

Four years... It seems it passed in the blink of an eye. Serving as your Mayor, I've had the good fortune of meeting with leaders from all over the country. I hear mayors of large and small cities as they beam with pride about their community's engagement efforts—efforts where they've reached out to 200 people to learn what direction they should take in their cities. You can't imagine how they perk up when I tell them about the Beaverton visioning project and our commitment to robust public engagement. I share our number (5,000 citizens) and watch their reactions; their jaws drop.

In 1923, President Woodrow Wilson said, "You are not here to merely make a living. You are here...to enable the world to live...with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement." This is exactly what our community is doing—we're building a strong foundation for generations to come. That's what Beaverton is good at—envisioning a brighter future, and putting those visions into actions.

I'm so thankful to have residents and partners that care about their city—and who are willing to lend a hand to make things better. For me, and our dedicated City Councilors, it starts and ends with our community. We are here to serve.

The State of Beaverton is strong because we have exceptional leaders on our City Council. Please help me thank them for their service: Council President Cate Arnold, Betty Bode, Ian King, Marc San Soucie, and I'd like to welcome our newest City Councilor, Mark Fagin. Councilors, we appreciate your tireless efforts to make Beaverton *The Best of Oregon!* And, let's not forget our longest serving City Councilor Forrest Soth, who recently passed away. We truly miss you Forrest. I'd also like to recognize our elected officials who've joined us tonight. Please stand and let us thank you for your service.

Last spring, I was fortunate enough to be re-elected for a second term serving as your Mayor. During my campaign, people would ask: "what's the secret to Beaverton's success?" I've always maintained, there are two things that make us strong: First: We have the most engaged citizens in Oregon. Second: We deeply value our partnerships. I can point to every success and show how collaboration was critical in moving us forward. People and organizations working together for a common good; this is my most prized tool as your Mayor. We get things done when we work together.

I'd like to share some examples of how collaboration has benefited your city.

- We've worked with Metro to bring South Cooper Mountain into the city. Metro approved adding 535 acres of the South Cooper Mountain area into Beaverton's Urban Growth Boundary. This gives Beaverton room to expand, but also helps our Beaverton School District with its growing pains.
- As a city, we work hard with the private sector to spur economic development. Gramor's \$60 million Progress Ridge Development was another huge win; it complemented the residential investment that Polygon Northwest had already made in South Beaverton. Gramor's investment has brought many jobs to our community.

- We worked with J. Peterkort & Company, 45 Degree Central and Lanphere Enterprises, as they voluntarily annexed into the city. These well-respected businesses represented nearly 100 additional acres of land, which helps grow Beaverton’s assessed valuation.
- We worked with our citizens and our special districts to create our voter-approved, \$150 million urban renewal plan. Each and every one of our partners provided steadfast support for our plan.
- We worked with our partners, the Tualatin Valley Gleaners and the Oregon Food Bank, to help feed the hungry.
- We worked with HomePlate, the Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Beaverton on fundraising efforts to help our homeless youth.
- We worked with another nonprofit, Boys & Girls Aid, to transform a neglected apartment complex—and turn it into a safe home for homeless youth.
- We’ve worked with our unions, twice negotiating two contracts—one per union—that were fair and equitable to all of us. I’ve said it once and I’ll say it again, we have outstanding public servants—they represent The Best of Oregon.

Of course, we’ve enjoyed other successes as well.

- We’ve continued the important work to brand Beaverton as a safe place to live, to work and to raise a family.
- We’ve rebranded Beaverton as a business friendly community.
- We’ve demonstrated how we’re committed to supporting the businesses—and the jobs—already here.
- And, we continue the critical work to recruit new businesses.

During these past four years, I’ve talked to thousands of citizens, business and community leaders. They tell me: “Stay the course and keep working collaboratively to solve our most pressing issues.” This next term, I’m committed to doing just that.

I mentioned before that we have a great staff. They continue to find federal and state grants to bolster our investments. In my first term, we received more than \$5 million in federal and state grants. And, we’re off to a great start in 2013, with more than \$400,000 in state and federal grants already in hand. These funds will help us realize our community’s bold vision for the future.

One project I am very proud of is our new Creekside District. A \$1 million Department of Housing and Urban Development Grant will support this work, which integrates affordable housing with

efficient transportation, green infrastructure, and public amenities. The Creekside District will help begin to revitalize our downtown.

Another area that I hear the public talking about is the responsiveness of our city government. We continue to pay close attention to our core services. Our citizens care about filling pot holes and so do we. We maintain our streets, our water and sewer lines—and our overall infrastructure. These are our most important assets. We *continually* reinvest in the city's infrastructure through capital improvement dollars. And when it comes to being responsive, the dedicated men and women of our public works department have raised the bar. Listen to a few of these milestones from 2012:

- Installed more than 3,800 feet of new water main;
- Planted nearly 450 trees and 1,250 native plants;
- Upgraded 176 bike path lights to LEDs; and
- Resurfaced 55 streets.

They've even supported our creek restoration partners, planting more than 15,000 native trees and shrubs at 13 different sites. Our goal is to improve our watershed and stream health as we feed the Tualatin River Basin.

