Thank you for the opportunity to serve you for the last 4 years. I came into office with a promise to provide an open transparent government with increased public process and access with a focus on building for the future by taking care of our environment and our children. Together, we have accomplished that and so much more.
The citizens of Anacortes are well served by a dedicated, community focused City Council. They all bring diverse experience to the betterment of this city.

We held a Celebration to Honor Outgoing Councilmember Erica Pickett on December 18 thanking her for 34 years of dedicated outstanding public service. Councilmember Erica Pickett began her volunteer career in 1983 when she was appointed to the Forest Advisory Board. Ms. Pickett was appointed to the Planning Commission in 1984 and continued serving on the Planning Commission until she was elected to City Council in 2006. She will be greatly missed!

Pickett Park - We will be building a small pocket park in the public
right near Penguin Coffee. It will be named Pickett Park in honor of Erica.

We welcomed Councilmember Bruce McDougall in July and Councilmember Anthony Young in January to our Legislative team.
The City is in the middle of its first biennial budget, that covers fiscal years 2017 and 2018. In compliance with State Law, we held a mid-biennial review and modification with City Council, which consisted of departmental budget updates. We reviewed year-to-date actual expenditures and revenues against budgeted figures, and evaluated upcoming commitments. We found the existing budget continued to align very closely with expectations, resulting in a very few modifications.

In 2018 we will be developing another biennial budget, covering budget years 2019 through 2020. We will again evaluate economic trends to ensure we develop a realistic budget that best meets the needs and expectation of our citizens.
The City’s total assessed valuation for 2017 exceeds 3 billion dollars.

In 2017, the City of Anacortes received $710 of the total $3,809 in property taxes collected on a $400,000 home.

The City’s property tax levy is budget-based, meaning increases in property taxes are not based on the increasing value of properties, rather it is based on the amount of the prior year’s tax levy. Each year’s levy may be increased by no more than 1%, unless the public votes for a greater increase, or the jurisdiction has banked capacity it can draw on.
The three largest tax revenue streams are Sales Tax, Property Tax, and Utility Tax. Other Governmental fund revenues include charges for service, such as fees for building permits, franchise fees, and fees for activities and services.

Transfers In are Interfund transactions, such as the transfer of Real Estate Excise Tax and Vehicle Licensing Fees to the Road Fund; and Equipment Rental charges for vehicle use.

The City receives .85% (less than 1 percent) of the 8.5% sales tax. There has been steady growth during the past five years largely attributable to real estate transactions, residential construction, vehicle sales and hospitality. Sales tax revenue also is trending upward from our modest projections.
I continuously evaluate city revenues and expenditures with a view of maintaining a strong fiscal position while providing quality municipal services. The city seeks to support a dynamic and robust local economy with balanced and sustainable growth that will create jobs and improve the tax base within the community.

The city supports our public safety departments and provides staff with the tools and resources needed. We seek to continuously maintain and improve our public infrastructure and facilities. (The budget includes several internal infrastructure improvements including an electronic content management system.) We are committed to developing and maintaining a professional, highly-qualified, highly-trained and service-oriented
workforce. We employ sound business practices that are efficient, effective, and responsive to the delivery of city services.

In 2017, we budgeted 60 Million dollars, but our total actual city expenditures were 55.5 million.

- 25.8 Million was governmental funds expenditures: for roads, parks, public safety, library, museum, cemetery, finance, and administration.
- 29.7 Million was utility funds expenditures which covers all public works with the exception of roads.
- At year-end we had 8.3 million reserves in the governmental fund.
In 2017, tax revenue streams outpaced the prior year tax revenues by 9.7%. The new high school project, as well as continued strong real estate, hospitality markets, and vehicle sales contributed to a tremendous sales tax growth of 12.5%. Local real estate sales generated almost 1.3 million dollars in Real Estate Excise Tax that is used on road construction, parks, and other public works projects.

The top 6 sales tax producers in 2017 were:

1. Food & Drinking Establishments 7%
2. Used Cars Sales 6%
3. Boat Sales 6%
4. SFH New Construction 5%
5. Commercial Construction 4%
6. Supermarkets, non food 3%
The Finance and IT Department’s oversaw the deployment of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system to replace the outdated system that was put into place in the 1990’s. The new phone system eliminated the need for most of the copper lines and saves the city more than $2,000 a month in phone charges. The IT department also deployed and virtualized a number of application servers. The City now operates 40 virtual servers, operating on 9 pieces of physical hardware, reducing our footprint, and reducing costs.

We reviewed our cash position related to the Library debt, and decided we could afford to make an accelerated bond payment, so in July of 2017, $490,000 was expended to pay the 2020 maturity, giving us a final payoff of the library in December of
2019; and our final general obligation bond payment for the Public Safety Building will be paid in full in 2018, so in less than 2 years from today, the only debt the city will have will be related to the Water Utility.

The Finance department is the main point of contact with the State Auditors who audit the City every year for Financial Statement accuracy, and legal compliance across all accountability areas. In 2017, the City received its first audit without a single recommendation, not even a verbal recommendation. This is not only a squeaky clean audit, it’s an unheard of audit.

