

STATE OF THE CITY

TEMPLE MAYOR MICHAEL JOHNSON

Delivered to the City Council and the City's Residents on February 5, 2024

Tonight I have the privilege, the pleasure, and the responsibility of presenting my annual State of the City address to the members of the Temple City Council, the leaders of local community groups, and the owners and operators of various businesses located within our city limits, as well as to the educators and students in our schools, the retirees and the current members of our work force in both the public and the private sectors, and to all others who are members of this wonderful community which is the City of Temple.

This is my sixth opportunity to come before you for the purpose of making an annual report to those who are present at this meeting of your City Council, as well as to those who are viewing this February 5 meeting live or who will watch it later, or those who later read my annual State of the City report.

It is my honor and a privilege to serve as Mayor of the City of Temple. And now, as I present my report on the current condition of this municipality, I would remind each of you that what we have in Temple today is the result of work done in the past by your elected officials, city employees, the members of various citizen committees, our business and community leaders, our youth and our senior citizens, our school officials, our religious leaders, and various individuals who had a heart for this community and who were willing to be involved.

First, I want to recognize the dedicated group of men and women who are the Temple City Council. We miss Tom Wallace, who faithfully served on this Council for six years but did not seek re-election last fall. And at the same time I am delighted his Ward 4 position now is represented by Hiley Miller, who had been the City Council member from Ward 3 until March 2023 when she had to resign from her former Council position as the result of moving to a different ward within Temple.

Second, I would point out that this election victory by Ms. Miller was the only contested City Council race in Temple in November 2023. Neither long-serving Council member Richard Bracknell in Ward 5 nor newcomer Alexis Boles (who had been appointed to fill the Ward 3 vacancy created by Ms. Miller's resignation) had opposition.

Third, I want to thank these City Council members who I have identified by name for their service to the City of Temple in 2023, along with our other two Council members: Howard Walden and Casey Russom. Let me point out that as part of each member's service on the City Council, he or she serves as the chair of one or two City Council committees. Also, through a vote by his fellow Council members, Mr. Bracknell in 2023 continued to serve as the Temple's Mayor Pro Tem.

With those introductory comments, I'll now report on various projects, accomplishments, and challenges in different areas of this municipal government. One word of explanation as I start my annual State of the City report: The content of my report is not prioritized, and I consider each part of this report to our citizens to be important.

THE STATE OF OUR WATER SYSTEM. By the end of 2023, the City of Temple was close to finishing a project on which we have worked for several years; namely, the installation of new water meters. These new meters should improve the efficiency and accuracy of Temple's monthly task of "meter reading". For years, this had been a tough, time-consuming job: manually removing the meter box's lid and then clearing away debris so the City employee could see and then "read the meter" before putting the lid back in place. Now, thankfully, our old manual system of reading meters has been replaced by technology which enables this former dirty, time-consuming task to be done remotely. Today, the monthly job of "meter reading" is done quicker, easier, and more accurately.

By the end of 2023, more than 90% of our old water meters had been replaced. Less than 10% old meters were still in use, and these basically are the larger non-residential meters. A delay in completing Temple's Water Meter Replacement Project basically is the result of the issues with the construction company, which our engineering firm for this project (Keck & Wood) is working to resolve.

Temple's water meter project primarily was funded by a \$1.4 million 20-year very, very low interest loan from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA). And I know that I can speak for all of our local officials in thanking GEFA for its valuable assistance to our community by making it feasible for the City of Temple to improve significantly the operation of our water distribution system.

Another major initiative in Temple's water system was announced in my State of the City address last year, it was the identification by our consulting engineering firm, Turnipseed Engineering, of six priority projects with a 2022 estimated cost of almost \$4.6 million. I pointed out in that speech that our City Council had decided the City's top priority project would be the installation of some 5,000 linear feet of a new 10-inch water line adjacent to Sage Street.

I am pleased to report that this first project is about to begin, with local funds allocated from the City of Temple's Water Fund. The City Council in December 2023 selected LCS & Associates, LLC to do this work at a cost of \$576,140.

