

***CITY OF CHUBBUCK  
STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS  
MAYOR STEVEN M. ENGLAND  
JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup> 2010***

As I begin my second term serving as your Mayor, I reiterate what I said at the beginning of my first term. To hold this office is an honor, a privilege and a sacred trust that is still at the core of my commitment. I thank the citizens of Chubbuck for their friendship, encouragement, and support. It is impossible for me to know each individual in the city personally, but I feel the sense of community that is alive and well here. Each day still presents new challenges and learning opportunities.

We begin 2010 with a change in our city council. We have appreciated the service of both Dennis Stoddard and Becky Ponkow and wish them well as they step down from public service. We look forward to working with Josh Ellis and Kevin England as they begin their tenure in office.

As you know, Pocatello has a new Mayor. Mayor Roger Chase has been good to work with over the years and always very considerate of Chubbuck and willing to partner in ways that benefited our entire community. His strength, encouragement, and experience have had a huge impact on our area. He will be missed and we thank him for his service. We are anxious to continue our mutually beneficial relationship with Pocatello and look forward with optimism to working with Mayor Brian Blad.

Several of our long term employees have retired in the last 4 years and we have a few more that will soon follow. We have been fortunate to have some new employees and some existing employees who have adjusted their assignments to benefit the city into the future. We have qualified and capable people working for the city, and I very much enjoy serving with them.

We continued to experience a slowdown in growth throughout 2009. Even though we still receive inquiries, the sluggish financial situation locally and particularly nationally are having major impacts on the growth or expansion of business in our community. I believe our area is, in many ways, still moving forward and has much to be optimistic about. Let me review some of the progress that was made in the city this past year and what is proposed for this coming year and beyond.

Although we have not seen many new businesses open their doors in the city, for the most part those who are already established here are weathering the down economy. The Pine Ridge Mall has lost some businesses but is still moving forward with the possible expansion of the Party Palace and the addition of another anchor store. Both Walmart and McDonalds are planning major upgrades through remodeling their facilities the summer. The industrial park areas of our city have seen some additions and remain poised to provide places for growth as opportunities present themselves. The success and progress of our local business is very dependant on the support of our citizens and I would again encourage you to make a conscious effort to shop and do business locally.

Let me mention a few city services and projects that the city moved forward with in 2009. In the spring, we instituted our curbside recycling program and have seen it grow and become more successful. We distribute more collection carts each month and through some funding made available by the Walmart Employees, have been able to provide a community collection bin at the city offices. We continue to look for ways to make this program more successful.

In the summer and early fall through advice and input from our police senior staff, animal control officers, and an advisory committee, several suggestions were made for much needed improvements for our animal control facility. As a result of these suggestions, upgrades to the facility were made through donations of material and labor by various local businesses supported by some city funding and employees. We anticipate a few additional upgrades this year. These physical improvements together with some procedural changes give us the opportunity to have a facility and program that we can be proud of.

In the fall, through the encouragement and financial participation of the Leadership Pocatello group, we were able to locate and install two “Welcome to Chubbuck” monument signs on the Chubbuck off ramp of I-86. Key Bank employee Molly Swallow was very instrumental with Leadership Pocatello in moving this project through to completion. Dennis Jablonski at Sign-A-Rama was also invaluable in providing the design and insight for the project. These signs give us another positive element encouraging others to visit and do business in our community.

We have been able to move forward on some infrastructure projects that should be a substantial benefit to us as the economy moves toward and into recovery. Much of the Hiline Road project was completed this year with final completion scheduled for this summer. A much needed traffic signal was installed at the busy Chubbuck and Hawthorne intersection. Along with the completion of Hiline Road we will see the Yellowstone to Pocatello Creek widening project move forward and we anticipate a road improvement project on Chubbuck Road between Joy and Cole this year. We are moving toward the completion of the design and the first stages of construction of new sewer lines to the north and west and expect to see substantial progress in 2010.

We are pleased with the relationship that the city has with the Chubbuck/Pocatello Hockey Association. We thank them for the unique opportunity they provide for our community. It is our desire to work together with them to create and accomplish a vision for this program and will strive to do our part to grow and promote this activity for our area.

We continue to have a good working relationship with both governmental and non-governmental groups and organizations in our community. I have also been privileged to be involved in discussions and efforts to coordinate and support a unified and cooperative direction for the communities all along the I-15 corridor in Southeast Idaho in particular, as well as work with the Association of Idaho Cities in efforts that benefit the entire state. As we look to the future it is important that we support each other in maintaining and promoting the “quality of life” that we enjoy and work together to encourage that type of growth and development.

I don't want to conclude my remarks without acknowledging those council members, department heads and others in their departments that are responsible for developing the budgets that ultimately become the city budget. As has been very much publicized, we have dealt with shortfalls and reduced budgets for the past couple of years and they have sensitively worked with the administration to find solutions. I know it has not been easy and we are not "out of the woods" yet. I look forward to their continued effort and wanted to let them know that their hard work is noted and appreciated.

Once again I believe that I can report that the "State Of The City" is good. Even though the progress in many areas has slowed we are moving forward and have set goals to help facilitate that steady progress. Indications are that we will continue to confront major economic difficulties for a while. Many of our citizens are dealing as families and individuals with new struggles and challenges. Even small changes and efforts when accomplished as a community can make a difference as we look for better times ahead.

A joint proclamation was recently passed with Pocatello declaring our two cities the "Volunteer Capitol of the World". Even though it may sound a little presumptuous, I believe as we strive to live up to what that declaration means it will assist us in finding solutions to our economic struggles. Our collective character will be defined as much by who we are and are striving to become as it is by what we do. As city leaders we appreciate the support and positive input that we receive. I believe the future of Chubbuck is bright and pledge my best efforts to assist in our success in 2010 and beyond.

Thank You.