Looking ahead to 2018, we will be looking to strengthen our City’s position even further with implementation of a cloud-based computing disaster recovery system, implementation of hardware to support the new ECMS system, and finalization of an update to the City’s aging purchasing policy. 2018 promises to be another good year in Finance.
The City works closely with our elected officials at the City, County, State, and Federal level. We meet monthly with Skagit County of Government (SCOG) to oversee transportation and other county issues. We work closely with the County to provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Department of Emergency Management (DEM) services. Our State Legislator's visit Anacortes on a regular basis and support our projects and services.

This last year, I traveled to Washington DC twice. Once to meet with Congressman Rick Larsen, Senator Maria Cantwell and Senator Patty Murray to support a Senate Bill for an exception to the Jones Act to assist Dakota Creek Industries. I also met with the Department of Interior earlier in the year to define
reservation boundaries and authority on an March Point corridor.

We have many partners in DC and local partners that help us with important issues. (Mayor Jill Boudreau and Andy Culbertson)
The City hired CivicPlus to redevelop our website which went live in October, anacorteswa.gov. Our ultimate goal is to improve how people can access City information, it was our mission to make it Accurate, Engaging, and Attractive. The new website is very user-friendly, and has a very effective search engine.

The City has also deployed an online option for dog tags. Dog owners can still come into City Hall, or mail in their renewal, but now they have the option of renewing their dog tags online as well. Check it out!
I am confident that the maritime strategy we are putting together has the scope and the focus necessary to bring together the right people, with the right ideas for Anacortes now and into the future. Port, City officials, and staff are meeting on a weekly basis to plan for our interconnected properties. We are committed to working side by side with the Port on the North Basin Marina Plan and our Master Depot Plan to create a connection between the marina, depot, and downtown. Hotel, event center, open space? There are lots of possibilities and there is a spirit of collaboration.

Our strategic plan is in the final stages of preparation through a partnership with the City, Port of Anacortes, and EDASC. The goal is to establish a strategy to capture and leverage the competitive
advantages of the maritime environment in Anacortes. My highest priority is to promote and expand a sustainable maritime economy while preserving our authentic maritime culture in Anacortes.

Last summer, Executive Director Dan Worra of the Port of Anacortes, John Sternlicht of EDASC and I interviewed more than 50 marine businesses in the process of building this plan.
City of Anacortes received the Smart Vision Award from Governor Inslee for our Comprehensive planning process. More than 1,000 community members participated in the creation of thorough Comprehensive Plan.

The award recognized our leadership in planning for smart, sustainable growth and the important role this serves in protecting our surrounding rural, forested, and marine areas.

Now in its 12th year, this program recognizes achievements by local leaders who promote smart growth planning and projects that contribute to thriving communities, a prosperous economy and sustainable infrastructure in Washington State. “These projects help create and sustain thriving communities. They
facilitate the growth of local economies by creating 'quality of place' that can help retain and attract business and broaden the economic growth around the state," Governor Inslee said.
Anacortes is working with the community to update its regulations for land use and development and design standards. The Planning Department hosted 3 well-attended open house meetings. More public meetings will be held in 2018 to finalize the community’s vision for Anacortes’s future.

The Planning department is reviewing a Stormwater plan for residential development to be consistent with our new Title 19.
2017 saw the implementation of new rules for how land-use permit applications are processed. The new rules provide clear, streamlined, one-stop provisions to allow property owners, the public, staff and decision makers to easily identify procedural and substantive requirements for any land-use permit application. The Planning Department processed more than 80 applications using the new procedures.

As part of the land-use permit procedures update, a hearing examiner’s office was established for the first time in Anacortes. The Hearing Examiner will hear code enforcement appeals, hold public hearings and make decisions on certain land use permit applications, and hear appeals of administrative decisions. The hearing examiner held one public meeting in 2017.
With the rise of homelessness, lack of affordable housing, and lack of services for citizens throughout the United States, including Anacortes, the City Council established the Housing Affordability & Community Services (HA&CS) Committee and prepared a Strategic Plan. Many of the housing goals established in the plan focus primarily on the needs for our lower income community members.

The committee developed a Strategic Plan that was adopted by City Council on November 13, 2017. We thank all the participants who provided input on this plan including, but not limited to, the great citizens of Anacortes, Anacortes Housing Authority staff and Board members, Skagit County Public Health Department and HUD.
On February 5th the City Council approved a new Affordable Housing demonstration program. This brings the family center closer to building a 20 unit complex for individuals and family’s with making less then 50% of the median income.
The Planning Department has prepared a first draft of the critical areas regulations that regulates certain activities and development in and near wetlands, streams, fish & wildlife habitat conservation areas, geologically hazardous areas, frequently flooded areas, and critical aquifer recharge areas.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires the City periodically to review, and revise if needed, critical areas regulations (RCW 36.70A.130). Updates to the regulations are needed to comply with the GMA, to allow for integration into the recently adopted Title 19, Unified Development Code, and to provide improved organization, clarity, and predictability.

This and other information is available for review at the project
webpage listed above.
We are so fortunate to have an incredible recreation department in the City of Anacortes and they are busy with events year round – More than 300 dads brought their daughter(s) to the annual Daddy Daughter Dance in March. This year we will be celebrating our 29th year hosting the Kids R Best event held in June at Storvik Park and more than 400 kids participated in our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Staff manages numerous athletic camps and sporting events for our youth.

Our Youth Soccer League is the largest community sport program in town for ages 14 and younger. In 2017 we had more than 600 kids participating in soccer.

