



2001

Report to the People



A Message from Your City Council

Dear Andersonians,

On behalf of the City Council, management team, and employees of Anderson, I am pleased to present to you the 2001 Report to the People. I am confident you will find our results from the past year impressive.

By any measuring stick you care to use, the past year has been one of success and accomplishments. Technology is allowing us to communicate better with you through our web site, e-mail messages, and the live telecast of our regular Council meetings into your homes across the Charter Communications cable network. I urge you to take a few minutes and review the information within this report. I believe you will be gratified at the level of commitment and service your city team is providing you on a daily basis. Our 360+ employees work hard to ensure the wise expenditure of your tax dollars. The preparations and accomplishments in planning for the future of our City are evident within this report.

Being known as “The Electric City” has been providential. Its historical meaning relative to the transmission of electrical power is part of our heritage. Today’s meaning reflects a determined community willing to put forth the energy and effort to make Anderson a great city to call home. Take pride in the accomplishments of 2001 and know that we’ll continue to make great strides in 2002.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. If you have any questions or comments, please know that we would welcome hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Shirley
Mayor

- Steven C. Kirven Ward 1
- Philip M. Cheney Ward 2
- A.B. “Buck” Roberts Ward 3
- Tony Stewart Ward 4
- Beatrice R. Thompson,
Mayor Pro Tem Ward 5
- Dennis H. McKee Ward 6
- Blake W. Williamson at-large Seat 7
- Tom W. Dunaway, III at-large Seat 8



The happening place to be—Downtown

Celebrating success is an integral part of the City's downtown revitalization program. There's no better way to showcase our assets than fun, community events. Several events scheduled throughout the year take advantage of our climate and southern desire to have a foot-stomping good time.

Downtown's renaissance requires creative promotion in order to entice patrons to the center of the City. The calendar continues to boast the Soiree and Art and Antique Walk held in April, the Antique Car Show in June, and the Chili Cook-off in mid-October. The Chili Cook-off provided the right venue for nine downtown restaurants serving their own style of chili. Shops were open for business, and musical entertainment kept the crowd alive. This event grows each year and preparing enough chili for the crowd is a problem worth having. Look for the inscribed bricks on the Courthouse Plaza. The 2001 winner was Churchill's. Such year-round interest and activities spur others into action, too. The energetic Downtown Sertoma Club hosted the Downtown Barbeque Bash in early October along with sponsors including the City of Anderson, the Anderson County Arts Center, the Calhoun Senior Living Center, Anderson Main

Street Program, Matrix Construction Company, Budweiser, and Pepsi.

The year concludes with the Christmas season's first weekend of activities including the Mayor's Tree Lighting, the Holiday Walk, Downtown Christmas Open House, and the Christmas parade. The 2001



weekend of events garnered a new happening with the Flea Fling at the Electric City Depot and Farmers Market – destined for a repeat performance.

Tomatoes, Potatoes, and Fun

The Electric City Depot and Anderson County Farmers Market is one place that's sure to be a crowd-pleaser. The City and the County recognize this as a central gathering place not only for farmers' bounty but festivities, too. This successful project is the result of joint efforts by the City and the County to develop the public parking and the market building, respectively. Leveraging the public dollars from both of these governmental entities has provided a needed impetus on the redevelopment of the Warehouses for the Anderson County Arts Center. Watch for more as this site opens for fresh produce and community activities.



City Advances with Technology

The Information Services Department has continued to implement a computer network to allow the exchange of data among City departments and to provide Internet and e-mail access for employees. The IS Department also coordinates all computer hardware and software purchases and provides technical support and basic training to all City departments.

The City's web site – www.cityofandersonsc.com – has been improved to make it easier to navigate. You can find job postings, your elected representatives, history, recreation, special events, and general information. Our goal is to allow site visitors to contact City employees, complete forms and applications, review documents and ordinances, and ultimately, make online payments.

The site is constantly being updated, so if you don't see what you're looking for today, call us and check our site again next week.

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cate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This award is bestowed by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, and covered our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000. This is a worthwhile tool in helping our citizens understand the operation and management of the city in layman's terms.

