

Message from the Mayor

2020 has started with the Clearwater Governing Body having our newly elected councilmembers in place. The current Clearwater City Governing Body:

Name	Position	Ending Year	Email
Burt Ussery	Mayor	2023	bussery@clearwaterks.org
Shirley Palmer-Witt	Council President	2021	spalmer-witt@clearwaterks.org
Chris Griffin	Councilmember	2021	cgriffin@clearwaterks.org
Yvonne Coon	Councilmember	2021	ycoon@clearwaterks.org
Chad Pike	Councilmember	2023	cpike@clearwaterks.org
Justin Shore	Councilmember	2023	jshore@clearwaterks.org

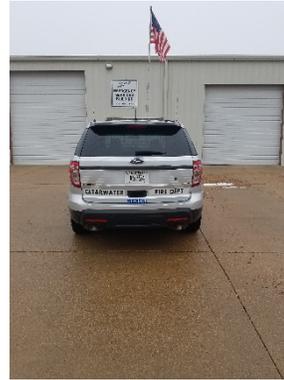
City Staff

Ron Marsh	City Administrator	rmarsh@clearwaterks.org
Courtney Meyer	City Clerk	cmeyer@clearwaterks.org
Ernie Misak	Director, Public Works	
Sonja Froggatte	Senior Center Coordinator	
Jared Dinwiddie	Fire Chief	

As we begin this year there are several areas we are focused and working on. For this update, I'd like to cover public safety, growth, the 2020 Census and need for volunteers.

Public Safety:

- Police. We continue the search for the new Police Chief. The search committee has conducted interviews and has moved into the final selection process. We hope to have the position filled in the next few weeks. Once filled, we then will begin to work with the new Chief to recruit for and staff open officer positions, review current capabilities, address equipment needs, and continue to provide a highly trained and qualified police department for the city. As a note, a new officer was appointed at the most recent council meeting and will start in early February.
- Ground Ambulance Service. The initial plan to have Sedgwick County staff 7 days a week/12 hour a day ambulance service in Clearwater is currently under a "staffing plan" review by Sedgwick County. The additional positions were approved by the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners, the actual placement of the resources here is pending this review. We continue to work with our County Commissioner and County EMS leadership on this.
- Fire Department - Medical. We continue to have the Clearwater Fire Department with medically certified volunteers (EMT, AEMT, Paramedic) responding to each 911 medical call when they are available. We are committed to supporting their efforts with equipment and training as needed. We encourage anyone interested in becoming a Fire Department volunteer to contact the City. It's a great opportunity to learn new skills and support the community. The City of Clearwater has a new squad vehicle that will be used to respond to medical emergencies – you will see this vehicle around Clearwater.



Growth:

- Residential. Over the past 4 years there have been 39 new homes added in the City of Clearwater. We currently have 4 under construction and 3 more pending. Lots are available in Park Glen, Park Glen Estates, Chisholm Ridge, Indian Lakes, and throughout the City. The following incentives were carried forward from 2019, and the new Governing Body will be reviewing those in the near future to see what, if any, changes are needed to continue to motivate building:
 - 3 Year Rebate on City of Clearwater Portion of Property Taxes based on a sliding scale
 - Homebuyer Credit at Closing/ Certificate of Occupancy of \$1,500
- Commercial. There continues to be interest in commercial growth at the Clearwater Industrial Park complex. New businesses have recently come to Clearwater and we continue to seek out business that make sense for our community.

Census 2020:

The process known as Census 2020 is about to begin. The census is confidential and required by law. If you're interested in understanding why the decennial census is important, particularly to the City of Clearwater and the State of Kansas, the Wichita Census 2020 Committee will be making a presentation at the Clearwater Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 28th at 6:30 p.m. Here is some basic information:

- March 2020 - Each address will receive a mailer with information and an access code. This will allow on-line completion of the 10-question census.
- May 2020 – If households do not fill out the census online, then non-response follow up starts. This will include phone calls and as a last resort door to door canvassing.

If interested, there are employment opportunities available with the Census Bureau. You can work as little or as much as you like, and the jobs start at \$15.00/hour. More information will be made available once we have it.

Volunteers:

One way to get involved in your community is through the various boards and commissions that help the City operate. These groups are a great way to learn about how the city works and provides an opportunity for citizens to serve. Most of the groups meet once per month for 60-90 minutes. Currently, the City of Clearwater continues to seek volunteers for the groups listed below. If you are interested, please contact City Hall.

Planning Commission – 1 member (must live outside City limits), 3-year term

Public Building Commission – 2 members, 4-year term
Historical Society Board – 1 member, 4-year term

Other positions on these boards and other boards may come open as the year progresses.

I wish to welcome our new councilmembers to the Governing Body and look forward to working together for our community! Please learn what is going on by following our Website, attending council meetings, or sending your comments/questions to the City Staff, myself or any of the council members at the emails provided.

Thank you,

Burt Ussery
Mayor
316-239-4373