



2018 was another great year for the city of Princeton.

But before I go into the State of the City, I must recognize someone from Princeton who had a pretty good year of her own. It's one thing to be great at what you do and earn national recognition as being the best in the country. It's another to receive that recognition twice.

As a senior at Princeton Community High School, she was the recipient of the Naismith Player of the Year Award. Then after her collegiate career at Notre Dame, she went #1 in this years WNBA Draft. In addition to her individual accomplishments, she also reached the pinnacle in high school, winning State and then again in college winning a National Championship.



She has achieved these accolades while continuing to represent the city she came from in the highest fashion possible. It's in all of her hard work, dedication, determination, and most of all in my eyes, humility, which symbolizes the very best of Princeton.

We truly are fortunate to have her as our own.

Because of that humility, she doesn't just say it, she believes it... **Just a kid from Princeton.**

Congratulations to this years

1 WNBA Draft Pick to the Las Vegas Aces,

Jackie Young.





After 3 years in office, I am incredibly proud of what our administration has accomplished. We set out to achieve so many things, making a number of changes right from the beginning and continuing to this day. Because of those changes, we are building a better place for the people who call Princeton home.





In presenting the State of the City for 2019,
it is with great pride to inform you the city is doing very well financially.
In fact, according to our financial consultant,

“This is the healthiest (financial shape) the city has been in years!”

PRINCETON DAILY CLARION

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City finances look healthy, CPA says

BY ANDREA HOWE
EDITOR, THE DAILY CLARION

PRINCETON — While property tax caps take away about \$1 million in property tax revenue from the City of Princeton each year, a financial consultant told the city's fiscal body Monday that she sees no red flags in the city's finances.

Princeton Common Council

members will meet at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, to make more cuts to the proposed 2019 spending plan but got an overview of the city's finances from CPA Paige Sansone of H.J. Umbaugh & Associates at Monday night's budget hearing.

Sansone gave council members a package of city financial data over the past two years, not-

ing that the tax caps for property owners remove about 19 percent of the city's property tax revenue.

Comparing the city's expenses vs. revenue, Sansone said she saw some instances of capital project expenses, but no red flags, such as payroll exceeding revenue that would eat away at cash reserves.

She said the city maintains about 41 percent of its operating costs in cash reserve. She also reported the city funds have strong cash balances.

As the city fine-tunes the proposed 2019 budget, Sansone told the council that “it's probably the healthiest I've seen the city in years.”

“Make sure you get that,”

quipped Common Council President Jan Ballard to news media.

In other business at Monday's session:

- Council members approved an ordinance that would give percentage preference to local bidders for projects.

- Princeton's Board of Public

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Below is a list of the fund balances at the end of 2015 when we took over, compared to the end of our first three years in office, December 2018:

<u>Accounts</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
General Fund	\$ 795,000	\$1,156,000	<u><i>\$361,000</i></u>	<u><i>Up 45%</i></u>
Water Utility	\$1,258,000	\$1,846,000	<u><i>\$588,000</i></u>	<u><i>Up 47%</i></u>
• Water Operating	\$ 244,000	\$ 799,000	<u><i>\$555,000</i></u>	<u><i>Up 227%</i></u>
Sewer Utility	\$ 979,000	\$1,666,000	<u><i>\$687,000</i></u>	<u><i>Up 70%</i></u>
MVH / Roads & Streets	\$ 424,000	\$1,203,000	<u><i>\$779,000</i></u>	<u><i>Up 184%</i></u>
EDIT / CCDF / CUM CAP	\$1,020,000	\$1,772,000	<u><i>\$752,000</i></u>	<u><i>Up 73%</i></u>



In 2019 alone, saving roughly **\$600,000** in 3 areas when compared to 2015:

\$200,000 - Switching Health Insurance Carriers (union ins. with better benefits)

\$200,000 - Privatizing Trash Collection (with zero layoffs)

\$200,000 - Voluntary Workforce Reduction (3 Dept Heads and 6 Labor Employees)

We've achieved this by putting **common sense business practices** in place just as I did in the HVAC business I previously owned. These include:

- Allowing for competition in order to achieve the best possible pricing
- Exploring avenues for reducing expenses never considered before
- Doing things internally & outsourcing more strategically when the job requires
- Empower employees and provide the resources to repair/replace failing infrastructure
- Make decisions based on the best outcome for the taxpayers, not politics.

