

CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS  
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA  
TUESDAY, January 27, 1998

9:00 A. M.

AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT:

DEPARTMENT HEADS COMMENTS:

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AND AUTHORITY REPORTS:

Vacancies:

Susan Storch, Position 5, Planning Commission, term expires 1-1-01

Patty Porter, Position 1, Planning Commission, term expires 7-1-99

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

McClelland Engineering, Sewer, Sidewalks, Parks, Grant Work in Progress

Ordinance No. 1770, amending the sidewalk ordinance.

Old Police Building—Renovation of some city offices Commission Vacancies

Cemetery Commission: Position 3, expires 2-15-98

ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS  
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Mayor Barbara O'Harris called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., on Tuesday, January 27th, 1998, in the Council Room of the Western District Courthouse.

PRESENT:

Mayor O'Harris, Alderpersons Zeller, Jeffrey, Christman, Watson, and Freeland. Alderwoman Seratt was absent due to illness.

ALSO PRESENT:

Bryan Ukena, Kirby Murray, Earl Hyatt, Kim Dickens, Nikki Salazar, Don Matt, David Beauchamp, David Dempsey, Dean Matthews, Libby Freeland, Sally Riker, Jay Miner, Don Young, and Clerk Lee.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mr. Young led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

The motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda. All were in favor, 5/0/0.

Mayor O'Harris said Dean Matthews from McDonalds had come to read the Share a Heart Proclamation for Ronald McDonald House. The idea is for each person to give a dollar for a red paper heart, and then their names are put on the hearts, and the hearts are posted in the local McDonalds Restaurant. This fund raiser for Ronald McDonald House will last until February 14th, 1998.

It was mentioned that the times for the meetings had not been voted on at the January 13th Meeting. The motion had been made and seconded to leave the times the same at the January 13th meeting. By roll call, the vote was taken to leave the meeting times the same, 5/0/0.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of January 13, 1998. Alderman Jeffrey and Alderman Freeland mentioned a paragraph toward the bottom of page four. The vote to approve the minutes was

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5/0/0.

**STATE-OF-THE-CITY ADDRESS:**

The Mayor gave the State-of-the-City Address. It will be printed in the Minute Book right after these minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Ordinance # 1777, Solid Wastes Management

Alderman Watson made the motion to place Ordinance #1777 on its first reading in its entirety.

Alderman Christman seconded. All were in favor, 5/0/0.

Mr. Young, Ms. Watson, and Ms. Zeller read the ordinance in its entirety. The motion was made and seconded to approve. With very little discussion, the unanimous vote was 5/0/0.

Alderman Jeffrey made the motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance #1777 on its second reading by title only. Alderman Christman seconded.

All were in favor, 5/0/0.

Mr. Young read the ordinance by title only.

The motion was made and seconded to approve. The unanimous vote was 5/0/0.

Alderman Jeffrey made the motion to further suspend the rules and place Ordinance #1777 on its third and final reading by title only. Alderwoman Watson seconded. All were in favor, 5/0/0.

Mr. Young read the ordinance by title only.

The motion was made and seconded to approve. All were in favor, 5/0/0.

Alderman Jeffrey made the motion and Alderwoman Watson seconded to read the emergency clause, which Mr. Young did. The vote was unanimous, 5/0/0.

2. Resolution #444, Authorization for the Mayor to enter into an agreement for Residential and Commercial Solid Waste collections and Transfer services with the Carroll County Solid Waste Authority:

Alderwoman Watson made the motion to read Resolution #444.

Alderman Jeffrey seconded, and the vote to read was 5/0/0.

Mr. Young read the resolution.

Alderman Jeffrey made the motion and Alderwoman Watson seconded to approve the resolution. The roll call vote was 5/0/0.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Blues Festival, Ms. Sally Riker:

Ms. Riker had passed out a letter of request to everyone so that the items could be considered.

1. Allow the Eureka Blues Festival to use the parking lot between City Hall and the City Auditorium to put up a tent for vendors and music beginning on Thursday, May 28th through Sunday, May 31st.
2. Allow the Eureka Blues Festival to sell beer in the tent and also lobby of the City Auditorium on those dates. 10% of the proceeds in the Auditorium will be given to the Auditorium. They will apply to the State for appropriate permits.
3. Revise the City Auditorium user rules to allow drinks in the Auditorium and not be restricted to the lobby area.