Our Youth Track and Field program has again this year a record
number of participants at 180 1st-6th graders in our community. We enjoyed use of the newly renovated Rice Field for this program. We had more than 140 volunteer coaches who helped coach youth sport teams for our various leagues in 2017.

Also in 2017 we scheduled more than 2,300 hours of use on our ball fields at Volunteer, Storvik, Ace of Hearts, and Island View Fields, truly making them community fields.
The City of Anacortes was excited to open our new spray pad at Storvik Park last summer, which offers a range of fun and interactive spray elements. Thanks to the RCO grant we received and the generous donations from our community, we were able to install the “Marine Adventure” theme spray pad/ add additional lighting, install a brand new bathroom and improve the sidewalks at Storvik Park. The park is enjoyed by many and we look forward to our second season with the spray pad.

Storvik Park Improvements - We will be seeking grant funding to continue our improvement efforts at Storvik Park which will likely include a new backstop, improved field lighting and modifications to the currently underused shuffle board court area.
WASHINGTON PARK CAMPGROUND RESTROOM REMODEL: We will be opening a completely remodeled restroom in our campground this May. While the project did take longer than we had hoped, in-house work has saved the City tens of thousands of dollars on the project. Special thanks to Mac Jackson and Brandon Krause for all of their hard work.

BOAT LAUNCH IMPROVEMENTS: Parks Maintenance staff has recently pressure-washed the dock surface and clean both lanes of the launch monthly, and after large storms. Volunteers have been busy pruning the brush around the boat parking lot, with the goal of increased visibility for all drivers.

The City treated Heart Lake with the herbicide fluridone to
remove milfoil from the lake. The treatment has been successful so far. This spring we treated the algae in the lake, which will reduce the chance of toxic algae blooms.
PARKS AND REC COMP PLAN UPDATE: Parks and Recreation staff are working on the 2018 comp plan update, this will align with our 2016 Comp Plan and improve our competitive edge when applying for grants. We are seeking grants to assist our work on the Guemes Channel Trail and provide support for a Sunset Beach Master Plan process. These projects will include public discussion about the boat launch and its future.

• Important Maritime Infrastructure
• Aligns with our Maritime Strategic Plan

We hope to see you at one of these meetings! City staff will have the entire comprehensive plan available for discussion at each meeting. The first meeting will be held tonight, Feb. 8th here in the Council Chambers and a public survey will be launched
online, so residents may provide input there as well.
Daniels Field Turf – With the generous support of the Daniels / Harvey families we installed an all-weather artificial surface on the Alton R. Daniels baseball field.
The Anacortes Depot provides a premium gathering place for our community. The Farmers Market connects with local farmers and artisans. Together with our vendors, city, public and private partners, we continue to build on our tradition of shared values, promoting health, well-being and happiness for all. In preparing the Depot Master Plan we will continue our efforts to improve the Depot with a new stage and improved access to the madrona grove as well as a new restroom and other modifications to the north end of the plaza. We are working with the Port of Anacortes on their efforts to improve the north basin and the connection to the Central Business District.

Our farmers market is growing with more food vendors and artisan booths that not only bring visitors to our community but
provide a great place for locals to gather, visit, enjoy freshly prepared foods and listen to music all summer long!
The City Attorney’s Office started the year with a department of two, consisting of the City Attorney and the Legal Assistant. We’ve ended the year with a department of four staff members and two volunteers. 2017 saw improvements in City contracting, public records management, land-use procedures, and the overall level of support provided by the City Attorney’s Office to various City departments.

The City Attorney’s Office provides services in five main areas: in-house counsel, contract services, public records management, prosecution services, and claims support. There were significant accomplishments in 2017 related to in-house services. One significant change was the creation of the City Contracts program, with the incorporation of the Contracts Specialist into the legal
department. This centralization of City contracting has provided greater efficiency in City contracting, while providing consistent and skilled support to each City Department.

The City Attorney’s Office supported the City in successfully navigating several complex and challenging issues in 2017. Along with strong City leadership, the City Attorney’s Office played a role in developing a strategy for decommissioning the old City water treatment plant, responding to proposed Swinomish constitutional amendments, evaluating water rights issues in the Skagit River Basin, and responding to Ecology regulatory action on the City’s Stormwater management programs. These are all potentially ongoing issues facing the City, but 2017 saw the successful representation of the City’s interests in these areas.

The City Attorney’s Office played a role in negotiating the transition of the Anacortes Senior Activity Center from a County to a City program. This was a lengthy process that ultimately led to an outcome where all parties were satisfied and moving forward with improved programming and service to Anacortes seniors.

The City Attorney’s office saw a successful litigation practice in 2017. The City successfully responded to a contentious LUPA action, which went to final hearing on the merits in Skagit County Superior Court before being dismissed and judgment entered in the City’s favor. The City also successfully resolved, through settlement and ultimately legislative action, a Growth Management Hearings Board appeal on new land-use procedural code with the support of the City Attorney’s Office.

The City Attorney’s Office worked extensively in 2017 with other
Departments to improve City Code and procedures. First, the format of the municipal code itself was significantly improved by successfully transitioning the City’s code to a more user-friendly online format (Code Publishing). This format has better presented the new Code updates that were accomplished in 2017, which mainly focused on land-use procedures. One component of these land-use procedures, is the incorporation of a Hearing Examiner to provide expert processing of City land-use permits. They also accomplished Code updates in the wake of the Comprehensive Plan, which will continue into 2018.