As I conclude this part of my report, let me note that in 2023 the total number of City of Temple water customers increased by a net of 229 customers. There was an increase of 22,135,000 gallons in the volume of water purchased by this municipal government from the Carroll County Water Authority in 2023, as compared to the previous year. This local government purchased a total of 241,165,000 gallons of water from the CCWA in 2023.

The Carroll County Water Authority, as we know, is a separate governmental unit, with its own staff, funding arrangements, and legal status. Its scope of service transcends city limit lines while serving both incorporated and unincorporated parts of Carroll County. City Councilmember Howard Walden continues to do a very effective job as the City of Temple's representative on the CCWA Board.

THE STATE OF TEMPLE'S SEWER SYSTEM. Turning to the City's sewer system, let me start this part of my report by pointing out that the needs analysis and prioritization presented to the City Council by Turnipseed Engineering in 2022 identified several sewer projects with a combined projected construction cost of \$13 million. The engineering firm's top three recommended projects are: first, the

Williams Creek Interceptor, with an estimated price tag of \$3.8 million for this project's several components; second, the Villa Rosa Pump Station upgrade, at an estimated cost of some \$1.2 million; and third, the Billings Force Main, at a cost estimate of \$1.5 million.

The low bid on the overall Williams Creek Interceptor project certainly is higher than the cost estimate by Turnipseed. On October 19 the City Council selected the F. S. Scarbrough construction company to handle this project, with a cost of \$4,472,376.23. The project's preliminary phases will be paid from the City's Capital Fund, but a majority of this project's construction will not proceed until the City of Temple has secured a very low interest loan from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority to facilitate the funding for this project.

Let me point out that F. S. Scarbrough also has been selected by the City to do the Villa Rosa Pump Station upgrade, with a low bid of \$1,549,933.38 (which was some \$350,000 more than the engineering firm's estimated price). The Villa Rosa Lift Station upgrade is around 80% completed, with new operations starting in 6-8 weeks, with funding mainly from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the remaining cost to be paid from SPLOST2021.

The City of Temple's situation basically is very similar to what businesses and families have experienced in recent years; namely, construction costs have increased. And from the City of Temple's standpoint, we will make sure our revenues can handle the increased costs; otherwise, we will not move forward with this project or with our other specific projects until this local government has identified how to handle such additional costs.

In this report I won't try to name each of the City of Temple's needs in our sewer system and in our water system. But I can report that your City government now has identified our priority needs; and with the help of our consultants, we are making long-range plans in order to minimize those sudden unexpected problems which can be far more difficult to resolve and this is true of our Sewer Treatment Plant, as well as the infrastructure needed to transport sewage from individual residences, businesses, and public facilities to this treatment plant located west of Bar J Road and north of Oak Shade Road.

We continue to make improvements to our sewage treatment facilities, including the tanks, pond, and spray fields. Director Jimmy Jenkins and his very small staff do a good job. They receive little public recognition for maintaining an effective operation, but the public can be very critical if a sewage spill or some other problem occurs.

THE STATE OF TEMPLE'S PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. In addition to the various responsibilities that Director Joshua Smith and his crew have with maintaining the City's Water System, they have an even broader responsibility with this government's system of streets, sidewalks, and various other public facilities. Their routine duties include many maintenance and relatively small construction projects involving local government facilities throughout our community, including City Hall, our branch library, and the Public Works building and related facilities at the end of Montgomery Street. In addition, this department sometimes provides extra manpower by working cooperatively with our small maintenance staff in the City Park.

In an average month, Mr. Smith and his crew will respond to approximately 100 separate work orders, including utility "locates" and water and sewer leaks, street sign replacements, pothole and sidewalk repairs, various maintenance issues at the sewer lift stations, working with the construction

companies under contract to this local government for various street and utility repairs, and the annual “put up” and “take down” of the City of Temple’s Christmas lights and other decorations for events such as Founder’s Day and the tree lighting.

This department works with the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Carroll County government, and private contractors on street and road construction and repair projects. A combination of our aging infrastructure and of our steady growth keeps this department very busy, as do late night and weekend “emergency-type” calls. A good example of our positive city-county working relationship was the resurfacing work on Billings Road and Rocking D Road.

