

Council members share NewYear's resolutions

Council:

Getting in shape, quitting smoking, eating healthier, drinking less and being more positive are popular New Year's resolutions for many. Some of those may make the list for Norman City Council members, but they also have a list of resolutions that could be impactful for the city as a whole.

With the Feb. 12 election just around the corner and some choosing not to run for re-election, some council members will have less time to work with, but all

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From **Page A1** nine members of the body have tangible goals in place for 2019.

Mayor Lynne Miller: “I want to see us get a transportation bond, a stormwater infrastructure bond and a stormwater utility on a ballot that the voters will support.

“I want the land and funding in hand to build the senior center, the aquatic center and the multisports center before my mayoral term expires. I am working with some of our seniors on a conference to be held this spring, which will be a wonderful opportunity for our community to envision what we need that center to be.

“I plan to work very hard with [the] council and community members to install a new city manager that can help us vision and plan while still managing the day to day challenges of our city government. And after my term as mayor is up in July, I intend to spend a lot more time with my family and friends and do some traveling.”

Kate Bierman, Ward 1: “For me, 2019 is the year we need to address issues of access. Sidewalks, an orderly CART transition that provides us the ability to expand to underserved areas (particularly in east Norman), municipal broadband, changing tables and ADA compliance by cab services.”

Joe Carter, Ward 2: “My No. 1 aspiration for 2019 continues to be restoring trust in city government. There has been so little trust in Norman city government over the last decade. However, I feel we have started turning the tide. We hope to accomplish this by increasing transparency and involving the public in the decision making process.

“My second aspiration is for Norman to balance its budget.

“As far as goals are concerned, my No. 1 goal is to end the UNP TIF 2, which has been disastrous for business in south and west Norman and by ending the TIF balance the city budget.

“[I also hope] to implement the tree ordinances recently proposed by the city’s tree committee. By doing so, we hope this will raise the awareness of the value of an urban tree canopy and urban wildlife.”

□ **Robert Castleberry, Ward 3:**

“My aspiration for Norman is a city where people are born into a supportive and safe environment, grow and learn throughout their lives, build strong families and rewarding careers in leading industries, have access to high quality, affordable housing and retire into a community with dignity and pride that has a world class, stand-alone senior center.”

□ **Bill Hickman, Ward 4:** “We must secure the location and funding for a stand-alone senior center and sites for Norman Forward’s Indoor Aquatic Center and Indoor Sports Facility to fulfill our pledge to voters.

“We must also fully staff the school resource officer program and end the UNP TIF to balance our budget.

“The non-interruption of our public transportation system from OU is also a critical need, along with public transit accessible to all residents. Finally, we must execute a vision for Norman that brings quality jobs and showcases our small businesses and startups. This is vital to improving quality of life for all residents and keeping our children, like mine, in Norman.”

□ **Sereta Wilson, Ward 5:** “My hope for the city of Norman in 2019 is that we work together to achieve commonly shared goals. Specifically, I would like to break ground on a senior center. It’s an exciting time for the city as we venture into hiring new key staff positions and tackle problems like stormwater management and transportation needs.

“I would like to see our community find a way to fill the empty commercial, retail and restaurant spaces with locally owned and operated organizations; create a more user friendly environment for our disabled community, address and minimize our environmental impact and embrace what makes us special with the arts and human diversity, and be creative when it comes to affordable housing. Simple.”

□ **Breea Clark, Ward 6:** “Two major goals for 2019: 1) I would like to get a stormwater utility passed, so we can better protect our water and infrastructure and reduce flooding. 2) Secure land for the senior center, aquatic center, and multi-sports facility, so we can continue progress with Norman Forward projects.”

□ **Stephen Holman, Ward 7:** “My goals and aspirations for the city of Norman in 2019 is to get a stormwater utility, capital projects bond, and a transportation bond passed by voters. Get ground broken on the senior center, indoor aquatic center, and multi-sport gymnasium. End civil asset forfeiture in Norman and also get the CART issue resolved, as well.”

□ **Alex Scott, Ward 8:** “My goals for 2018 involve coming up with strategic, longterm solutions to our budget problems — and that I have something in the works.

“I also plan to continue hosting regular ward meetings, and my biggest goal is to get more people involved in local affairs. Of course, building or the very least making concrete progress on the senior center; adopting a fair storm water utility fee; making our integration of CART services seamless to riders; and of course, ending the UNP TIF.”

The Norman City Council poses for an official photo in 2018. Securing funding and a site for a stand-alone senior center is among the council’s top stated goals for 2019.

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