The City Prosecutor continued to provide excellent service to the City during 2017. In addition to representing the City on misdemeanors, infractions, and dangerous dog cases, the Prosecutor's Office provides valuable advice to the Anacortes Police Department and victim advocacy. The Prosecutor successfully transitioned 95% of their files to electronic format in 2017.

With regard to public records, the City Attorney’s Office has made significant strides to improving our interface with the public on records issues. Through the Public Records Committee, the City has made extensive preparations for the implementation of Laserfiche, which is approved for the 2018 budget. Legal Assistant Carol Yates responded to 76 public records requests in 2017, at the cost of more than 174 hours of staff time.

The City Attorney’s Office’s main goals for 2018 focus on public records issues and code updates. The big project for the year will be the implementation of Laserfiche. This new software will provide greater transparency for the public. The City will be in compliance with the many legal requirements of the Public
Records Act, while capturing efficiencies to maximize staff time. Our implementation plan anticipates phasing in the software among several departments initially, including legal, finance, and admin services. New Legal Assistant Marcia Hunt’s addition to the City Attorney’s Office is key to the implementation plan. It is our goal by the end of 2018 to have Laserfiche fully implemented in at least four City Departments, with a fully operational public portal, and to have key City processes automated through work flows. On a less tangible note, an important goal for 2018 is to build City support for the Laserfiche project so that staff appreciates the many benefits this tool will provide.

Another major goal for 2018 is to complete code updates. The Anacortes Municipal Code is in the middle of significant rewrites, which will bring our Code into alignment with the City’s comprehensive plan, rectify inconsistencies, and ensure compliance with developing legal landscapes. The main code update planned for 2018 is the update to the development regulations. The legal department will play a key role in supporting planning throughout this updated process. Other planned code updates include the impact fee ordinance, critical areas ordinance, wireless and telecommunication ordinance, and general facilities charge regulations.

The City Attorney’s Office also plans to build on the successes of 2017 in City Contracting to continue to improve the support we provide to all City Departments in contracting and ensuring the City has the tools in place to succeed into the future. By focusing on public records, code updates, and contracting procedures, the City Attorney’s Office will be setting the stage for future projects and successes.
The City of Anacortes is pleased to announce the City and Skagit County have a new inter-local agreement that transferred management of the Anacortes Senior Activity Center to the City of Anacortes. Since 1973, the county and the city have partnered to make the Center available to the Anacortes community. While there are no anticipated changes to programs or staffing in the foreseeable future, this transfer to local oversight will help the Center meet the growing needs of retirees and elders in the Anacortes community and Where Seniors Thrive!
Skagit County will continue to offer financial support to the Center and will also retain management of the Nutrition program, which includes both the Meals on Wheels program and the service of nutritious hot meals at the Center daily. Currently they deliver 60 to 75 Meals on Wheels and serve 40 hot meals in house daily. The Senior Center is engaged and excited to be a part of Anacortes. In the month of January they had over 800 hours of volunteer service!

And, as it has done for many years, the Center will continue to rely on the help of many wonderful volunteers and of its strong nonprofit partner the Anacortes Senior Activity Center (ASAC) Foundation. Under the management of the City of Anacortes, the Center will continue to pursue its mission: Anacortes Senior
Activity Center -- Where Seniors Thrive!
The 1st Annual Anacortes Senior Activity Center Foundation Fundraiser was a successful and FUN evening. Their hope was to draw in community members who may not know all of the exciting activities going on at the center. What better way than to have a runway fashion show. Some of the ensembles were dresses made of coffee filters or paper flowers, pencils and placemats. One dress was covered with computer cd’s. There was even a gladiator costume made of manila folders modeled by our single brave male model. We had a delightful evening met with high energy and enthusiasm. Upon leaving, several attendees mentioned they hadn’t realized all the Senior Center offers the community and they hoped for a follow-up fashion show next year.
They look forward to building on the non-traditional runway show next year and making it even bigger and better. Costumes modeled:
• CD dress
• Balloon gown representing flyswatter volleyball
• Coffee filter dress
• Paper, pencil & placemat dress
• Melted plastic cups apron and kitchen supplies
• Gladiator costume of manila folders (office supplies)
• Plant costume (gardening supplies)
• Post-it cape (Lea’s salary)
• Elvis (entertainment)
• Plastic bag ensemble made by the Art’s Festival group
The Anacortes Museum Department staged multiple exhibits at its three facilities in 2017, beginning with “Anacortes at 125,” a celebration of our city’s incorporation with histories of each department. This was followed at the Carnegie Gallery with an historic quilt display in April and “At Home in Anacortes,” an exhibit on historic architecture, opening in May.

The year concluded with a popular December, featuring the holiday displays donated by the Burl Ives estate, and a baton pass in the Museum Director position, with Bret Lunsford stepping up to replace the retiring Steve Oakley.

Ongoing work by staff continues to improve the museum website and expand online access to the museum’s vast database of
historic photographs and artifacts, with more digitization projects launching in 2018. Steady visitation at the W.T. Preston benefitted from increased marketing, and a new exhibit on the local pulp mill history will open at the Maritime Heritage Center this summer.
Steve Oakley retired and Bret Lunsford assumed the role of Anacortes Museum Director on December 1. Bret was the Education and Maritime Curator for five years and has lived in Anacortes his whole life. He brings a strong belief in the museum’s mission and enthusiasm for historic stewardship and community involvement.

