

CITY BOARD MEMBERS

AARON HOOD
AKEYLA HOLIFIELD
LINDA LAWRENCE
DIANNE EPPERSON
DON A. MACK, SR



Centreville
MAYOR BARRY COONER

WATER BOARD MEMBERS

LINDA LAWRENCE
JIMMY MARTIN
SETH YOUNG
JOSH COLBURN
RANDY BURKE

STATE OF THE CITY

Six months ago, I took the oath of office, committing to serve this community with honesty, accountability, transparency, and a strong work ethic. Since day one, my focus has been simple: listen, learn, and move Centreville forward. With the City Council's support and backing, we have begun that forward motion.

Listening to Our Community

Over this short time that I've served as Mayor, I've seen a community that cares deeply about where we live and wants to see Centreville grow while holding on to the values that make it special.

I've spent time talking with residents, business owners, City employees, and community leaders. I've heard your concerns, your ideas, and your hopes for our City.

Progress So Far

While six months is a short time, we've already taken important steps:

- We've started internal audits on monies spent by the city.
 1. Tyler Technology – In 2024, \$86,000.00 was paid for new software. The City did not like the software, so they went back to the old software. The City has since received invoices for another \$90,000.00 for this software that is not even being implemented, meaning the City may be responsible for nearly \$180,000 worth of software it does not even use. This matter has been turned over to the City Attorney.
 2. Great White - An internal audit revealed that the City was being overcharged for trash pickup. The invoice indicates 1039 customers, but there are only 823 water customers within the city limits. The City has been over-billed \$6,500 per month for 39 months for a total loss of \$250,000.00. The reason for this overcharge is



Centreville

because the City did not provide Great White with our customer addresses. Bibb County Commission supplied Great White 911 addresses, which included vacant lots and uninhabited homes, which does not match the City's total water customers. Incidentally, there were also Centreville residents receiving free water because they had not been set up in the water system as customers. In dumpster services alone, the City has been losing approximately \$3,900 per month.

3. Bank Building Insurance - During a review of the renewal of the City's insurance policy, it discovered that the City has lost \$9,000 over the past three years because it has been paying for insurance coverage on the old bank building in the amount of \$3,000 per year despite the City not having owned that building these past three years.
 4. Cell Phone Bills - During a self-audit of the cell phone bill, it was discovered that the City was paying for service for iPads and cell phones that were in a drawer and not being used. This issue has been taken care of and the City's cell phone bill has since been reduced from \$3,400.00 a month to \$1,000.00 a month.
 5. Dump Truck - The City purchased a 2025 tri-axle dump truck. It was set up on a balloon payment and the first payment of \$32,000 was due at the end of March 2026. The truck had only 400 miles on it when we offered it for public sale and, having no takers, sold it to TruckWorx at a \$22,000 loss last month. The truck was sold not only because it was not being utilized, but also because the City could not afford the payment.
 6. Vehicle Insurance - Vehicles that the City no longer owns were removed from the insurance policy, saving the City money.
 7. Old Fire Station - We are replacing the roof on the building and getting it ready to rent for additional revenue for the City. The apartment above the bays is a 3-bedroom / one bath unit.
 8. Invoices and Bills - When I came into office in November, the City had more than \$40,000.00 in delinquent bills. All invoices and bills are now current.
- We've worked to strengthen **communication and transparency**, making it easier for residents to stay informed about City business. All City Council meeting minutes are uploaded to our website.
 - We've begun conversations focused on **supporting local businesses** and encouraging economic growth.
 - We've evaluated **City operations** to identify areas where improvements will lead to more efficient service for our citizens.

- Current Funds Available

Water Department	\$720,153.39
Total Assets for the City	\$501,671.56

These early efforts have laid the foundation for long-term progress, but there are challenges to come that Centreville will face.

Challenges Ahead

Work on Debt - Here are some of the debts the City currently has.

1. Consolidated Bonds from 2005 and 2013. The payment is \$7,000.00 a month.
2. Police Car Loans. Payment is \$5,000.00 a month.
3. Water Bond for more than \$2 million. The payment is over \$100,000.00 a year.
4. Brush Truck purchased same time as the dump truck. Payment is over \$5,000.00 a month.

Infrastructure improvements, economic development, and maintaining essential services with limited resources are not issues that can be solved overnight. Some of these challenges have accumulated over time, and addressing them will require steady work and responsible planning.

But I want to be clear — we are committed to facing these challenges directly.

Our Priorities Moving Forward

As we look ahead, our focus will remain on:

- **Improving Infrastructure**, including roads, public facilities, and parks.
- **Strengthening Public Safety** and supporting our first responders
- **Encouraging Economic Development** to bring new opportunities while supporting existing businesses. We must work hard to bring new business to our City so we do not have to leave our City to shop.
- **Maintaining Transparency and Accountability** in how your City government operates.

We are working to build a plan that not only addresses today's needs, but that also positions Centreville for a stronger future.

Working Together

The future of Centreville doesn't rest on one person or one office. It depends on all of us. Progress comes from partnership, cooperation, and a shared commitment to our community.

I'm grateful for the support and input I've received so far, and I encourage everyone to stay engaged as we move forward.

I hope the City Council and I can regain your **Trust** again. My door is always open.

Closing

After six months in office, I can tell you this: I believe in Centreville.

I believe in its people, its potential, and its future.

We've made a strong start—but there is much more to do. And together, we will continue building a city we are proud to call home.

Thank you, and God bless the City of Centreville.