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4. Allow Spring Street to be blocked off from Center Street to Mountain Street from 7:00PM until 2:30 AM on Friday, May 29th and Saturday, May 30th, 1998.

She said that the tent area worked out really well during the Fall Festival. It allowed people to leave the Auditorium for fresh air between performances, and the area was blocked off with

fencing so that no one could go out onto the street without passing security. There were no complaints from security or the Police Department.

The Council took each part and voted on it separately.

Libby Freeland asked that the Council suspend, for the Blues Festival, the rule that no one can take food or drink out of the lobby section into the Auditorium. She feels that the rule should be changed, but is asking that it just be suspended for the duration of the Blues Festival for now. She had written to the Council with reasons for letting people take food and drink into the Auditorium itself. Mayor O'Harris read a part of it. Basically, it said the concessions make a big difference in the receipts, and that traditionally, people are used to taking food and drink in when the show starts again. Any extra janitorial work would be covered in the portion of the contract covering damage/clean-up responsibilities. Ms. Freeland felt that it should just be done for the Blues Festival, for now, and that once a director is hired, the policies can be changed. She said that now that the lobby and concession area is up to code the Auditorium would receive 10% of all other concessions, such as T-shirts, and tapes or C.D's. This will not be the case for the Blues Festival. There would just be 10% of the beer sales. If, in the future, the Auditorium sold beer, it would have to buy its own permit. That was getting into the user policy which is a whole other thing from the discussion.

Several of the Council members felt that the Auditorium should get 10% of all of the beer sold, both in the tent and the lobby of the Auditorium. Ms. Riker said she had no problem with that.

Item 1: The motion was made and seconded to approve setting up a tent between City Hall and the Auditorium: The favorable vote was 5/0/0.

Items 2. & 3: The motion was made and seconded to let the Blues Festival sell beer in the Auditorium and the Tent, with 10% of the proceeds from the beverages sold in the Auditorium to go to the Auditorium. Alderman Jeffrey asked that 10% of the beer proceeds sold in the tent should go to the Auditorium also. Ms. Riker said that would be no problem. Also, Mayor O'Harris said that the temporary lifting of the ban on drinks and food in the Auditorium proper should be voted on at the same time. After more discussion, the vote was 4/1/0 to approve everything including the 10% of the proceeds from the tent, with Alderman Freeland voting no.

Item 4: To close Spring St. as specified days and times: The vote to approve was 5/0/0. Ms. Riker thanked the Council for their cooperation.

## 2. Ordinance # 1775, adopting the 1998 Budget

David Beauchamp explained the draft that he gave to each member of council, the Mayor, etc.

Alderman Jeffrey made the motion to approve the budget, and Alderman Christman seconded.

Alderman Jeffrey made a motion to add \$10,000 to the budget for the Parks Commission.

Alderman Christman seconded it.

Alderman Watson said to wait until the City sees how things are going before giving the Parks Commission more money.

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Alderwoman Zeller said that wages are so low in so many departments, they should be brought up to above the poverty level before giving money to anything else.

Alderwoman Watson said a director is hired to find ways of raising money, so let's wait and see what she can do.

Freeland said that its asking for superhuman achievement to take a 50% cut in funds.

Alderman Jeffrey withdrew his motion to add \$10,000 at this time. He made the motion that the line item corresponding to the Ad Valorem Tax Receipts be adjusted by changing it from \$170,000 to \$180,000. Alderman Freeland seconded. By roll call the vote was 2/3/0, with Alderpersons Watson, Zeller, and Freeland voting no. The motion failed.

Alderman Jeffrey then made the motion to increase the line item associated with the Ambulance Service by \$5000, to increase the line item associated with taxes on beverages by \$3000 and increase the line item associated with franchise taxes by \$2000 to add up to another \$10,000. The motion failed for want of a second.

Mr. Beauchamp said that the City has received its largest sales and use check in its history in January for the month of November 1997. If the City keeps breaking records, later in the year, his suggestions would be more liberal.