The City of Temple is continuing its initiative to upgrade our Public Works Department’s facilities. During the past few years, we have taken steps to provide larger and better storage facilities. Also, the City purchased the lot at the corner of Montgomery Street and Matthews Street, where we plan to build an administrative and operations building.

Now to conclude this part of my report, let me identify two other projects. First, while we will continue to “get down and dirty” with various public works activities, we have started the process of checking out various acoustic analysis technologies to detect water leaks. Second, the City is working on a long-range, major sidewalk project which will run from our downtown business district along Rome Street to the City Park (where many recreation facilities and the Temple Senior Center are located) and then on to the two public schools on Rainey Road). This project is in the Preliminary Engineering phase, with funding from the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant and SPLOST2021.

Now, I want to turn from the construction, brick-and-mortar part of our service delivery to that part of our government through which we provide services to our local residents and businesses: namely, public safety, parks and recreation, senior services, planning and zoning, community development services, and solid waste collection and disposal. And it’s appropriate for me to start with what is by far our largest department in this local government:

THE STATE OF TEMPLE’S POLICE DEPARTMENT. The entire City of Temple Police Department has 15 full-time employees. Thirteen of these are certified police officers. Including Chief Creig Lee, we have 13 full-time officers. Frankly, this is a small police force for a community of almost 6,000 residents located on a busy interstate highway. Yet, as a result of the pleasant and peaceful nature of most of our citizens and as a result of the effective work of our law enforcement officers, statistically the City of Temple in each of the past several years has been rated as one of the State of Georgia’s 50 safest places to live.

Our Police Station strategically is located at the intersection of U.S. 78 and Georgia 113, usually the busiest intersection in Temple. Formerly, it was a branch bank...just like our City Hall building, which is located on the other side of this intersection.

On December 2, 2019 the Temple City Council voted to name our Police Station the J. M. Rutledge Public Safety Building, in honor of a former Police Chief. Mr. Rutledge served as Temple’s Chief of Police from 1952 to 1982.

THE TEMPLE CITY HALL. During that same meeting on December 2, 2019, the City Council voted to honor a former long-time Council member by naming City Hall (the City Administration building) in honor and memory of William Simmons. Mr. Simmons, an educator, was the first African-American to serve on the City Council; and he did so from 1997 to the time of his death in 2017. Certainly, we look forward to the time when renovation of part of the William Simmons City Administration Building has been completed, so the entire building can be dedicated and placed into service.

THE STATE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. Before the end of calendar 2023, the City of Temple's Community Development Department was fully operational under the guidance of director Deidra Walker. A key significant accomplishment in 2023 was the successful completion of the State-required five-year update of the City's Comprehensive Plan. A citizens committee met several times to discuss what additions and other changes needed to be made in the 30-year plan adopted in 2018.

I and members of the City Council appreciate the involvement and contributions of our Steering Committee, as well as the Three Rivers Regional Commission staff for their important involvement in the work to review the City's 2018-adopted plan and the subsequent and continuing implementation of various parts of this broad-based plan. And let me make this observation: As the 2023 committee worked to update Temple's 30-year plan, I think all of us were somewhat surprised and very pleased to see that many objectives and goals included in the 2018 Comp Plan had been fully or substantially achieved.

In addition to discussions among themselves, the 2023 Steering Committee received information from and talked with several important resource speakers. They included former State of Georgia Secretary of State and Member of Congress Karen Handel, who also served as executive director of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, and Carroll County School Superintendent Scott Cowart. And as in 2018, our Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bracknell did a very good job serving as our committee chair.

In addition to singling-out the members of our 2023 Comp Plan Steering Committee for special recognition, I also want to call attention to the very good work by members of our City of Temple Planning Commission. I know that I and our City Council members appreciate the time and attention these six citizens give each month as they review, discuss, and make decisions or recommendations on rezoning and various other development situations. Let me recognize and thank them by name: Chairman Gary Thomas and members Terron Bivins, Troy Curtis, Greg Doster, Karen Powell, and Calvin Waters.