*At home in Anacortes* tells the story of residential architecture as it has evolved in the city, starting with the first boom. It stops with the story of Skyline, because in preservation circles, homes do not become “historic” until they are 50 years old. The exhibit was accompanied by an assembly of classic radios in the Anacortes Presents case.
Two museum volunteers were selected as *Volunteers of the Year* at the museum’s Holiday Open House on December 14: Al Bofenkamp and Terry Slotemaker.

In 2018, Bret has big plans!
- Collaborations continue with the School District, Art Commission, Port and Depot
- Opening of pulp mill exhibit at Maritime Heritage Center in late spring.
- 50th Anniversary celebration, courtyard dedication with new flagpole and interpretive signs
- Next Carnegie Exhibit: Historic Photographers of Fidalgo Island. The biographies and bodies of work presented in context of chronological camera history – highlighting the online photo collection and focusing a spotlight on different photographers throughout the run.
- A professional facilitator will help conduct an inter-board and museum staff retreat in the fall
- Collections Plan toward online accessibility, including oral history and movie digitization
- Interpretive sign updates, including new interpretive sign locations
- Determine feasibility of putting Maritime Heritage Center (703 R Avenue) attic space into use for storage, accessed via a future exterior staircase and door.
Public Works is our largest department, providing the essential services, and infrastructure for all citizens.

Cartegraph ARC GIS - Integrating both Cartegraph and ARC GIS. The “ArcGIS Online” is our new customizable web-based mapping system that will allow everyone to access city data. “Cartegraph” is our new asset management program that city employees use to track all public works utility assets.

Storm Retention Pond Cleaning – Initial cleaning of our storm-water ponds. We cleaned 5 ponds and one large swale as part of our capital program. We hope to clean about 5 ponds a year for the next 10 years.

Commercial Avenue Paving – On time, on budget with a remarkable transformation. Condensed timeline to get Commercial Avenue done before Memorial Day weekend. Turned out great with protected bike lanes and great communication with business owners.
With our LED Lighting Project and dedicated to reduce energy consumption by residents and the city, we have saved over 1 Million in the last 4 years. PSE recently selected the City of Anacortes to receive a “Persistence of Savings Award”, for our excellence in reduction. Exterior and interior lighting on the following city facilities is being changed out to LED.

- Municipal Building
- Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Fire Station I
- Fire Station II
- Anacortes Senior Activity Center
- Maintenance Shop
- Public Library
- Public Safety Building

With a total cost of $110,353.05, the grant covered the entire project cost of changing all exterior and interior lighting to LED. Estimated savings is projected at around $10,000 a year.
Pump Stations 13, 14, 15 & 18
PSE SCHEDULE 258 CONSERVATION GRANT - All exterior & interior lighting was changed to LED at the WTP, the PSE grant paid for the entire project at a cost of $110,353.05
The City has implemented alternative fuels, with electric and propane to reduce our carbon footprint, comply with state mandated requirements for alternative fuels, and continue taking steps to be more environmentally friendly. The first City Electric Car is a Chevrolet Bolt, which has zero emissions and a range of 238 miles on a charge. Currently we have a charging station at City Hall and 2 more are available for the public at Island Hospital and Walgreens.

Propane Vehicles and Propane Station— We are the first City in Skagit County to deploy a propane fleet. In 2017, we implemented our Propane vehicle program. At the moment we have 16 bi-fuel propane vehicles and 2 more waiting for conversion and 4 more on order for 2018. We installed a private
1,000-gallon AutoGas filling station, and we are able to sell propane to the School District for their buses as well (Currently 1 and 1 more on order). In 2017 we replaced 6,500 Gallons of gasoline with propane.
Our City employees are good stewards with our resources! 80% of the Operations building remodel was completed in-house by staff and includes a new roof, new shop inventory shed, new garage doors, a lunch room to accommodate entire staff, and 2 new restrooms.
A heartfelt thank you to the 12 volunteers who assessed 1,202 ramps within the City for ADA compliance. Building assessments, also done by one of the volunteers, included City Hall, the Library, Museum, all of the Parks facilities, and public works facilities with the exception of the Water Treatment Plant, which was recently built. The report was also done in-house by WWTP Secretary Sylvia Cooper, saving the City ten’s of thousands of dollars. Total estimated savings to the City by utilizing volunteers for the assessment and Sylvia for the report are more than $100K. And projects to update the ramps have already begun.

In December, the City of Anacortes Public Works department implemented a successful horizontal saw-cutting method to smooth out trip hazards on city sidewalks, fixing 392 locations for
about $36,000. Compared to the traditional method of excavation and re-pouring the concrete sidewalks the cost would have been in the $200,000-to-$300,000 range. We are currently upgrading the ADA sidewalk ramps adjacent to the new pavement area downtown. This is a requirement associated with new pavement overlays.
Sewer Outfall Replacement - Anacortes repaired a leaking section of the wastewater outfall pipe, circa 1950, and after nearly 2 decades of repairing multiple leaks in the pipe. The rehabilitated pipe ensures compliance with the Wastewater NPDES Permit and eliminates potential impairment to the aquatic habitat near the pipe. This project was nominated for a 2018 APWA Project of the Year Award. This was the most costly project of the year because of the unknown conditions under the water in the Guemes Channel.
Anacortes installed a new scrubber for the WWTP sewage sludge incinerator for improved air quality and compliance with new air regulations. WWTP Incinerator – We were First in the Nation to secure EPA approval of their petition for the incinerator under new federal air regulations.

