

Somewhere in the Middle

Hi.

I'm Mike.

I was sworn in as Mayor on January 6, 2025 after serving 4 years on the City Council. Mayor Stay left big Crocs to fill, but I'm happy to be here and I'm looking forward to serving the City in this role for the next four years. I'm also fortunate to be sitting in the middle of the table with four great people. Larry Farber has two years on this Council under his belt and a lifetime of public service behind him. Dave Earenfight not only served the City as Mayor for over 20 years, but he was then elected in 2022 to serve on the City Council. As we go around the table, you'll see another familiar face, Josh Bondhus, who was previously on the Council from 2019 – 2022. Josh chose not to run when his term was over, but there is work to be done and he wants to be a part of it, so he threw his baseball cap back in the ring and won a seat in the 2024 election. Last, but not least, we welcome Harley Wells. Harley and his wife, LeAnne, moved to Zimmerman in 2020 to be closer to family. Prior to moving, he served the City of Spring Lake Park for several decades on various committees, on the City Council, and then as Mayor, so he brings a wealth of experience to our corner of the world. As a whole, we have a good group, and I'm grateful for the experience and perspective each one brings to the City.

My goal for this Council is to ensure that Councilmembers and residents alike have a better understanding of the items and issues facing the City. While we, as a City, are continuing the work started by the last Council, my hope is that there is more transparency regarding what we're working on and where we're going. This Council has expressed a desire to make sure that as much information as we can share is being shared with our residents, community members and stakeholders. Regular Council meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, and for the first two months of this year, we've had an abundance of discussion items on our workshop nights (2nd Monday, monthly). Those workshop meetings will continue for the foreseeable future. All our meetings are open to the public and available to watch on demand at www.zimmerman.govoffice.com. The Council schedule is available for viewing on the City's website.

In addition, this Council is putting a premium on future planning, especially in light of the TH 169 Interchange project that will impact our community for the next 2 years and beyond. The project starts in 2025 with local connections both north and south of town, followed by construction of the interchange in 2026. You'll find information about the project inside the March newsletter. As the year goes on, we'll share more about other road projects we've got coming up, including a joint project with the County to reconstruct County Road 4 this year, Sherburne County's intention to add a roundabout at County Roads 4 and 46, and the City's plan to extend 8th Avenue South in 2026 to help residents access southbound 169 as an alternative to County Road 4.

There are a lot of big things on the horizon for our little town -- things that will require good communication and a willingness to cooperate. I'm excited to be in the middle of it all and looking forward to everything that's coming our way.

Mike