are implementing 2 new rental ordinances that require all rental properties to be inspected once a year if occupied and each time there is a change in occupancy. We are hoping to make all rental properties safe and healthy for the occupants and make the properties become assets to the city.

Our schools continue to get better. We have four outstanding principals that are working hard to give our students the best educational opportunities available anywhere. The City has appropriated \$100,000 to the 4

schools. The distribution is based on the official enrollment for each school in September.

Center Point Elementary School has programs in place to have their students reading & comprehending grade tests and to develop a foundation so the students will be successful in mathematical settings. They have 3 pre-K classes that help to prepare students to be ready for school. This year, Mr. Gary is leading the faculty and staff through a year-long study on conscious discipline, a comprehensive classroom management program and social-emotional curriculum. They are planning a parent academy in February to share these skills with the parents.

Erwin Intermediate School has increased enrollment by 100 students. It has reduced chronic absenteeism rate by 15%. It has increased its teacher retention rate by 80%. EIS now has two teachers that have achieved National Board Certification status: Ms. Marshaye Lynn & Mrs. Misty Zabriskie. It hosts Parent University twice a year, one in the fall and once in the spring. It has started a book club called the Excited Eagle Readers for children who like to read. Mr. Peter Taylor of Legacy Group mentors and teaches 21st century skills to targeted males from all grade levels through our SOAR empowerment program. EIS is currently outfitting & installing its game room. It will support its Continuous Improvement plan. Only the students who improve in the areas of academics, attendance & behavior will be allowed to enjoy themselves.

Erwin Middle School is under the direction of new principal Dr. Angela Bush. EMS has the highest academic improvement rate for the Jefferson County School System. They are dedicating this school year to increasing community relationships. EMS has also been successful in several extracurricular programs. The football team had an outstanding record. The EMS band received superior ratings while participating in marching festivals. EMS also has a functioning robotics team. One of EMS' technology classes placed 9th throughout the state while participating in "The Stock Market Game".

Center Point High School continues to grow and provide a variety of opportunities to our students. In 2019, CPHS had 181 graduates, an 84% federal graduation rate and an 87% state graduation rate. CPHS implemented a "Ready to Work" program. This program enrolls 20 qualified students per semester to participate in job training and be eligible for interviews with prospective industries. This is a collaboration between the high school, industries and the City. The sponsors are the OnIn Group, Central Six Alabama Works, & Alabama Workforce Development. Trussville Gas & Water has committed to hiring 2 students from Center Point High School.

The CPHS athletic program has been very successful. The football team had a 9-4 record advancing to the state quarterfinals. DeCarius Hawthorne was selected to play in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game, He was also on

All-State team, along with Jayson Jones and All-Metro Team along with Jayson Jones, Quinterrius Tankersly and Gerry Marshall. Coach George Bates was also selected as the Trussville Tribune “Coach of the Year”. In 2019, the Boys Varsity Basketball was the Class 5A State Runner-Up. The girls’ & boys’ track & field teams were Jefferson County Champions, boys 3 in a row & girls 2 in a row. Jalen Arbogun was state indoor champion in the 60-meter hurdles, state outdoor champion in the 110-meter hurdles and 300 meter hurdles. Also, Quinterrius Tankersly was state champion in the shotput.

Justin Slaughter, a senior, won the District 7 United States Congressional Art Competition. His artwork is currently on display in Washington, DC in the U.S. Congress Rotunda. This is Congresswoman Terri Sewell’s district.

The Center Point High School Cyber Security Team, “Smurf Attack – 1.5” captured 1st place in Alabama and tied for 14th nationally among 120 teams who qualified for the Girls Go Cyber Start National Championship. The four girls are Kori Harris, Mia Speights, Shayla Terry & Kylah Williams.

I want to emphasize the work that our city departments are doing:

A. Inspections Department

- 1. Habitat for Humanity – 14 new townhomes, 3 new additional new homes are being built.**
- 2. Permit applications up 30%.**
- 3. New bridge at park – replacing old bridge with water wheel.**
- 4. Demolishing abandoned and burnt structures.**

B. Code Enforcement

- 1. Notices written – 1,841.**
- 2. City-wide clean-up – 2.**
- 3. Responded to over 40 calls to animal control.**
- 4. Wrote up over 150 inoperable cars.**

C. Horticulture

- 1. Completed 269 properties – billing out \$42,545 in invoices.**
- 2. Dedicated memorial for Cherry Parmer at City Hall.**
- 3. Decorated Civitan Park for Christmas.**
- 4. Continuous Litter pick-up.**

D. Public Works

- 1. Over 800 addresses have been cleaned up.**
- 2. Work with Jefferson County Sheriff's**

Department deploying surveillance cameras.

- 3. Working with Jefferson County Roads & Transportation on roads complaints to try and improve driving conditions in the City.**
- 4. Working with Alabama Power on improving street lighting throughout the City and swapping numerous streetlights to LED.**

E. Public Safety

1. It helps other municipalities with various information on crimes.

2. It has seen a decrease in speeding along the Parkway with the use of the mobile speed van detection systems.

3. License plate readers have been used to help locate stolen tags & cars without warrants.

4. Stop sign violations are decreasing.

5. Income - \$595,552 for year.

6. Expenses - \$582,668 for year. (includes salaries for city personnel & contract deputies)

The inaugural class of “Leadership Center Point” is currently enrolled. This will complete requirements for our City to become an Alabama City of Excellence. There are 15 participants who have been attending a 6-hour seminar one day a month for 6 months.

In closing, I want to emphasize that we are very close to having the 2020 census done. It is very important that we get every person in Center Point counted. A lot of our income from state and federal funds are distributed by population. If we lose numbers, we will then lose funds for such things as roads. Please emphasize the importance of everyone completing the census forms by April 15, 2020. Anyone that would like to be on our Complete Count Committee, please contact me.

Thank you for your time, and shop in Center Point!