Deidra Walker became a City of Temple full-time employee in January 2022, with the title of Community Development Technician. And in 2022 when this local government decided to establish a Community Development Department, her responsibilities were expanded. In addition to staffing the Planning Commission and preparing most of the information for its monthly meetings dealing with zoning, land use, and related duties, she is the City's key staff contact with subdivision developers and builders. Basically, when we talk about new development and redevelopment within the City of Temple, Ms. Walker is the key contact between this local government staff and the builders and developers.

Of course, the status of new development activities varies from month to month. With that in mind, let me point out that five residential developments were underway in the City of Temple near the end of 2023: Deer Creek, Evergreen at Lakeside, Azalea Hills Phase 3, Lakeshore (Trestle Creek), and Asbury Farms.

At this point in my annual report, let me cite one example of Temple's continuing growth. The City of Temple has an agreement with the Carroll County Department of Community Development through which this municipal government receives various inspection and plan review services, as well as the enforcement of several key sections in our Development Code. Certainly, the fees charged to the City of Temple by the Carroll County government are very reasonable. And during my time as Mayor, I have been pleased with the good working relationship the City of Temple has had, and still enjoys, with Director Ben Skipper and his staff.

However, in September of 2023, I and the City Council decided it was time for the City of Temple to start handling more of the inspection and enforcement services. While the County Community Development Department continues to provide its agreed upon services, the City of Temple established the new position of Building Development Inspector, which functions as part of the City's code enforcement and inspection program. As a result, let me report and introduce as follows.

Randall Byess is the City's first Building Development Inspector, having started work in October of 2023. With the Code Enforcement Officer job currently being vacant, Mr. Byess is spending some of his weekly schedule in that area. And it should be noted that fewer code enforcement issues occur in late fall and winter because the most frequent complaints from citizens are focused on their neighbors' tall grass.

While the Building Development Inspector is a new position, the City of Temple has handled various Code Enforcement responsibilities in recent years. For some periods of time in the past this position has been considered to be part of the City's law enforcement service; at other times it has been part of the City Administration, with this office being in City Hall.

THE STATE OF THE TEMPLE SENIOR CENTER AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT. I want to introduce this part of my State of the City address in a different way. And I'll start by pointing out that each month I have the opportunity to write a column for the Villa Rica - Temple magazine. The title of my final column for 2023 (the December publication) was "The Importance of Temple's Major Park". Permit me to quote the opening two paragraphs from that column:

"As the City of Temple continues to grow, it is comforting to know that wise decisions made over a period of years by community leaders and other civic-minded people resulted in the development of one of our most valuable assets. And although some citizens may not recognize its real importance, I can assure you that Temple is indebted to the men and women who took the initiative to create a very important community resource; namely, our City Park. This park actually is named in honor of Harry and Glenda Shadix, to show the community's appreciation for their many years of service to the City of Temple and its citizens."

Now, as I present this part of my State of the City address, I will include some additional quotes from that column. I concluded it with these words: “We are proud of our City Park. And we encourage its use by the members of this community.”

In my comments, I pointed out that in the lobby of the Temple Senior Center at 280 Rome Street is a plaque which reads: “Temple Senior Center dedicated to Harry & Glenda Shadrix for long-term service to the City of Temple, this 7th day of June 2004.” During the past few years, this City government has completed various structural and major system upgrades in this building. These include remodeling the large assembly/dining room and kitchen. Director Sandra Stillwell and her small staff do a very good job, including preparing more than 600 meals each week; and of this number, approximately 65 percent are home-delivered by the Center.

Approximately 350 senior citizens are members of the Temple Senior Center. And various activities are available to them, ranging from table games, pool, and other events in this building to one-day field trips and international travel opportunities.

Next door at 240 Rome Street is the Gene Yearty Gym, in which the City Recreation Department offices are located. This building includes a full-size gymnasium and some activity rooms. (And let me point out that in 2024 I look forward to our Municipal Court being able to conclude its 10-year use of a significant amount of “activity room” space in this building. And that will happen when Temple’s Municipal Court can start using the large multi-purpose assembly room in that remodeled part of City Hall. Once this happens, our Rec Department will be able to book and to use all of the Gene Yearty Gym.