Our great staff is committed to sustainable best practices. After we complete any job, we send comment cards to our residents to get their feedback. I have a bin of these cards and I'd like to read one: "Your crew was very nice. Worked fast, worked hard, were very helpful and extremely courteous and very tidy cleaning up. Great job!!!" I should rename these compliment cards. The vast majority of them are positive.

Residents also drop in or call in. Recently, two public works employees were in Costco on their lunch break and found a signed, blank check on the ground. They hopped in their vehicle and hand delivered the check to the resident. The woman was so shocked she left an emotional voicemail thanking the two employees for their kindness—and for going above and beyond. These are the moments that make our employees stand out.

Our Public works team keeps our city beautiful and they take care of what we have—our investments. It's important that we keep them in good working order. That we don't neglect them and risk having them falling into disrepair. Again, our residents care about pot holes. Beaverton cares about filling potholes—we care about the basics.

We're also a community that values our arts and culture. One event that I'm especially proud of is our Beaverton International Celebration. This event was created in response to our community's vision. We heard loud and clear that our citizens expect that we honor our diversity. This cultural event would not have been possible without the strong partnership of THPRD and the Beaverton Arts Commission. The event draws more than 35 community partners—representing nearly 20 different countries and regions from around the world.

Each year, city events attract more than 40,000 people—the size of a small city. These events bring our residents together and help build a stronger sense of community. Some of our most popular

events such as Flicks by the Fountain and our annual Tree Lighting take place at City Park by the Beaverton City Library.

Our Beaverton City Library is truly the crown jewel of our community. In Beaverton, we're blessed with a literate community. Our two libraries continue to astound me with the number of residents that they serve. Our Main Library, which is now 11 years old, is the busiest single library facility in the state of Oregon—circulating nearly 2.9 million items last year alone. And, over the last year, our Murray Scholls Branch saw the largest growth of any Washington County library—nearly 13 percent.

When I ask our residents what they appreciate about Beaverton, the answers are pretty consistent:

- They love our world-class libraries;
- They love our beloved farmers market;
- They love our great schools and our beautiful parks; and
- They love that they feel safe in their community.

On a more solemn note, the recent tragedies at Clackamas Towne Center and Connecticut hit home how important a well-trained public safety team really is. For more than five years, Beaverton has been recognized as one of the safest cities in the Northwest with populations over 75,000. Strong public safety is vital to the livability of any community. Each and every day, the brave women and men of the Beaverton Police Department work hard to keep us safe.

As we embark on my next term, there is still much work to do. We've made forward progress at The Round and in my second term I'll redouble my efforts to revitalize this area with the help of the City Council. By working together, we will right the wrongs in the heart of Beaverton and restore people's confidence in investing in our community—and investing in The Round.

This month, the City Council voted to move the civic functions of City Hall to the Round. We will soon be in the middle of urban life. We have a great local partner, Portland Developer SKB, prepared to join the city; ready to create the 18-hour core that the Community Vision has called for in this area. A mix of housing, public service, retail, commercial, restaurants, transit hub, power plant production capabilities (clean production)—what else could you ask for to take this area into the current century.

The community and business leaders supported moving City Hall so that it could serve as a catalyst for development. We're making it happen. This move should drive up property values, fuel urban renewal, and encourage the private sector to invest in housing and jobs.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind, but great actions speak to all mankind." We have turned our thoughts into actions.

Now that we've made our decision on the new location for City Hall, we're turning our energy to our public safety needs. You may have read last year's editorial highlighting this issue. Beaverton needs a public safety center that will remain standing after a catastrophic earthquake. Last summer,

the Oregonian wrote about this very issue. The headline read: “Major earthquake in Oregon could be in next 50 years, infrastructure not ready.” In Beaverton, we must be ready. Let’s make sure our public safety building—housing our critical first responders—is not taken out by the disaster. So WE can be there... when YOU need us most.

Sadly, we live in a dangerous world and the recent tragedies around our nation are powerful reminders that we can never take our security for granted. Our current Police, Emergency Management and Court facilities have safety and security challenges. They deserve better—you deserve better—now is the time to solve these issues.

We have additional priorities as we plan for our future. I’ve directed my staff to update our Comprehensive Plan. Excitingly, this will merge the priorities from the Beaverton Community Vision, Civic Plan and our Urban Renewal Plan.

We’re also creating a concept and community plan for the South Cooper Mountain area. The land will provide between 4,000 and 5,000 new housing units for our city and will also be an economic boon to South Beaverton.

We must continue to find ways to create good jobs in Beaverton. However, as we build our economy, we must also never forget that there are those around us who are not living the American dream. We must continue to focus on helping our homeless, our hungry, and our seniors—our most vulnerable citizens. We have more homeless students in Washington County than anywhere else in Oregon.

Lincoln said, “You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.” We can do better. We must do better.

