

As a new resident in 1997, I joined Swisher's Planning and Zoning Board. I was looking for a way to invest time in our community and there was an opening on the Planning & Zoning Board. I was asked to serve and agreed to do so. Little did I know saying "yes" to a volunteer position on Swisher's P&Z would lead to 25+ years of serving the City of Swisher.

In 2006 Swisher City Officials asked if I would lead the creation of a Swisher Community Fund (SCF). The Fund was newly launched under the umbrella of the Johnson County Foundation. As SCF Founding Member and Board President, I spearheaded a capital campaign in raising more than \$50,000 to build a children's playground next to Swisher City Hall. My goal in volunteering time with any Swisher organization is to always plan strategically. The one constant is change and it is City Council's obligation to prepare for Swisher's future and not its past.

After four election cycles with three mayors and 12 fellow council members, I chose to not run in November, 2023 for a fifth term. In my initial run in November 2007, I was humbled to have received the highest number of votes ever cast at that time, for a seat on Swisher City Council. Of the 615 registered voters then, 181 residents participated (nearly 30% of the voting population) providing me 145 votes or 80% of the total votes.

In November 2013, a contentious Swisher City Council Meeting resulted in an impromptu and simultaneous registration of both Swisher's Mayor and Swisher's City Administrator. I was Mayor Pro-Tem at the time and found myself fulfilling both positions. According to the Iowa League of Cities, this was a first for a community in Iowa. I served in both capacities until a February 2014 Special Election was held.

During my tenure, the City of Swisher has created a community library which thrives, paid off multiple bonds early, partnered with Johnson County for a \$6 million dollar project, oversaw the city's first-ever condominium development and worked with Johnson County and City of Cedar Rapids for future growth agreements. While all councils I have served with have much to be proud of, I regret that Swisher missed an opportunity in 1999 to pass city water for \$1,000,000. In March of 2023 Swisher residents again voted down bringing a city water utility to Swisher, making it one of only two municipalities in the state without a water infrastructure. My fear is this was not in the best interests of Swisher.

Throughout my service in attending an estimated 500+ meetings, I have *always* based my decisions on what I felt was best for the FUTURE of Swisher. Often such decisions were in contrast to how I may feel if I were not an elected official. Factual, research-based information guided my belief in the importance of planning in a strategic manner. There is no benefit in planning for our past.

My community engagement and leadership includes serving as an elected official on Governor Branstad's Iowa's Region 10 Workforce Development Board, chairing Kirkwood's Workplace Learning Connection Advisory Board, seven years as a Prairie Schools Foundation Board Trustee, many years as a Trustee on Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival Board as well as an Executive Member of Prairie Schools Booster Club. I appreciated each and every one of these opportunities to give something back.

Thank you to all who have offered kind words of appreciation as I end my tenure. For the future of Swisher, I encourage all incoming councils from 2024-on, to continue strategic-planning for the one thing we know is inevitable; change.