



## **State of the City Address 2023**

**Mayor Brett A. Hales**

**January 31, 2023**

Never in my life has a year gone by so quickly as 2022 did!

Never in my life has there been a year filled with so much fun, excitement and just enough challenge to keep my feet on the ground.

First of all, I want to thank the residents of Murray. My focus has always remained on you and what's best for the City. We may not always agree on the issues, but I hope you believe that I listen to you and try to find a way to address your questions and concerns.

Next, I want to thank the 800+ full and part-time employees of the City. They are the hardest working and kindest people I've ever worked with. I love it when I hear of people who have 40 or more years of service with the City. Or, when new hires are thrilled to finally land a job with Murray!

So, looking back on 2022.

Work on the new City Hall progressed with the topping off ceremony in February.

Renovation on the Murray Theater and the old Murray Mansion, which will house the Murray Museum, and the chapel continues.

The amphitheater will have seats...with cupholders!

Modern Display, in the old Shopko building, The Break at 9<sup>th</sup> and Van Winkle, Taco Bell and Miyazaki are just a few of the businesses that opened last year.

The City conducted a survey of residents regarding the downtown Block 1 area, between 48<sup>th</sup> and Vine Street.

For the first time, the City held an Appreciation Night for its 500 volunteers

We maintained our financial reserves at 25% of revenue and still took care of equipment and facilities.

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Now for our department reports:

Fire:

- Joey Mittelman named Fire Chief
- There was an increase of almost 200 fire calls, medical calls and medical transports

Arts, Parks and Facilities

- Cultural arts experiences reached almost 24,000 patrons in 2022
- Volunteers contributed 3,100 hours of service to the City and its projects
- More than 226,000 patrons used the Jordan River Parkway trail
- SRC Fitness room was renovated
- The Park Center celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Almost 15,000 participants in recreation programs
- 72,000+ rounds of golf played at Murray Parkway
- Restored about 50 windows at the Murray Mansion
- Discovered leaks in the outdoor pool in February, but they were repaired in time for summer!

Power

- The power fund continues to operate debt free with no outstanding bond payment debts
- The Hunter Power Plant, Murray's most reliable resource, is temporarily shutdown
- But prior planning meant a \$2 million cost savings in power supplies during the summer

Information Technologies

- Fully recovered the City from a ransomware attack
- Installed computer protection including Okta-2 factor authentication and Sentinel 1

Finance

- In addition to the numbers you see on the slide, here are some other some other items the City bills for:
  - Almost 20 thousand power meters
  - More than 10 thousand water meters
  - 11,550 garbage cans
  - 82 hundred recycle cans

Also answered almost 32 thousand customer service calls.

Public Works

- Russ Kakala was named the new Department Director
- 267 excavations were reviewed, issued and inspected

- 268 plan reviews and rechecks
- 111 inspections on commercial and residential building permits
- 36 subdivision plat and plan reviews and rechecks
- 5 development permits for construction work within a floodplain
- Received partial funding for 900 East from 5600 South to Van Winkle
- Received partial funding for bike lanes on 4800 South from State to the Jordan River
- Working with UDOT on improvements to 5300 South and College Drive
- Snow removal for all Murray roads
- Other projects: traffic signal at 6600 South and Union Park Avenue, Walden Park Storm Drain

## Human Resources

- The City has 800 employees split evenly between full-time and part-time
- 20 employees utilized FMLA, which is down from 33 in 2021
- Working with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion consultant to increase awareness with employees

## Police

- 10 new officers were hired
- There were just under 46,000 calls for service
- There were no homicides!
- Investigated more than 2,000 reported criminal offenses

## Community and Economic Development

- Jared Hall was named the new Department Director
- Planning Commission reviewed 61 items
- There were almost triple the number of requests to the Hearing Officer
- 373 proposed multi-family units, 44 single family lots and 14 ADU's were approved which is a drop of almost 200 units from 2021
- 3,708 new business licenses were issued which is almost 100 more than 2021
- Business license revenues were a percentage point higher than 2021 at more than \$783 thousand
- Building permit fees dropped 20% to almost \$1.4 million
- New permits were issued for a construction value of almost \$158.6 million
- Affordable housing partner, NeighborWorks, provided \$649,000 in down payment assistance

## Library

- 55,000 visitors
- 22,000 program participants
- Having our own library means lower taxes for residents

## Attorney

- A sampling of projects and issues handled by the Attorney's Office:
  - GRAMA requests
  - Auditing services agreement
  - Land use appeals ordinance
  - Liability issues
  - Murray Theater policies and procedures
  - Network incident
  - Annual Ethics training
  - Risk management

## Courts

- On-Line Dispute Resolution started to reduce court time for small claims
- "My Case", a software program, was initiated to assist people in keeping traffic citations off driving records

## Challenges

- Aging infrastructure, more things will break or spring leaks
- Supply shortages, causing delays
- Increasing demand for services due to greater population
- Inflation driving up the cost of services
- Housing demand
- Homelessness
- Cost of purchased power is increasing drastically

## What's coming up?

Renovation of the Armory into a meeting or event center will commence soon.

The RDA area surrounding the old City Hall is for sale!

We will be moving to the new City Hall later this spring!

In closing, as I said at the beginning, time is moving quickly and already we are one month into 2023.

Two new Council members were sworn in last year.

An election will be held this year that will have 3 of the council members on the ballot.

I look forward to the changes in store for the rest of this year.

Thank you to all of you for being willing to serve on the Boards and Commissions for the City. Please know how much we appreciate you for your commitment to the City and all of the residents.