I’ve seen recent college grads struggle to find work. I’ve seen parents lose their jobs. I’ve seen families turning to food banks, who probably never thought they would need help. And I’ve seen families who are without health insurance forced to take their children to emergency rooms, because they have nowhere else to go. This puts great stress on these families as well as our health care providers. These families are our neighbors.

In Beaverton, we are finding solutions. The city was recently awarded a \$1.6 million CDC Grant to partner with the likes of: Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center; Lifeworks Northwest; Community Action Organization; Pacific University; Washington County Health and Human Services; and Washington County Disability, Aging and Veteran Services. It’s a pioneering effort. Senator Wyden and Congresswoman Bonamici congratulated us on playing a leadership role. And, I could not have been prouder when Senator Wyden said that this partnership is placing Beaverton “on the right side of history.” This project is the first of its kind and is also supported by Governor Kitzhaber. Ultimately, it will result in better health care opportunities for some of our most vulnerable families.

In 2013 and beyond, we will continue our focus on creating good jobs. We must find ways to nurture our economy. In December, Nike and the Governor made headlines as Nike continues to invest in Oregon. The Governor is wise to recognize the value of good, family-waged jobs. Nike leases more space in Beaverton than any other company and recently became the largest private sector employer in the city of Beaverton. And with their new expansion, right here in Oregon, we expect an additional 12,000 jobs by 2020.

These actions reassure me that we are on the path towards a better tomorrow. There are more signs of hope.

In the second quarter of 2012, Washington County wages have increased at the fastest rate in the nation, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 8.5 percent increase was more than six times the national average. And, Washington County's jobless rate fell to 6.8 percent (a significant change from a year ago when it was sitting at 7.5).

Beaverton has stayed true to being Open for Business. Supporting our small and large businesses—and growing jobs—is critical for our future. One of our biggest successes was the approval of the state Enterprise Zone designation for your city. Since the designation was announced, Vernier, a local technology company, has committed to a nearly \$3 million expansion. This E-Zone is leading to new family-wage jobs.

If we're to grow our economy, the private sector needs a city government that—as a partner—is responsive and nimble. It's truly a win-win! Still, we have work to do.

Our citizens have said loud and clear that we must address the cultural barriers in our city. Beaverton is one of the most diverse cities in Oregon and I have made it a city-wide priority to reach out and welcome our growing diverse populations.

In my first term, I created the Mayor's Diversity Task Force to increase trust and establish and improve communications between city programs, city government and our diverse community groups.

As President Lyndon B. Johnson said, "We must throw open the doors of opportunity. But we also must equip our people to walk through these doors."

I have taken those words to heart. Thanks to our City Councilors for funding our Cultural Inclusion Coordinator to reach out to our ethnic communities so we can strengthen our relationships and better understand the needs of everyone in our city.

In the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy and the devastating droughts hitting the heartland of our nation, people are talking about our changing climate. Washington's new Governor Jay Inslee spoke eloquently about climate change. He said: "As a parent and grandparent, I cannot consciously accept the dangers of climate change for my family or yours...We don't deny science in Washington; we embrace it. We do not follow technological innovation; we lead."

I couldn't agree more. In Beaverton, we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint. We are committed to greening our operations. And, we must continue to encourage our residents and businesses to strive to be more sustainable.

Last fall, our sustainability efforts were recognized as we won the respected 2012 Mayors' Climate Protection Award—an initiative sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and sought by more than 100 communities across the nation. And, we were once again designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Green Power Community of the Year. We must continue to lead in sustainability. The consequences of a warmer planet demand that we take action.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt said it perfectly, “There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still.”

This next term, our city will continue to move forward. Through our \$1 million HUD grant, we will fund a major planning effort designed to implement key components of our Civic Plan. One of these components is improving Canyon Road with our strong partner, ODOT. This effort will take an-all-hands on deck approach. I am ready for the challenge.

The State of Your City is strong and I am committed to keeping Beaverton moving towards a bright future.

In closing, I’d like to thank the Beaverton Committee for Citizen Involvement and the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce for supporting tonight’s event. Both of you are terrific partners. I’d also like to thank my wife, Ann. Being married to a public official is not easy. My schedule would try the patience of any spouse. Ann, you’ve stood by my side all these years. Thank you.

Beaverton has a bright future because 5,000 of our citizens shared their vision. And, with your help, we will continue to build a better Beaverton.

As I look around this beautiful auditorium, I see our many partners—along with citizens—who truly care about their vibrant community.

During his inauguration speech, President Obama talked about the importance of good roads and quality infrastructure. He talked about the importance of education and good jobs. He said, and I quote, “Now, more than ever, we must do these things together, as one nation, and one people.”

In Beaverton, we must continue our collaborations and partnerships...

- Continue building connections and strengthening our relationships...enhancing our quality of life;
- Continue to lend a hand to our most vulnerable residents;
- Continue to maintain our roads, sewer, water and infrastructure;
- Continue our commitment to sustainability, public safety and other citizen priorities;
- Continue our regional partnerships—tearing down silos—so the entire region thrives in this new global economy; and
- Continue to move Beaverton forward and build on our national reputation in so many areas.

Most importantly, let’s continue to represent *The Best of Oregon*.

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