

2023 State of the City Address

Citizens of Farmington and City Council , it is my honor tonight to present the State of the City address:

I would like to begin by thanking our City employees for their dedication and commitment to make Farmington a better place to live. It takes a team effort every day to provide the services that our Citizens require now and in the future.

I am pleased to report that our City is financially sound and we have maintained excellent cash reserves. Our City and County Sales taxes continue to increase each year. In 2023, Our City Sales tax increased by **7.59%** and our County/State sales tax increased by **6.16%** over 2022.

Based upon our **2023 budget numbers**, Our City Sales tax received is **16% higher** than budgeted and our County/State sales tax was **8.5% higher** than budgeted. I am proud of our financial stability of our City as evidenced by our continued tax growth and bank balances. This increase allows our City to have funds to support expansion of our City services and for Capital improvement projects to begin and be completed without interruption.

The following projects were completed in 2023:

- Successful negotiation of a new 10 year Sewer Contract with City of Fayetteville
- Crack Sealing of streets in Valley View Subdivision, Twin Falls S/d , Windgate S/d , Blue Sky Road , and South Holland Road
- Paving of 3 streets , N. Locust, S Church St. and Bois D Arc
- Drainage improvements on Double Springs Road /Ridgedale, and Goose Creek Pipe replacement
- Goose Creek restriping with Reflectorized Paint pavement markings

Our City will have the following projects to begin in 2024:

- Begin the HWY 170 expansion project with the last of the utilities relocated and the bidding of the road construction project with an anticipated start date of June. Estimated total cost will exceed \$11,000,000 . The funding for the construction cost will be provided by ARDOT and FHWA.
- Creekside Park ---Greenway Trail Connection and extra parking lot construction. Estimated cost \$1.2 million. Grant Funding of \$900,000 has been approved and City will fund the remaining cost
- Fire Department Training Tower to be finished
- Construction of Pickle Ball Courts at Creekside park
- Farmington Heights park improvements to be completed
- Paving of 3 streets with State Aid Funds (awaiting final approval)

Our City continues to experience growth in our residential and commercial areas of our city. Growth can be challenging at times, but it can also bring new opportunities for our City and provide additional employment opportunities for our residents.

In 2023, our City issued 213 new residential building permits valued at \$79,483,000. The permits consisted of 151 single family homes and 62 duplexes. This is an increase of 45% over 2022 permits (147) issued.

Our City population from the 2020 Census was 7584. Based upon the projections of the Northwest Regional Planning our city population is 8265 as of the end of 2023. I fully expect our City to grow to 10,000 residents in the next 5 years.

Farmington continues to be a very attractive place for families to locate and send their children to school. Our outstanding school and its facilities continues to be one of the most attractive features of our community. Our school currently has an enrollment of 2848 students.

With the commitment from our City Council, our Fire Department and Police departments will need to continue to grow in personnel so that our residents will have the added security that Farmington is a safe place to live. In addition, we will need to continue to expand our recreational facilities and trails.

I think it is very important for our City to continue to work in conjunction with the Farmington Chamber of Commerce and Farmington schools to help build Farmington into a more attractive place for families and businesses to locate.

In closing, I would like to thank our City Council and Planning commissioners for their outstanding leadership and commitment to our City. I would also like to thank the citizens of Farmington for their continued support of our City and to encourage them to be more involved and celebrate the great community in which we live.

God has blessed our City and we should all be thankful every day for these blessings.

I am very proud and honored to be your Mayor and I look forward to a successful and prosperous 2024 for the City of Farmington.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernie L Penn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mayor Ernie L Penn