Alderwoman Zeller made the motion to withdraw the \$10,000 from the budget that the City had added to the Parks and Recreation Commission's budget, giving them \$40,000, instead of \$30,000. The motion failed for lack of a second.

There was much discussion and commentary, but finally the Council voted knowing that the budget can be amended at any time, including the traditional look at the budget. The vote to accept was 5/0/0.

Alderman Christman made the motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance #1775 on its second reading by title only. Alderman Jeffrey seconded. The vote was unanimous, 5/0/0.

Mr. Young read the ordinance by title only.

Alderman Jeffrey made the motion to approve and Alderman Christman seconded. All were in favor, 5/0/0.

Alderman Jeffrey made the motion and Alderman Christman seconded to further suspend the rules and place Ordinance #1755 on its third and final reading by title only. All were in favor, 5/0/0.

Mr. Young read the ordinance by title only.

Alderman Christman made the motion to approve and Alderman Jeffrey seconded. All were in favor, 5/0/0.

Alderman Jeffrey made the motion to read the emergency clause, with Alderman Christman seconding.

All were in favor, 5/0/0.

Mr. Young read the emergency clause.

Alderman Jeffrey made the motion to approve and Alderman Christman seconded.

The vote was unanimous, 5/0/0.

3. Share a Heart Proclamation: It was read at the beginning of the meeting.

4. Moped Committee Appointment:

Alderwoman Seratt was absent, but had said she wanted to be on the Moped Committee, and the other two were Alderman Jeffrey and City Attorney Jay Miner.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS REPORT:**

The construction company that did the work on the roof of the Auditorium came back and fixed it. It had some water bubbles that had occurred. There was no charge. The parapets are being repaired and as soon as they are finished, the roofing company will come back and check over the roof again.

The ambulance bid has been accepted, \$62,000 plus.

Eureka Springs is now a recognized weather recording site according to Mike Teague with the weather service. It is also on the internet. It has been a long process. It is a lot of free advertising for Eureka Springs, and it lets people know how the weather is before they come.

**COMMISSIONS:**

Susan Storch has agreed to serve in position #5 for another term on the Planning Commission. The term would last until January first, of the year 2001. The Council had no objections.

Patty Porter has been appointed to position #1 of the Planning Commission, finishing a term that expires July 1, 1999. The Council had no objections.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn. All were in favor, 5/0/0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

APPROVED:

BARBARA A. O'HARRIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

**1998 City of Eureka Springs  
State of the City Address**

Leaving 1997 and entering 1998, our work at the City continues to be improving the quality of life for our citizens and tourists alike.

**ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT**

Water Office: 11 new water taps, 8 new sewer taps

Wastewater Treatment Plant: Capacity fee collections provided almost \$13,600 for repairs and improvements at the plant.

Occupation Licenses: 803 issued for more than \$48,816 into the general fund.

This year the Administration Department converted the accounting system from a Mac to a Windows 95 one. This brought new computers along with a new printer and copy machine that everyone seems to appreciate. These changes created challenges to learn the new accounting software, but we have adapted and are moving ahead. We are now networked and can now use the flexibility to increase productivity.

The Water Department has undertaken the task of adding the commercial trash billing to their workload. Their input has been instrumental in allowing the transition from our current provider to our new one to be as smooth as can be imagined, as well as enhancing our opportunity to be of service to the community.

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The staff has demonstrated an increasing desire to cross-train and come to the support of their co-workers when called upon. This is all in an effort to be able to handle the needs of the citizens as efficiently as possible.

We feel that City Hall is a friendlier and more helpful place than ever.

Municipal Court: 689 Dockets plus 71 civil and small claims for a total of more than \$36,650 into the general fund. Linda Clark, Municipal Court Clerk will be attending the National Association of Court Management in San Antonio, Texas in 1998.

Building Inspector's Office: 154 permits for over \$13,000 into the general fund.

Sales Tax Receipts: Largest revenue source for a total of 1 million 4 hundred 67 thousand.

Parking Revenues: Approximately 125,000 came into the General Fund from this.