Anacortes was the first fluidized bed incinerator to meet the new air emissions standards in the Northwest. The project took extensive planning due to a very short construction window and was subsequently selected for presentation at the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association Annual Conference last year.
As you can see, we had an unusual event this last weekend. City staff worked Saturday and Sunday. We had mudslides, flooding of roads, alley’s, ball field’s and houses. We also had a sewer overflow on Q Avenue because an additional 150,000 gallons of Stormwater entered the system. We continue to replace and repair sewer and Stormwater lines and have 1 million budgeted for more work this year.

Anytime you need city staff to respond after hours, call 911 and they will dispatch our employees.
A major project to replace two 50-year-old intake screens at the Water Treatment Plants’ intake facility on the edge of the Skagit River was done in-house with no interruptions to plant operations. The project replaced equipment that was showing signs of failure and that had not been overhauled since it was installed in the 1970’s.
Jointly with Skagit County, the city implemented a new road improvement technique called Cape Seal Road Maintenance. This project required substantial roadway patching managed and funded by the City, and then the Cape Seal itself completed by Skagit County Road Crews. The total project cost the city $300,000 plus approximately $50,000 every 7 years for cap seal maintenance, while a traditional mill-and-fill overlay on this two-mile stretch of road would have cost around $1 million.

This year, we will be resurfacing the road to Little Cranberry.
The police department had some major changes in its leadership in 2017. In mid-March a stakeholder group of city council members, school officials, local business representatives, community members, administrative staff, and I met with Captain Small to discuss his vision and transition plan for the department. Following City Council confirmation, Captain Small transitioned to Chief Small on April 1, 2017. A chain reaction of promotions followed with Chris Fuller promoted to Captain, Jackie Richter promoted to Sergeant, and Del Farrell promoted to Corporal. The department continues to grow its leaders in 2018 with the promotion of Dave Floyd to Captain, Terrence Clifford to Sergeant, and Jesse Buffum to Corporal. What has not changed is the department’s commitment to public safety and earning public
trust. I am pleased to announce we are fully Staffed with 26 commissioned officers.
The department also continued its partnership with Andeavor (formerly Tesoro) to help ensure the safety of our community. Andeavor generously funded the purchase of a new vehicle for the department’s Auxiliary Patrol volunteers.

Jail - The new Skagit County Community Justice Center opened in October providing 400 beds to house our offenders.
APD staff bring a combined 370 years of service to the community led by the 41 years of Officer Doug Liddle.

T-Bone, our narcotics and detection dog, and K-9 team deployments were up 64% from 2016, resulting in a large increase in drug seizures and arrests. We have gone from impounding 50 vehicles a year to 200 a year.

The Police Department maintained a strong partnership with the Anacortes School District. A key component is our School Resource Officer Travis Dotzauer continuing to build positive relationships with students, faculty, and parents. Officer Dotzauer is passionate about his role as mentor, counselor, educator, and ensure a safe environment for students and staff.
We are working on renewing our agreement with the School District to continue the success of the SRO program.
Anacortes Fire Department has been able to increase efficiency in fire and medical incidents with the help of innovative technology.

The Video Laryngoscope gives Paramedics a direct view of the larynx while inserting a breathing tube. In contrast to old technology, the new devices use a fiber optic camera and screen to provide a clear view during the procedure. This technology also allows digital recording for documentation and quality assurance purposes.

(EZ eye-o) EZ-IO – When Paramedics are unable to obtain vascular access through a conventional intravenous line (IV). The EZ-IO device provides an alternative route of access by placing a needle directly into the marrow space of a bone. This
revolutionary solution is a fast, safe, and effective method of delivering life-saving fluids or medication when seconds count.
Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) technology provides information from Skagit 911 regarding an emergency such as the nature of call, location, and other responding units. It includes maps of the surrounding area, information received by the dispatch center. This information is not broadcasted over the radio, and specific instructions and information relevant to the tasks and actions performed by the responding crew. Other uses of the MDT include fire hydrant location and pre-fire plans of a specific building.

Inspections Application - The new Inspections app allows Firefighters to input business inspections data and obtain electronic signatures in the field. This technology provides electronic records storage and eliminates the need for paper
records retention.

Thermal Imaging Camera (TICK) translates thermal energy (heat) into a visible image. Firefighters use the TIC to see through smoke, find victims, and locate fire within concealed spaces of a building.
Sometimes when motor vehicle collisions occur, the fire department deploys hydraulic tools to remove the patients. The construction of new vehicles has transitioned to using high strength steel. In the last two years, Andeavor has graciously donated $40,000 dollars to enable the fire department to purchase modern extrication equipment to quickly access and remove patients involved in these serious accidents. Our older hydraulic tools are woefully inadequate to quickly cut and spread this high strength steel.
Since 2016 the City refocused our energy on Volunteer Firefighter/EMT recruitment, training, and retention. We now have a cadre of 11 volunteers in different stages of certification (pictured left to right with length of service). Some are certified Firefighters and/or EMT’s and some are support volunteers who have a limited non-combat scope of duties. The pictures are some of the volunteers who provide invaluable service for our community.
We are focused on Emergency Preparedness every day. We had a drill last November and another drill on in February 2018. The top 4 risks to our community are:

- Earthquake
- High Winds
- Winter Storm
- Mass Casualty

What warrants EOC Activation –

Phase 1 - Alert/Watch

- High Wind warning, Heavy Snow expected
- Personnel assigned – Situation Dependent

Phase 2 – Limited Operation

- Moderate size: Haz Mat incidents
- Mayor, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Public Works Director
Phase 3 – Full Operation - Major Disaster
   All EOC assigned Personnel +
   Governmental Reps: Hospital, School, Port
   NGO representatives – Cert, Ham, Red Cross, etc.
I can’t stress enough the importance of having adequate water and proper storage in your home. Handouts are available, please take one home. The City will not have enough resources to take care of all the needs of its citizens in an major emergency. And the City will likely be isolated for some time. To mitigate this, each resident is asked to take the following twelve steps to reduce the impact on our limited emergency response system.

2017-2018 Goals

- Preparedness
- Staff preparation
- Citizen preparation
- Mitigation
- Improve Generator Capacity
- Response
- Enhance the competence of City Staff through improved training.
- Enhance the infrastructure of our EOC and Communication Systems.
- Recovery
  - Develop a Continuity of Government Plan
Our Library received the first federal grant and became one of 75 libraries in the country to be a NASA@ My Library participant and look forward to continuing our partnership in the future.

- 2,000 people attended the event hosted by the library with Parks and Rec at Storvik Park for the solar eclipse.
- Partnered with Anacortes School District and Skagit Reads to invite retired Astronaut Wendy Lawrence to speak to more than 600 attendees.
- Received a grant of 1,000 eclipse viewing glasses.
- Looking forward to two more years of NASA programs with this innovative and continuing grant to open up more STEM programming and partner with other community groups.
- Partnered with Island Astronomical Society and Parks &
Rec for International Observe the Moon Night
The Anacortes Library is a busy place! In 2017, we had over 12,000 participants in our Children’s Programs and over 3,000 in our adult programs. We have finished updating the community meeting room with new carpet, AV, paint and hearing loop. This year 165,900 people walked through the doors to use library services, including meeting rooms, study rooms, and the extensive digital and physical collection 7 days a week. Here are a few events:

• Special events, including NASA and Comic Night had 3,107 attendees
• Circulation in children’s and teens was up 32%, much of which was student card use.
• Added HOOPLA and LYNDA, digital streaming and learning services that benefit patrons at home, when traveling,
and help empower a lifetime of discovery for Anacortes Residents.

- Re-carpeted Children’s area, and updated displays and learning spaces

Added a new .5 FTE to support public services in adult and children’s departments, which allowed us to add teen and early learning programs, and partner with more classrooms and organizations for literacy programs, including:

- YMCA
- Boys and Girls Club
- Whitney Elementary

Some of the Library Goals for 2018

- Implement Family Place Library to meet early learning literacy needs of the community.
- As I mentioned, continue NASA@ My Library Partnership
- Keep partnering with Anacortes School District to work to meet student needs with the Student Library Card.
- Partner with the City to be the first public access point for the new Fiber network.
- Continue update of library carpeting through the library, beginning with the second floor in spring of 2017.
- Looking forward to working with community partners to focus on empowering discovery in Anacortes, and involve citizens in the strategic planning objectives.
Hosted 3rd Genre Night, Comic Night at the Library for all ages, with more than 500 attendees.

- Received $1,000 grant to cover the family-friendly event from the Anacortes Arts Festival, our main sponsor.
- Had more than 200 volunteer hours provided by 50 volunteers.
- Partnered with AMS drama and playwriting students for live performances.
- Sponsored by local business, including Lil Tugs, Acme Creative, Pelican Bay, When You Wish Events, Sebo’s Hardware, and Island Optometry.

Anacortes and Sidney have unique ways of celebrating cultural similarities and differences. Each Spring, on the Sidney shore, residents from Anacortes and Sidney have a brief international party to celebrate the reopening of the ferry run between the two cities. And each July and December, folks from both cities participate in each other's patriotic programs and holiday parades.

Anacortes Sister Cities Association started as a small group in 1991. This group of individuals wanted to explore the possibility of establishing a formal relationship with a city in the newly opened USSR. Anacortes City Council, then Mayor Jim Rice, and
Mayor Dean Maxwell worked with the group. Together they formulated, through Sister Cities International of Washington D.C., a relationship with Lomonosov, a coastal town near St. Petersburg, in fact we are all coastal cities.

City of Nikaho
City of Sidney BC
City of Lomonosov
City of Vela Luka

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The City of Anacortes telemetry system for our water and wastewater utilities needed to be replaced. We found a method to place the fiber within the existing waterlines to connect the facilities to the pump stations and water tanks which reduced the time and construction commitments. The WA Dept. of Health approved the process after rigorous review. Using this Craley technology allowed us to install more than 15 miles of fiber conduit in our water lines from the WTP to the 3-million-gallon reservoir with 288 fiber strands.

We have completed Telemetry for:
- Lift stations
- Booster stations
- Reservoirs
• Facilities

Library Colocation room is the fiber HUB where all the fiber is routed for the city. The City has released an RFQ for an internet service provider and we look forward to the responses.
The fiber telemetry system also allows the City to consider building a community fiber internet service option.

Fiber is glass – long, thin, pure strands which transits data at the speed of light.

