

City accomplishments in my first three years as Mayor:

Improved Safety

--increased police force (including expanding CSO officer corps)...better shifts, less overtime, more diversity in force (since 2021, # of officers have increased from 42 to 55!; # of officer of color have increased from 4 to 10; # of female officers has increased from 3 to 11)

--increased number of firefighters first time in 40+ years...reduced overtime...hired first female firefighter

--created Mental Health Co-responder position (supports police force in special circumstances)

--bettered QUALITY OF LIFE for our SAFETY PERSONNEL

Tackled Pensions Head-on

--For the past four years (2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023), City revenue has been so good that we have been able to retroactively fund pensions at the recommended levels, and if we continue on this path for another 10 years, our pensions should be fully-funded (something very, very few City can say)

Improved Economic Opportunities (especially for small and new businesses):

--massive grants for south side and/or minority (including women) owned businesses (\$250K a year)

--massive grants for Urban Ag Pilot projects (\$75K a year)

Took Fiscal Responsibility Seriously

--right sizing budgets over a decade, which has led to record surpluses over the last four years (\$4+ million in 2020, \$5.4+ million in 2021, \$7.5+ million in 2022, \$5+ million in 2023)

--reduced property tax rates (over past 5 years)

--reduced costs for residents:

--aggregation of electricity (started in 2013--referendum in Nov. 2012)--100% renewable energy!; our contract from 2021-2024 saved residents well over \$8 million!

--saved City \$25K a year (for next 25+ years) with new solar installment near Water Plant (W. Main)

--saved City \$50k a year (for next 25+ years) with solar installment at Water Treatment Plant (in Oquawka)

Beautified Galesburg

--tearing down dilapidated homes at a record pace

--tearing down of Broadview (after years of its "sitting" vacant)

--beautifying entrances to City

--Project 350--massive planting of trees, took a little over two years to complete (anticipated taking 5 years!)

Improved Recreation

--\$1+ million for HT Custer improvements

--\$2+ million for Lake Storey path improvements

--\$1 million (soon) Cooke School Park

--\$500K for Lancaster Park

--\$50K+ for Dale Kelley Park

Improved Streets

Since 2019, \$16 million dollars (over \$3 million a year) has been put to improving our streets (sidewalks and curbs). In 2024, the Council approved an additional \$2.5 million to this enterprise!

Improved City government

--efforts to make the City government more friendly (reports from contractors and other businesses)

--improved speed of services (permits, inspections, etc.)

Expanded Job Growth

--Actual jobs: Graham Hospital projects, Solvera, Nature's Treatment expansion (~30 jobs), & FCA (100 jobs)

--Future jobs: Supported workforce development through Vocational Program, CEO program & SkillsUSA

Big Projects Completed

New Public Library Completed (\$20 million, \$4 million raised locally)!!!

Renovated Hawthorne Pool (~\$4 million)

Perhaps Biggest Accomplishment

Changed the Paradigm: From an Austerity Mindset to a Growth Mindset