EUREKA SPRINGS qualified for TREE CITY USA for the 15th consecutive year! More than any other city in Arkansas!

26 Ordinances passed and 4 Resolutions.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency medical calls were down less than 1%, Fire calls were up 25%.

Approximately 250 hours were spent on extended fire training for all paid and volunteer firefighters. Training consisted of ladder, safety contained breathing apparatus, introduction to firefighting, fire streams, hoses, pumping apparatus, attic fires and new technology in firefighting.

Approximately 160 hours were spent on extended emergency medical training for all paid Paramedics and EMTs. Training consisted of Paramedic & EMT refresher courses, advanced cardiac life support, 12 lead electrical cardiogram, extrication, violence against responders, civil disturbance tactical, pediatric life support, and new medication education.

Approximately 150 hours were spent on other types of rescue such as, swiftwater rescue, high and low angle rope rescue, and search and rescue. This rescue is known as the Carroll County Special Operations Rescue Team.

The Eureka Springs Fire Department Bucket Brigade has worked on several fund raising events this year to raise money for the volunteer firefighters. These activities included a car wash, held at the Texaco station, and a Halloween spook house at Fire Station One across from City Hall, a chili fest in the Parts parking lot and vehicle parking at the lots downtown for total earned of over \$1200.

The new 911 re-addressing throughout the City is still under way and should be up to date within the next few months. The major changes at this time are on East & West Van Buren, Huntsville Road, Deer Lane, Hayes, Stadium Drive, Passion Play Road, Shelton Drive and several others.

Paramedic Brent Updegraff joined the fire department this year and EMT Tim Collins went to 24 hour shift work to help reduce the amount of call time.

Other activities include CPR classes for the local schools, fire extinguisher classes for the hospital, daycares and EFMC, Fire prevention at all Eureka Springs schools, combined extrication classes with Holiday Island fire department, Automatic External Defibrillator training provided for Inspiration Point, Grassy Knob, and Beaver Volunteer Fire Departments.

Medical Protocols written for Inspiration Point, Grassy Knob, and Beaver Volunteer Fire Departments.

With all the new and advanced medical and fire training provided, all the western district fire department personnel can now work together as one large team. We look forward to 1998 as being an even bigger year for countywide team work.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

The police department has made great strides in the area of improving productivity and efficiency during 1997. Records of all traffic citations, parking citations, traffic accident reports and incident/offense reports are fully automated so that any incident or citation can be referenced in a matter of moments. This automation allows the department to track records and maintain a closer watch on the status of citations and reports. For example, the collection of parking citation fines totalled near \$28,000 for 1997 which is almost a 100% increase over 1996.

The police department is also utilizing the Internet as a link to hundreds of law enforcement sites which are utilized for training, legal questions and other law enforcement related subjects. This is sure to aid in our constant efforts to improve the professionalism and effectiveness of the police department.

The enhanced 911 system which is located at the police department and serves the Western District of Carroll County is expected to be fully operational in January, 1998. We at the police department are very excited about this and feel that it will aid us in providing the rapid response of medical or police assistance to those who need them. All of the dispatchers at the police department are certified in emergency medical dispatch and, by utilizing the medical card set, can give limited but critical medical advice to callers while the ambulance is in route. They will also be able to assess the situation better and provide valuable information to the responding medical personnel.

The police department received 2,189 calls for law enforcement service in which police officers were dispatched, 724 dispatches for the Eureka Springs Ambulance and 114 dispatches for the Eureka Springs Fire Department with a total of 3,027 dispatches or calls for service from the police dispatch office.

A total of 181 traffic accidents were investigated and 644 incident/offense reports were written.

\$98,543.07 worth of stolen property was recovered by the police department and returned to its rightful owners.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

As of January 1, 1997, the recycling department became a part of the Public Works Department. Carolyn Loper was promoted to supervisor position of this department and is doing an outstanding job. Ms. Loper has six employees on her crew. She is responsible for the collection, processing, and marketing of recyclables, the drop-off center and manages the leaf and yard waste and biosolids Composting Facility.

The Carroll County Solid Waste Authority advertised for bids concerning the operation of the processing portion of the recycling department. Upon their receiving no response to this advertisement, the City of Eureka Springs entered into an agreement to run the entire operation. To date this agreement is working very well.