Data zips around the world today in commerce, education, health care, entertainment, and personal communication.

When I’m asked, Why Fiber? I strongly believe a fiber system can enhance our quality of life and the foundation for business development in this new Gig Economy. “Gig Economy” – Build a plant or improving a building so a business will move to town is
not where the economy is going. Gigabit – building the broadband economy. Small businesses need tech assistance, e-commerce, social media, and websites to new customers. How do we assist our retailers to keep a vibrant downtown? Online branding for retailers.

It:

• Encourages businesses to stay
• Helps grow businesses, especially High-Tech
• Supports home based startups
• Supports local retail (backdoor model)
• Supports telecommuting
• Makes community (more attractive) for young people to stay
• Assist health care – connect to specialists in regional centers
• Allows for online learning and workforce development
• Vital for education

Asset for Community Members, Competitive markets translate to:

• increased bandwidth for comparable cost
• better customer service

Introducing faster alternatives has been shown to:

• spur investment
• offer additional choice to consumers
• support economic development

THERE IS EXCESS CAPACITY - Opportunity exists to utilize excess capacity within fiber line to build a community fiber network.

LEVERAGING A MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT - The network is partially there. Extending it to homes and businesses could be a possible asset and benefit for the community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Fiber networks have proven to be an economic lifeline for communities like ours.
SAFETY AND EDUCATION - First responders, hospitals and schools all have an opportunity for improved technology services.
Yes, I am excited about what this can do for Anacortes. I want to assure you that the Council and myself will make sure we have an economical viable plan for the fiber before we make a final decision.

To help us gauge community interest in a municipal fiber system we created a short survey. MORE THAN 1,470 surveys have already been completed to date! This survey is helping the city of Anacortes:

- organize data
- evaluate if the need and desire for this infrastructure exists for residents and local businesses
• identify areas of high interest
• guide methodical expansion strategy based on proximity to backbone and expressed interest

Broadband Survey – We need to hear from you. Please consider taking the online survey and encourage your staff and friends to complete it as well. The survey is available at https://cityofanacortes.servicezones.net This is the first step in helping us to better understand the community’s interest in a city-owned broadband system. The City is installing fiber optic links as part of our water and wastewater telemetry system. We are now exploring if the remaining fiber optic capacity could serve as a backbone for a fiber network in our community.
This list reflects just a few projects that we worked on in 2017.

- Overlay Central Business District - 2nd to 11th Street
- Storm Pond Restoration
- Heart Lake Road Cape Seal – city limits to H Avenue
- Slurry Seal – Washington Blvd, Shannon Point Rd, & Marine Heights
- Sewer Manhole Replacement and Pipe Repair
- 3M Gallon Water Tank Replacement Construction
- Bicycle Blvd/Neighborhood Greenway
- Fiber
- Depot Master Plan
Tank Replacement Construction
We have an ambitions list of projects for complete in 2018. My personal must do list include:

- **SHIP Interpretive Center** - We will be installing an interpretive platform in the Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve and completing the connection to the Washington State Ferry terminal.

- **Begin Cemetery Expansion** - We will be removing the willow trees along the current access road and rebuilding that road to provide a better access to the future expansion of the cemetery to the west.

- **Assist our Retailers in using E-Commerce, social media, and websites to complete in this Gig economy**

- **Finding a way to build a Community Youth Recreation Center. If we take care of our kids, we take care of our future.**
- Continue to work on completion of the Guemes Channel Trail and to develop a plan to reinvigorate as we work with business owners, property owners, and citizens.
- Provide a robust municipal fiber optic network. This could be achieved in many ways from city owned to a public private partnership or even a private provider. It must have a financially solid model for the city to implement.
- Stabilize our funding for our infrastructure. We have been playing catch up to invest and repair after many years of lack of resources, but this has fallen on the citizens so I will work to balance the funding requirements with a watchful eye on the burden on the citizen for this infrastructure.
- Complete our Maritime Strategic Plan
- Complete the Depot Master Plan
  - Pickett Park
  - Road to Little Cranberry
  - Update Park Comp Plan
  - Additional Storm Pond Restoration
  - March Point Road Shoulder Widening
  - 32nd and D Avenue Roundabout, Oakes Avenue, and San Juan Passage Blvd Design
  - Record Retention Implement Lasherfiche
  - Completion 3M (2 – 1.5M) Gallon Water Tank Replacement Construction
  - Storvik Park improvements
  - Improvements Washington Park Boat Launch
• Complete Remodel Operations Facility
• Finalize GIS Cartegraph System
• City Hall ADA Improvements, Elevator Upgrade, and Replace Window’s
• Continuing Sidewalk Replacement and Associated ADA Improvements
• Continuing Relighting City Facilities with LED Lights
• Retrofitting Commercial Avenue Street Lamps with LED
• Continue annual 1M for Street Overlays (since 2014!)
• Funding for Design of Oakes Ave and Ship Harbor Blvd
This statement is from our 2016 Comprehensive Plan. ANACORTES is a unique, creative, vibrant and caring maritime community that supports cultural and economic diversity and vitality, balances sustainable growth with respect for our history, and protects our natural environment and public lands for future generations.

This is how we see ourselves:
• Friendly
• Beautiful
• Sustainable
• Vibrant
• Safe
• Community

We are all lucky to live and work in this wonderful community. I,
especially am the luckiest because I am honored to be your Mayor.