



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | EXCELLENCE

Dear Branson Community,

It is great to see so many people "logging in" to participate actively or passively in our Board of Alderman Regular Meetings and Study Sessions. I am very proud of the great work the City Staff and Elected Officials have accomplished with our various information technology systems to include our virtual meeting platforms. These tools continue to make us more efficient and effective in leading our great city into the future. We continue to hear from our citizens how helpful these tools are in allowing people to participate in local government as we adjust to technology as a part of our lives.

Speaking of Information Technology, I want to continue our **2020 Year in Review** by highlighting our Information Technology Department. Like many departments, "IT" had an interesting year pushing us through the past and into the future in terms of technology tools to keep us running through the interesting times we had in 2020 and continue to have in 2021. This small team of computer and technology professionals was amazing in helping us leverage technology to not only keep us "up and running" but improve our overall efficiency and effectiveness. Byproducts of the "new ways" we perform our tasks, functions, and missions include increased mobility, convenience, and greater opportunity for productivity for the entire city team.

Interesting Factoid of the Week: We are only 39 days from our local election when the citizens of Branson will elect an alderman in each ward and a mayor. The ballot will also include the opportunity to vote to continue our Tourism Tax which helps ensure the visitors of Branson share the burden of the cost of the city's major infrastructure improvements.

Thank you to those who have contacted us to compliment our folks in handling a nasty winter period, including Betts and Don. Thank you for your kind words and enjoy the celebration of Don's 88th birthday.

Your prayers continue to help our city. Please stay positive and be thankful for living in the best city in America.

Thank you for letting me serve you,

Mayor Edd Akers