Another accomplishment that promotes fiscal responsibility is the completion of the first definitive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This document is the City's plan for growth and development for the fiscal years 2002-2006. The purpose of the five-year plan is to project all necessary projects, facilities, and large equipment costs greater than \$5,000.

Projects such as Phase II of Downtown Revitalization, implementation of the Recreation Master Plan, a new fire substation, and City Hall renovations are a few of the major CIP initiatives. This is a major

undertaking to document all of the capital improvement requests in one document, and it provides a great opportunity to ensure that citizen services and needs will be met in a timely, cost-efficient manner. The plan is a fluid document that may change annually based on priorities. While projects in the plan are not necessarily guaranteed funding, this is the best tool the City has to adequately prepare for future costs.

Customer Service Corner



As a convenience to our citizens, the City now accepts Visa and Master Card as a form of payment for City taxes, business licenses, and building permits. Remember, the Tax and Business License Offices are located at 115 East River Street as a temporary location during the City Hall construction.

City finances stand strong

The City of Anderson continues to be strong in the area of finance. The Finance Department has bragging rights to its seventh consecutive Certifi-

Speaking of capital improvements . . .

The sixty-six bed detention center was completed in the fall of 1999 followed by City Hall construction Phase II which began in December 1999 and was completed in March 2001. This added 16,630 square feet. It included a new council chambers,

and municipal courtroom in the previously unfinished space under the detention center. Also included is the two-story administrative addition. The entire facility is now handicapped accessible with the main entrance on John Street. Phase III construction is expected to be completed in winter 2002.



Quarry Street Park gets a face-lift

The first priority of the adopted Recreation Master Plan got into high gear with the redevelopment of Quarry Street Park. This project has truly been a community effort and the results are a testament to the partnerships formed.

The City of Anderson began this project with a lean budget and a greater vision. Our partners in this project are Anderson County who paved the walking trails, the Hanna-Westside Extension Campus who built the gazebo and picnic shelter and implemented the landscaping plan, the Eastside Concerned Citizens who offered advice, patience, and support. This project would not have been possible without these partners. Likewise, their efforts were bolstered by the City Departments of Engineering, Beautification, Street,

Recreation, Wastewater, and Community Development. Indeed, it takes a community to re-build a neighborhood.

Recreation booms with participants

Consider the following figures from the 2001 sports season:

- 1,528 youths participated in our youth baseball and softball programs
- 478 youths rounded out the youth basketball teams
- Youth football attracted 140 participants
- Sports aren't just for kids! 97 adult teams participated in spring

& fall softball, winter & spring basketball, and flag football.

The demand for recreation opportunities grows and grows and grows.

Community benefits from Sanitary Sewer Improvements

The availability of public sanitary sewer facilities allows for efficient land development, reduction in groundwater contamination, and elimination of septic tank difficulties. We'll continue our efforts to maintain and improve the many miles of public sewer lines within our territory through normal daily routines as well as the development of a comprehensive sewer plan, and a remediation plan for inflow and infiltration into the system. During the past year, the department raised and sealed 231

sanitary sewer manholes to stop infiltration. To assist with growth and development, more than 7,600 linear feet of new sanitary sewer lines were installed and/or extended.

2001 Fast Facts

- Permitted nearly \$24 million in new residential and commercial building activity
- Rehabilitated 9 houses and provided financial assistance to 9 first time homebuyers
- Installed 7,760 linear feet of curb & gutter and driveways, and 1,541 linear feet of sidewalks
- Replaced 274 street markers and 320 stop signs
- Facilitated 16 downtown building facade improvements through facade grants
- Annexed 48 acres of land
- Acquired one new trolley for Electric City Transit

Police and Fire Departments Achieve Goals

The Mayor and Council identified several issues of priority for the Police and Fire Departments. One of the law enforcement goals is that of becoming recognized among the “safest cities” in South Carolina. Reduction in crime is the key measurement. The City had a 9.4% reduction in crime (5.7% reduction in violent crime and 9.9% reduction in non-violent crime) as compared to calendar year 2000. Another goal is to reduce traffic accidents by concentrating on speeding and failure to yield the right-of-way violations. Comparing data from calendar year 2000 to calendar year 2001,

indicated a 2.6% reduction in traffic accidents, and a 44% increase in traffic citations.

