

**State of the City**  
**Presented by Council President David F. Luebke**  
**Beloit, WI**  
**Monday, February 6, 2017**

To my fellow Councilors, City Manager Luther, City Attorney Krueger, Beloit City Staff, and citizens:

Reflecting upon 2016, we have much to be proud of here in Beloit. We have experienced a robust and dynamic year of leadership from our new City Manager Lori Curtis Luther who officially began on June 1<sup>st</sup> of 2015. She guided us through a collaborative strategic planning process that clarifies our mission to “Provide Outstanding Public Service” and helped us establish clear and concise goals to guide us into the future. We are modernizing our operations, focusing this past year with our new Chief of Police, on rebuilding the police department. The department implemented creative recruitment strategies and diversified our organization with new hires. The City’s Most Wanted page was implemented, serving as an excellent tool to engage the community in our law enforcement efforts, and resulting in the arrest and prosecution of many serious offenders. We are also using social media to partner with the public. Perhaps most importantly, we are rebuilding relationships with the entire community with an emphasis on enhanced communications with our minority populations. A series of Community Conversations took place in partnership with the Beloit Community Ministers Fellowship and Latino Service Providers Coalition.

In addition to these accomplishments, the City adopted a balanced budget, appropriately controlling costs to meet revenue constraints; the automated solid waste and recycling program was implemented, also creating savings for our taxpayers and (knock on wood) accomplishing one of the program’s goals by having no employee injuries since implementation. During the recent ice storms, we may have had some serious and costly accidents if we still had workers jumping on and off the trucks.

We have built on prior success, continuing to promote economic development and redevelopment in Beloit; examples include retail, commercial and industrial growth. There is continued redevelopment of the Ironworks Campus with:

- Ebates/FatWallet Expansion
- Comply365
- Mastercraft
- Irontek Business Incubator, and
- Hendricks CareerTek

Other industrial growth includes:

- Dupont Expansion
- Toledo Molding and Die (TMD) lease of the Hendricks Commercial Properties (HCP) Spec Building (Phase I, which will lead to Phase II)
- Midwest Refrigerated Services lease of a previously vacant building
- Snyder's Lance Expansion (Kettle Foods)
- Frito-Lay Expansion
- TRU Aseptics Ingredients reuse of former ADM/Wild Aseptics facility
- KDN Hospitality – a new Holiday Inn Express hotel approved, and
- Renovation of the former Cub Foods building

We are also proud of the residential growth the City of Beloit has seen in senior living, multi-family and single-family developments.

We continued to invest in our infrastructure with the Colley Road reconstruction, Inman Road Extension, and the Wisconsin Avenue reconstruction.

The Parks and Leisure Services Division:

- Installed two (2) new playgrounds in Vernon Park and Leeson Park.
- Designed & constructed the new Bike Trail in Big Hill Park.
- Completed the first successful year in operating the Big Hill Center and our new partnership with the Welty Environmental Center.
- Hopefully all Beloiters can experience what a wonderful addition the Center adds to the park.

The City of Beloit continues its positive partnerships with organizations like Beloit College, the Beloit School District, Beloit Health System and Rock County. We continue to support and eagerly await the groundbreaking for Beloit College's Powerhouse project, the opening of Beloit Health System's Heart Hospital within a Hospital, and the opening of the new YMCA at Ironworks.

With all of these successes to make Beloiters proud, we are positioned to make 2017 even better with several exciting citywide projects and initiatives. From an economic development front, we anticipate the opening of G5 Brewing Company - a new local micro-brewery. From an operational standpoint, we are moving forward to save taxpayers money and provide streamlined services through the creation of a joint City Clerk/Treasurer's Office. And, in regard to partnerships, we are doing all we can to work cooperatively with the Town of Beloit to share services to best address all citizen needs.

Implementation of our strategic initiatives will help us create and sustain safe and healthy neighborhoods; a high-performing organization; economic and residential growth; a high quality of life; high quality infrastructure and connectivity; as well as a positive image, with enhanced communications and an engaged community.

I would like to personally thank my fellow Councilors who continue to prioritize the best interests of our community, our dedicated staff, our business partners who engage in creative public-private partnerships, and most importantly, the public at-large – the reason for our existence and whom we proudly serve.

Beloit is alive, vibrant and experiencing positive growth. We will continue this forward progress if we all continue to work together – Beloit is stronger together.

Our future is bright!

Thank you all. It has been a privilege and honor to serve you as your Council President.