The recycling department received \$50,000 in grant money, the City added \$10,000 to this and

purchased a 13 yard packer truck for recyclables collection. This addition saves the backs of the crew members and has added to the efficiency of the department in a big way.

The City of Eureka Springs, in cooperation with the Carroll County Solid Waste Authority and the Four County Regional Solid Waste District, sponsored a celebration of the first annual "America Recycles Day". This turned into quite an affair with a huge tent in Harts' parking lot, dozens of donations from local businesses, games, food and prizes. A real community event.

Two solid waste operator's licenses were earned by employees in 1997.

In the water department, the final phase of the water plan was completed in 1997. Storage tanks, main lines, and fire hydrants are in place. Looping of the majority of the main lines has brought about significant improvements in flows for fire fighting purposes as well as residents and businesses. One of the major goals of this plan was to bring every structure in the City limits within a 500' radius of a fire hydrant. The City's fire rating is now greatly improved resulting in reduced insurance rates.

### 1998 City of Eureka Springs State of the City Address

The next task concerning the Water System is to perform a leak detection survey. This activity is planned for 1998.

Nine residential water service connections and two irrigation taps were made in 1997.

In the wastewater department, although significant improvements were made to the sewer system in 1997, the majority of the effort has been in planning. The City is currently awaiting information on grant possibilities before making a decision on which funding route to take to implement these plans.

Plans include extensive restructuring of the Waste Treatment Facility in order to meet new permit limitations, sewerage the unsewered areas, expanding the cocomposting facility, and an inflow/infiltration reduction campaign.

Mike Dixon and his crew, as always, are keeping the plant perking along. We are very proud of the performance as well as the appearance of this facility. Consistently meeting nationally mandated permit limits and surviving periodic visits by State inspectors is more a function of operators than equipment. The City is fortunate to have employees such as these who take such a personal interest in their duties.

Three residential sewer service connections were made in 1997.

Three wastewater operator's licenses were earned by employees in 1997.

In the street department, the 1997 street paving program included re-paving Midway and Crockett around the High School, Greenwood Road to the Elementary/Middle School, a portion of Hillside Avenue, and two roads in the Cemetery. Dogwood Ridge, formerly a dirt street, was also paved.

Surveying a new route from Grand Avenue to Hillside was also completed. Possibilities for acquisition of private property still need to be explored before the route can be finalized.

Some downtown beautification projects were the relocation of a portion of the large concrete wall on Benton Street for widening purposes and the reconstruction of that wall with limestone. What a beautiful job!

Four more Victorian style street name sign posts and limestone bases were completed.

Eight more wrought iron trash receptacles were purchased and placed.

Three trees were planted.

James Clark is the immediate supervisor of the Water, Wastewater, and Street Departments. Mr. Clark and the various crew members of these departments really are the unsung heroes. They are the ones who keep the water running out of your faucets, the sanitary and storm sewers flowing, and the street patched, plowed and gravelled. They work with home and business owners, contractors and utility companies. Plus they keep all of the Public Works equipment functioning in order to fix what breaks as quietly and efficiently as possible.

## TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

This year will be the 15<sup>th</sup> season for the Eureka Springs Transit. This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> season for Eureka's newest attraction, the guided Historic District Tour, which has been very successful and well received by Group Tour Operators and visitors.

Starting out in 1984, we had assets that consisted of one trolley and one bus. The transit department has expanded to a fleet of eight trolleys, four trams, and two buses, with current assets in excess of two million dollars.

In fourteen years of operation, the transit department has transported over 5 ½ million miles. Excess revenue in the past has provided us with the opportunity to make several capital improvements which include the purchase of two trams, and expansion of the trolley garage twice. We are also able to provide curb-service transportation to the grocery store, city offices, post office, medical facilities etc. for our local residents throughout the year. The Department of Human Concern reported that the Eureka Springs Transit operated the best small transit service in the State of Arkansas for local Residents throughout the year. The Department of Human Concern reported that the Eureka Springs Transit operated the best small transit service in the State of Arkansas for local residents.