In the area of fire prevention and safety, the City purchased and placed into service a new 70 foot aerial platform truck with a 1,500 gallons per minute pump. This truck is used to supplement the 26-year old ladder truck. At a cost of \$514,663 this valuable purchase will help the city maintain its ISO Class 3 insurance rating. This rating helps to

keep your insurance premiums lower. Other important purchases included SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus) for our firefighters. Such modern respiratory protection equipment includes system integrated safety features such a motion alarms and distress alarms.

During the past year, the Fire Department responded to 859 alarms compared to 936 alarms the previous year. Another improvement was the reduction in civilian fire injuries

from two fatalities and three injuries to four civilian injuries and no fatalities. Fortunately, the City can report no loss-time injuries to firefighters during the year. Fire safety and prevention accounted for 528 inspections and safety education classes at the station as well as city schools, churches, and other public areas.

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Where there's water . . .

. . . retail water—you'll find the City of Anderson. After more than two and a half years of negotiations, the City will close on April 17, 2002 on the sale of the retail water system from Duke Energy. This is also the date that the Anderson County Joint Municipal Water System, of which the City is a member, will close on the sale of the wholesale system. While the initial purchase will require a rate increase, the Anderson community will benefit from local ownership and caring efforts to maintain

a reasonably priced and quality water system versus private and/or foreign ownership with no community ties. Your city government worked diligently to represent your interests for the present and the future.

Got Water?

So you've moved and need water service?

Don't know who to call if you suspect a leak or where to go to pay your bill?

Beginning April 18, the City's new division, Electric City Utilities, will be available to answer your questions, provide water service, and meet the needs of retail water customers - residential, commercial, and industrial. The following information is meant to help the city's citizens and customers transition their water service from Duke Energy to the Electric City Utilities with as little inconvenience as possible.

Location:

To apply for service for water and/or sewer, visit the Electric City Utilities office at 314 Tribble Street.

Telephone Contacts:

Call (864)260-6347 during office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For after hours and weekend emergencies, the telephone number is (864)231-2280.

Payments:

Payments are due within 15 calendar days. Second notices will be reminders by automated phone call prior to service disconnection. Payments can be made by bank draft, MasterCard or Visa as well as by mail, remitted to Post Office Box 208, Columbia, SC 29202-0208. Walk-in payments will be accepted at the Duke Power office at 200 Bleckley Street.

Irrigation Meters

Summer months are typically the heavier water

usage months. Customers are encouraged to apply for an irrigation meter for water consumption used to water lawns, fill swimming pools, etc. Remember that water used for these purposes is not processed through the sewer system and thus can serve to lower your sewer costs if metered separately. Effective April 18, the cost for the installation of this meter is discounted to \$200. This incentive replaces the sewer ceiling adjustments previously provided during the summer months. Customers interested in this option should visit the operations office at 314 Tribble Street and complete an application.

Visit our web site

www.cityofandersonsc.com

CITY OF ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL ADOPTED BUDGET For Fiscal Year 2001 - 2002

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY (All Funds)

	00/01	01/02
General Fund	\$18,713,823	\$19,872,662
Sewer Fund	6,078,886	6,131,597
Community Development Fund	1,572,080	1,424,419
Transit Fund	416,152	438,000
Endowment Fund	182,000	182,000
Perpetual Care Fund	55,000	55,000
	\$27,017,941	\$28,103,678

Mission Statement

THE CITY OF ANDERSON EXISTS TO provide for the safety and general well-being of its citizens and visitors. It strives to create, enhance, and maintain a positive quality of life and a healthy environment in which to live, work, and play. The City seeks to create an environment, which fosters economic development and economic opportunity.

The City assumes a leadership role in determining the future of the community and serves as a forum for identifying and addressing the needs of the community. The City actively forms partnerships with other governments, the private sector, community groups and organizations in order to address these needs. Further, the City seeks to be a growing community and also works to enrich the existing community. The City continually strives to provide, through its employees, the highest quality of services in an efficient and effective manner.

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