

January 2016

As I gain more experience as mayor, I am continually amazed at what interests and excites people in Seguin, opposed to that which seems to be taken for granted, or noticed with just a glance and a nod. This is not necessarily a negative statement. It's pretty much human nature to notice and react to immediate needs for comfort, convenience and amusement. All the while the very necessary, yet more mundane, day-to-day activities go on barely noticed.

Council can vote to save millions of dollars by refinancing our debt – nobody notices. We can pass multi-million dollar budgets – just a sigh from the public. Our staff works like crazy to promote economic development and improve our infrastructure – no big deal. It's not until something takes physical form and creates either exuberance or misery do people really pay attention.

We in city government all realize that we are where the rubber hits the road. Everything we do directly influences the lives of our friends, our neighbors and our families. Virtually everyone we see every day is somehow affected by the decisions we make, and the actions we take.

National and statewide politicians are insulated by time and space from most of their constituents, while we go eye-to-eye every single day with ours. That's what I like about being a local official. There are no bureaucratic or geographic filters between me and the citizens I represent.

This relationship keeps me grounded, and it keeps me alert. What's more, all the good things that are happening here excite me just as much as they do everyone else. (Hello, HEB!) And bad streets, potholes and muddy, dusty construction make me just as angry and miserable as they do you.

I am rambling here a bit, as I have a tendency to do so. But I am headed to a point.

A lot of good things have been happening in Seguin over the past year. They are pleasing to the eye, pleasing to the palate and even pleasing to your car's suspension. New jobs are being created and new homes are being built.

What we have seen in the past year will be even more noticeable in 2016. However, the misery index will be a bit high also. I apologize for this now, but no one has yet invented clean and easy ways to build or repair streets and buried infrastructure. There will be a lot of dust, mud, misery and orange barricades for quite a while all over the city. I beg your patience over the next year and beyond as we go through these growing pains and much needed improvements in our infrastructure. Believe me, it will be worth it.

Now to my point of all this rambling – All of the great things that have happened over the past year, and that are about to happen in 2016 had their beginnings in those mundane, day-to-day activities I mentioned in the beginning of this article; things to which the public pay little attention. There was a heck of a lot of hard work done by our city staff and our city council to bring it all about. Budgets had to be considered, bonds had to be secured, planning and engineering had to be done, economic development deals had to be made, grant applications submitted, and environmental standards met. I know I've left out a lot more.

These are the kind of things your city staff and council have done and continue to do to make Seguin grow and prosper. These are folks who live here, see you every day face-to-face, and love this town as much as you do. The new retail and industry don't just appear here out of thin air, or by accident. It's all those boring, unnoticed actions by your fellow citizens, who work for you, that really make it all possible.

Gosh I love this town!