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With the sale of an older tram, the Transit Department paid back a \$15,000 loan to the City's General Fund. They have \$14,700 to replace a needed vehicle and \$14,000 to set aside for a new tram fund.

The transit department is very proud to announce that within fourteen years, we have not had any major accidents or injuries which resulted in a judgment against us. We owe this long standing record to

all the excellent employees that dedicate their time in making the transit department so safe and successful.

## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

This commission serves as a Certified Local Government (CLG) Commission. It schedules 24 meetings per year. In 1997, it reviewed 94 Level I applications: of these 18 were for painting, 25 were for signs and 51 were for maintenance. In addition, the Commission reviewed 21 Level II applications and 23 Level III applications, for a total of 138. The HDC responsibilities continue each year as our historic properties become more rare within the Historic District. No building can be erected, altered, restored, moved or demolished until the Commission has approved a Certificate of Appropriateness. This includes buildings, structures, stone walls, fences, light fixtures, steps, paving and other appurtenant fixtures.

Our goals for 1998 are to develop a procedures and guidelines handbook, to procure a CLG grant for sidewalk preservation, to develop and implement a minimum maintenance ordinance and to attend joint workshops with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

## PLANNING COMMISSION/BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

During 1997, the Planning Commission tackled many controversial issues. The major issues at hand were the tree ordinance, Lake Leatherwood annexation, re-zoning of several areas of the City, sign ordinance and the on-going battle of conditional use

Out of these issues arose the adoption of Ordinance No. 1762, Preservation of Trees, passed and approved October 14, 1997. The Lake Leatherwood annexation had not come to completion at the end of 1997, but should be adopted during the 1st quarter of 1998.

The Vision Plan was formally adopted as a guideline. It is imperative to remember that this plan is a starting point and not meant to be gospel. Change is the future and the future is change.

Kim Dickens was hired as the City Planner. Her addition to the City staff will have a large impact on all phases of planning, zoning and historic preservation. Given time and support, her leadership and guidance will be beneficial to all agencies of the City.

Several re-zoning issues were discussed during 1997. One, the re-zoning of the east side of 23 South off Gretna Green Lane and the moving of the West Liberty School was passed. The other re-zoning issue involving Hillside Avenue was denied.

The Commission was also present with the usual array of variances, tree cuts and Conditional Use Permits.

During 1998, our goals are to continue to be supportive of Eureka Springs while being sensitive to the people and the effects on the people and the City. Workshops are planned to discuss and learn about the ordinances that affect this Commission and the citizens of Eureka Springs. Hopefully, with education, the decision-making process will become easier.



encouraging people to stop and plan a day in Eureka Springs. Further, this area is quite large extending from Main Street up to Hillside. The land's configuration and stately trees make an ideal park-like setting. Verla, Eureka Springs' gardener, has been consulted on the development of this land and sees many possibilities for picnicking and walking trails. The initial improvement for parking spaces is but one objective for this area and is balanced with the proposed esthetic improvements that will make this site an attraction along Main Street.

Future topics of discussion will be the placement of trolley shelters along the trolley route. A simple construction providing shelter from the elements can be constructed in different sizes but with one main theme of design to help a trolley rider identify trolley stops and a chance to stand in the shade or out of the rain. If this shelter were in a historical spot, a silk screened plaque could be mounted on the inside reviewing information about Eureka Springs with an historical footnote.

Another idea to alleviate the downtown parking problem is valet parking, currently utilized by Park City, Utah. A Spring Street location with a designated sign would offer a car to be driven to a location and brought back when the owner was ready to depart. In theory, this would offer a chance for perimeter parking and the convenience for the visitor.

In conclusion, the Parking Authority's main focus will be to brainstorm ideas and hone these into practical improvements to address the parking and traffic flow problems in the downtown area. Needless to say, the objective of the Parking Authority is to get the tourist into our downtown historical area so that they can shop, eat, and enjoy themselves and return to their vehicles with the least amount of concern and effort.

### **1998 City of Eureka Springs State of the City Address**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT**

Our City Administrative Assistant has updated and revised the employee handbook and is responsible for the new Council and Commissions handbook.

