



## The State of the City

Members of the Council, the state of the City of Raymore is strong with effective policies, well documented procedures, and a skilled City Staff. The City of Raymore continues to be an exemplary example of a safe, well-managed city, delivering services to a satisfied citizenry, with careful attention to fiscally conservative budgets, all while being poised for growth as the economy begins to improve.

Through the work of the Council, City Staff, boards, commissions, and other citizen volunteers, in the past year:

- We enjoyed one of the lowest crime rates in the area.
- Budgeted for the largest amount of public improvement projects without a bond issue in our history.
- We continued the sidewalk installation program to provide for safe pedestrian traffic throughout the city.
- Our citizens enjoyed an increasingly successful Farmers Market and we have budgeted for significantly improved venue with walkways and a covered pavilion.
- Approved, held public hearings on, and staff has begun to install sidewalks in gaps on streets that have 66% of the lots built to provide better and safer pedestrian traffic.
- Again received both the distinguished budget presentation award and certificate of excellence in financial reporting award from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- City Staff continued to actively monitor and respond on Facebook pages for Parks and Rec, Raymore Animal Shelter, Emergency Management, and the Raymore Police Department improving the City's outreach to our citizens.
- Upgrade to the City Council Chambers to improve both the broadcast sound and the ability to hear and understand what is happening for those in the Chambers themselves.
- Created and staffed a new school community outreach position that has been very successful and we had a number of school/community outreach events this past year.

- The City continued the use of video for recording meetings by placing the video on YouTube and began more use of video including the production of regular video news updates.
- Cass County's peer-driven Youth Court, hosted by Raymore, continues to reduce incidents of juvenile delinquency, misconduct and misbehavior while also providing valuable experience to the youth serving in the roles of attorneys, judges, and the like.
- We completed a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan and are taking great strides towards becoming a regional leader in this area.
- Our Police Communications Center processed 23,153 telephone calls over the year for police and fire service.
- Continued growth in new homes, 156 single family home permits were issued.
- 1,011 business licenses were issued.
- 17 commercial building permits issued.
- More than 4,300 people participated in various recreational programs.
- The City's budget is financially sound and addresses the needs of the City in a fiscally conservative fashion.
- Hired a new City Manager and new Municipal Judge and a new Emergency Management Coordinator along with 13 other employees becoming part of the team.
- Our trails, parks, and recreation programs continue to grow and improve.

Councilmembers, the state of the City of Raymore is strong with effective policies, well-documented procedures, and a skilled City Staff. In the coming year I challenge us to:

- Continue to find new and innovative ways to improve communication with each other and with citizens.
- Strive to attract commercial development to the North Cass Parkway Interchange. Commercial development in the North Cass Parkway area will bring jobs and amenities to Raymore.
- Work toward a no-tax-increase bond issue in order to build a civic center and take care of infrastructure needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Kerckhoff  
 Mayor, City of Raymore  
 May 11, 2015