***We have reduced the Water Loss Rate almost in Half,
from 49% in 2015 down to 28% in 2018.***



**And while our fund balances have never been better,
we've also increased spending in these areas:**

- \$2 Million in Water, Sewer and Storm Water Improvements
- \$1.8 Million in Paving 12 Miles of Existing Roads (6 miles each in '18 & '19)
 - Added 2 More Police Officers and 3 More Firefighters
 - Numerous Improvements to All 3 Parks in Equipment & Activities
 - Transformed Sully's Towing property along Brumfield into Green Space
 - \$4.6 Million Water Line Replacement - Pending RD Approval
- \$9 Million Waste-Water Treatment Facility Upgrade - Pending TIFF Approval



As your mayor, I understand the importance of being known by Governor Holcomb and our State Legislatures in Indianapolis and the benefits those connections can have in terms of grant funding for local projects.

When those state officials in Indianapolis decide to start a major initiative for grants in the areas of drinking water, waste-water and storm-water, I'll be there letting them know about our issues here in Princeton.

It also helped in receiving the designation as an Opportunity Zone which benefits potential investors.





As your mayor, I try to attend as many functions put on through Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) as I can in order to learn the different ways other communities are having successes and changes made by the State Legislature.

In doing so, I am honored to have been *elected* by other mayors around the state, to serve as *Vice President* of this years **Indiana Conference Of Mayors (ICOM).**

PRESS RELEASE

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Richmond Mayor Dave Snow Elected 2018-19 Indiana Conference of Mayors President

Princeton Mayor Brad Schmitt elected vice president

INDIANAPOLIS – At its annual meeting held last month in Lawrenceburg, the Indiana Conference of Mayors (ICOM) elected Richmond Mayor Dave Snow president of the organization. Snow took office immediately and will serve for one year in the position.

“Working closely with my fellow mayors is definitely a highlight for me. I look forward to collaborating with Mayor Snow, advancing the cause of growing strong Hoosier cities,” Mayor Schmitt said.



Since taking office, we have razed 42 blighted houses in the city, thus:

- Increasing property values
- Cleaning up neighborhoods
- Reducing opportunities for crime

Because of this, we are seeing new construction on some of these lots while others are being maintained by the adjoining property owners.





When we took office, all three city parks had been neglected for years and were not operating at maximum efficiency. We immediately went to work getting more for our parks with the same funding and less people than ever before.

Revenue in our Aquatics Center and Summer Explosion went from **\$153,000** in 2015, up to **\$192,000** on average since making significant changes to how each are operated and managed. That's an increase of **\$39,000** on average per year, **Up 25%!**

These are outstanding numbers for any public parks department and is the kind of results we strive for when using taxpayer funds!

PARKS DEPT. REVENUE 2014 - 2018					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Pool Admissions	\$0.00	\$69,311.00	\$71,663.39	\$92,529.90	\$67,606.51
Pool Rental	\$0.00	\$190.00	\$6,955.00	\$5,860.00	\$5,200.00
Pool Concessions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,633.15	\$26,633.00	\$16,464.22
TOTAL POOL REVENUE	\$2,014.00	\$71,516.00	\$97,267.54	\$127,039.90	\$91,288.73
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Summer Explosion	\$80,121.00	\$77,340.50	\$80,421.50	\$81,951.50	\$87,015.50
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Shelter Rental	\$7,860.00	\$7,320.00	\$7,160.00	\$8,900.00	\$8,060.00
Lodge Rental	\$2,610.00	\$3,615.00	\$3,850.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,140.00
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TOTAL PARK REVENUE	\$96,633.00	\$163,821.50	\$192,731.04	\$224,925.40	\$194,540.23
\$ increase from 2015	N/A	N/A	\$28,909.54	\$61,103.90	\$30,718.73
% increase from 2015	N/A	N/A	16.6%	32.1%	17.5%
*2018 - Lower revenue due to pool being closed 11 days for weather (6) or fecal incidents (5)					
Estimated \$1,200 per day x 11 days = \$13,200 in lost revenue					



Additionally in the *Parks Dept.*, we made the following *upgrades*:

- New Playground Equipment in all 3 Parks w/ major plans for Lion's Kiddie Park
- Created 9 hole Disc Golf Course and New Walking Trails and Walking Bridge at Southside Park Significantly Increasing Traffic & Reducing Vandalism
- Connected Lincoln Park with Lafayette Park with New Sidewalk/Trail
- Repurposed seldom used Tennis Courts into much needed Parking
- Completed the final project from Stellar, The Heritage Trail
- Relocated the Parks Maintenance Building Away from the Center of Lafayette Park Creating Even More Parking and Removing a Building Used for Storage
- Increased the Hours of Operation and Programs at the Aquatics Center
- Constructed 2 Brand New Volleyball Courts on Unused City Property
- Beautified Lafayette Park at Minimal Expense with Concrete Pads Under benches and tables, Extensive Tree Maintenance, Planting of New Trees, Stump Removal, Landscape Projects, and a Detailed Maintenance Schedule
- We even Repurposed Decorative Concrete Blocks to Build a Retaining Wall



Our goal for the upcoming year is simple:

Keep doing the things we have been successful at while working with this council in the areas we agree on or at least can reach an understanding.

My vision as your mayor:

One of our highest priorities needs to be acknowledging and addressing our residential housing crisis. Just as I have done from Day One, I will continue to work with developers to attract primary residential and multi-family housing to the area that matches our workforce. In order for this to happen though, it will take City Council to decide whether it wants to act on these opportunities, or just continue to give it lip service.

You can't say you are for growth and then block it when it comes knocking on your door. I promise I will continue to do my part.



In order to achieve said growth, we will have to make a concerted effort to address the following:

- Incentivize Developers in order to Compete with Neighboring Communities.
- More Trails Connecting the Entire Town & Surrounding Communities
- More Restaurants and Retail Stores Downtown in addition to out by Hwy 41
- Incentivize Investors to Improve The Worst of our Downtown Buildings
- Utilize our Redevelopment Authority to Work with Local Contractors to Spur Primary Single-Family Housing on Vacant Lots
- Rebrand the City in a way that is Fresh and Inviting to Everyone
- Focus on Improving all Quality of Life Initiatives

***If we aren't willing to invest in ourselves,
how can we expect someone else to?***



One of the most important things to me is the safety of our children in our schools. So much so I'm willing to stake my next four years in office to get it done this year!

Last summer, *this council* stated it's *"Not Our Responsibility"* when deciding to *defund* the **School Resource Officer Program** which had been in place for **11 years.**

In today's world, with the things that took place not that terribly far from us just last year, how does any council come to the determination, it's not our responsibility because not all the kids are from Princeton?

While they are technically right, is that what we will say if something happens in one of our schools? Do we only require our police department to only protect those people who live in Princeton? If that's the case why stop there? Maybe next they will say we can only protect taxpaying citizens.



As the city's finances have shown, we have the resources to help the school corporation fund the position. For two full time SRO's, we would pay 1/3 of the cost with the school corporation contributing the rest.

I offered to use EDIT Funds asking them to allow me the latitude to garner support from the surrounding communities to share in the added expense. They denied that request, doubling down by removing the funding available for the one full-time SRO we had.

This administration continues to make difficult decisions saving the taxpayer, what adds up to millions of dollars, for two reasons:

One, maximize every tax dollar collected in order to strategically use those savings in other areas that are important to the people we serve. Areas such as incentives for housing, new infrastructure, more quality of life initiatives and, in special circumstances, working with our school corporation in protecting our children with full-time SRO's.



Second, if we aren't going to use this money in these areas above, the least we should do is add it to our rainy day fund in case of an emergency. For reasons unbeknownst to me, that fund still sits at \$3,500, the same amount as when we took office.

Or, better yet, we could rightfully return it back to the people it came from by means of a tax rate reduction.

Meanwhile the city's balances continue to grow. Maybe they've been waiting for a new mayor while holding back on the people they represent.

I'll conclude the State of the City with this:

In three years as your mayor, we have made great strides to prove to be the **Best Stewards of Your Tax Dollars** we can possibly be while still striving for growth.

We take that responsibility very seriously and it shows.

“This is the healthiest financial shape the city has been in years!”



*There is no limit to how much **Princeton** can achieve,
but we can only achieve it by working together!*

The State of the City is **good** and **getting better**.
We have **Better Parks**, **Better Streets**, and **Better Infrastructure**.
Quite Simply, We're Making **Princeton a Better Place.**