



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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For the People
A City update from Branson Mayor, Larry Milton
June 18, 2021

Hello Friends,

I want to thank you, our Branson residents, for beginning the process of taking back YOUR City Hall. Your voices will be heard regarding the proposed changes to the animal ordinance that will be voted on by the Board of Alderman. These types of decisions used to be made by City Hall with limited public input. Your new Mayor and Board of Alderman are hearing your voices loud and clear.

The City has finished its third and final town hall for the proposed changes to the animal ordinance. Again, I want to thank everyone involved from the citizens to the city staff. These continue to be a great forum and opportunity to keep the citizens engaged in the process of municipal government and will be used for numerous topics in the future.

Missouri Governor Mike Parson visited our area to give the keynote address at the Explore Branson annual "State of the State" address at Chateau on the Lake this past June 7. He took the time to highlight his top priorities of workforce and education, infrastructure, stronger communities, health care, and government reform. Governor Parson also stopped by City Hall and met with your Mayor and City Administrator where we discussed the importance of changing the way our state allocates funds to cities in Missouri.

The state allocates funds by the population of each community. For example, the state provides a certain amount of infrastructure funding for cities with less than 50,000 population and a larger amount goes to cities with a population over 50,000. Branson has a population of approximately 12,000, so we receive a smaller amount of state funding. In reality, our infrastructure needs are for a population in excess of 100,000, based on our tourism numbers. Simply stated, Branson needs water, sewer, roads, etc. to accommodate our daily population, not just the 12,000 full time residents. Governor Parson is taking our concerns back to Jefferson City to address this imbalance of State allocation of infrastructure funds.

During the Governor's visit, he also announced that Branson provides the second most tax dollars to our state, second only to Kansas City. This means that Branson contributes more tax dollars to our state than St. Louis, and Branson needs to be treated with the respect that we deserve when it comes to state allocated funds.

Items of Interest for the upcoming Board of Aldermen Meeting on June 22, 2021, include: Parks Department tree removals, City Campground Wi-Fi expansion, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department, and receiving one of the grants needed for the Compton wall project. The [full agenda](#) can be found on the [city's website](#). As always, we hope to see you in the Council Chambers this Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

For the People,
Mayor Larry Milton
City of Branson