

Local Elected Official Luncheon

Hosted by Galesburg Chamber of Commerce

Date: 5/14/2024

Location: Prairie Inn, Best Western

Opening 5 minute statement:

It is great to be with everyone here. I love the opportunity to see and talk to all of you.

I have so much good news, you will probably think I am making much of this up. I am not!

Roads—An area of great concern by Galesburg Residents

We have invested \$16 million in road improvements since 2019 (\$3+ million/yr). For 2024, an additional \$2.5M (on top of the typical allotment) has injected into this effort.

Safety—An area that we all take very seriously!

When I took office in 2021, ~42 officers (41 sworn & 1 CSO),

As of Jan. 1, 2024, we have 55 (52 sworn and 3 CSO)...

Increase of 31%...and diversity has greatly increased

Officers of Color: from 4 → to 10 Females: from 3 → to 11

Also instituted 12 hour shifts at their request, QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUE!

FIREFIGHTERS, in 2023, we added 3 NEW positions! (first time in 40 years)

Pensions are a major concern...across the state, so many cities have underfunded pensions...Galesburg as well! However, given the positive revenues we have had over the last 4 years, we have been able to contribute fully to these and this puts us on a path to have them FULLY funding within a decade!

Aggregated power....since 2013...we just entered into a new contract for the next year (starting this summer) and rates will increase BUT our last contract has saved residents in excess of \$8 million dollars!

We know that HOUSING is critical to Galesburg's future:

A significant housing study is underway and we are eager to use the results of this study to reinvest in new housing.

We know ACCESSIBILITY is key!

Galesburg is undergoing a public transportation study...we will use this information to increase connectivity in our City and our COUNTY!

JOBS...working with companies and entrepreneurs...we will hear in the next week about two initiatives that should bring 150+ good paying jobs!

WE HAVE BEGUN A STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS...MUCH MORE INVOLVED THAN IN 2021 ... and coming out of that process we will have a lot of new initiatives, ones that are informed, strategic and beneficial to all in our community.

In closing...I want to thank our exceptional City staff who make my job so worthwhile and rewarding!

Our City is wonderful because of its people and its City Workers!

Thank you!

Looking forward to questions.

Peter