He has served as the City's representative for the Four County Solid Waste District, Carroll County Solid Waste Authority and the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District and has worked diligently on the new Community Center which will house the new Boys and Girls Club and Senior Citizens, Eureka Elders.

#### **AUDITORIUM COMMISSION**

The Auditorium Commission voted to dissolve in 1997 and a new Auditorium Department was formed. The plan is to hire a Marketing Director Department Head. The application ad is in the newspaper now. This person will market and promote the auditorium for festivals and other events from all over Carroll County. Restoration of the facility structure continued with the completion of the window restoration begun in 1995. Partial funding of this effort was obtained through the Arkansas Historic Preservation Project. At this time, all windows have been restored. As required by the American's with Disabilities Act, the Auditorium has been fitted with a wheelchair lift. Access through the southeast entrance was provided by adding a concrete ramp, new doors and frame and the lift itself which brings the disabled individual to the theater level. An intercom was provided

to allow persons to call from that entrance should they require assistance operating the mechanism. The lobby floor was patched and refinished following the removal of the concession stand with increased floor space an immediate and unanticipated bonus. The new concession area with three compartment sink, refrigeration space, hand sink and storage for a portable concession stand and product was completed. Additionally, the floor in the exterior access public restrooms was shored up and following the break-in in July, the entire building was re-keyed. In 1997, a system was installed to permit the stage and sound booth to communicate. Also, a fax machine was purchased for the office.

The City Auditorium was a finalist in the search for the Arkansas Music Hall of Fame. The Commission and staff did an outstanding job on the presentation and had plans drawn up for the completion of the restoration of the auditorium by phases over the next 5 years.

Earned income was 38% over budget due to an increased number of events from fourteen in 1996 to eighteen in 1997 for a total of over \$24,000. The Auditorium produced three events this year, the Spring Concert, The Cajun Festival, and The Missoula Children's Theatre and co-produced the Eureka Theatre Company's *You Can't Take it With You*. New clients included The Good Shepherd Animal Shelter, The Lane House, May Fine Arts Festival, and the Autumn Blues Festival. 1997 also saw the increased use of the Auditorium's facilities by the Original Ozark Folk Festival with the return to a two night schedule of concerts. Paid attendance was 10,000 as compared with 1996's 5700 due in large part to the very successful Ozark Folk Festival and the Blues Festival. Auditorium produced events saw an increase from 584 in attendance in 1996 to 1178 in 1997. In addition, 2500 people this year attended non-ticketed events such as school concerts and High School graduation.

This year the Auditorium was host to everything from lecturers to musical-comedy to graduation ceremonies. Proof once again of the tremendous potential of this City asset.

I wish to thank all the many citizens who have served as Commissioners on the Auditorium through the years.

### CITY ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION

The 1997 C.A.P.C. tax receipts of \$948,124 were \$41,219 greater than the 1996 receipts. This is a 4.5% increase for the year.

Advertising expenditures during 1997 were \$434,611, and special-event funding totaled \$93,713.

The Commission's community service expenditures were: Auditorium Maintenance, \$20,000; Auditorium Bonds, \$19,452; Transit Bonds, \$40,008 and Public Restrooms, \$6,000.

### 1998 City of Eureka Springs State of the City Address

The Commissioners went to Hot Springs to visit with their Commission and glean from their experiences and share ours. Then they held a joint retreat with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss misunderstanding and iron out differences which was very beneficial to all parties.

The Commission ended 1997 with a fund balance of \$107,000, which is 245% greater than the balance forecasted in the beginning of the year, largely attributed to an increase in tax collections and conservative spending.

Everyone around the Council table is first of all—citizens, residents and property owners in this City. Second, community minded business people. We are working at making this City beneficial for home and business. The words every Eureka speaks affects the world around our City. Speak positive words—think positive thoughts. It does not take talent or effort to find fault but it does take effort to keep yourself positively focused. Be part of the solutions for Eureka Springs, not part of the problem.

As we look ahead at 1998, we are optimistic about our tourist season for this year. Every indication is for increase in tourists and business.

REMEMBER...

**When**  
*everyone* **works**

**together,**  
*extraordinary*

**things**

# happen.