In 2023, a variety of activities were held in this gym, including basketball, volleyball, wrestling, dance instruction, etc. From an age standpoint, it ranged from young children to those who participated in the “silver sneakers” fitness program.

The park itself contains more than 40 acres. There are several ballfields, walking tracks, the large Powell – Luke Pavilion, restrooms, concession stands, and parking areas. I commend our Rec Director Ingrid McKinley and her staff for the job they do in maintaining the park and in handling our various rec programs.

And I’ll conclude this part of my State of the City address by encouraging our citizens to enjoy this very good amenity in Temple.

THE FINANCIAL STATE OF THE CITY OF TEMPLE. From the standpoints of having diversified and sufficient revenue streams, Fiscal Year 2023 was a very good year for the City of Temple. From the standpoint of being a good steward of our public dollars, I believe the safeguards we have in place continue to work effectively. We are fortunate to have continuing growth and development, and this certainly will provide additional revenues to cover a significant portion of the extra costs usually inherent in growth. In summary, I believe the City of Temple is healthy, from a fiscal perspective.

However, it would be inappropriate to underscore the good fiscal health of the City of Temple without reporting a significant financial issue. The City of Temple government continues to be delinquent in completing its annual audit and in meeting State of Georgia deadlines for filing this annual

financial document. Even as I make my annual report for the City's 2023 fiscal year, the FY2022 audit still has not been completed.

The City of Temple Finance Director resigned in April 2023. Therefore, the City expanded the scope of its contract with Financial Consultant Rick in order for him to do more work on budget and audit matters.

There have been delays in preparation of the FY2022 audit. In fact, the Will Robinson CPA firm is awaiting the final documents so it can complete the City of Temple's FY2022 Audit. Upon completion, it will be made available to the general public as well as our elected officials. After completion of the FY2022 audit, we are optimistic that the FY2023 Audit can be completed in a timely manner, namely by the June 30, 2024 deadline.

In this February 5 State of the City address, I want to present a few facts which I believe confirm the financial strength and stability of this local government.

I will start by talking about Revenues. And here are the points I want to underscore:

When a local government has financial difficulties, one or both of these two things normally happen: taxes are increased, and services are reduced. I have been the Mayor of this city for six years; and in each of these six years, our fiscal stability and our continuing growth and development have made it possible for your City elected officials to reduce the property tax millage rate. In 2017, Temple's property tax rate was 6.425 mills. The City Council and I were able to cut this tax rate to 6.127 mills in 2018 and to 5.598 mills in 2019.

Two years later, we had reduced the tax millage rate for the City of Temple down to 5.171 mills. And when we set the City's tax millage rate in 2023, it was 4.299 mills. Thus, during these years that I and the City Council have worked together to maintain financial stability in Temple, the property tax rate was cut from 6.425 mills down to 4.299 mills. That equates to a 33 percent reduction in the property tax rate in Temple during the past six years.

During the past four fiscal years, the City of Temple's revenues -- not including Federal and State grants and loans -- have increased by approximately \$1,145,000. That's an average annual increase of approximately \$380,000. And certainly, we have tried to make good use of those additional funds, in order to maintain and/or increase services to our existing citizens and businesses as well as meeting the needs of our expanding community.

With that in mind, I want to make a brief report to you regarding how the City of Temple has spent the dollars which you have entrusted to me, the members of the City Council, and our staff.

For Fiscal Year 2022, the City of Temple General Fund budget adopted in December 2021 showed anticipated revenues of \$4,541,667. A year later the anticipated revenues figure had risen by more than \$793,616 to a total figure of \$5,335,283, as reflected in the FY2023 budget. (And for your information, the parallel General Fund budget adopted in December 2023 showed anticipated revenues of \$5,487,531 for the 2024 fiscal year.)

Parallel information regarding the City's Water Fund showed anticipated revenues of \$3,861,945 for FY2022, of \$4,165,057 for FY2023, and now \$4,201,457 for FY2024.

Thus, you certainly can see how this municipality is growing, just by looking at the increase in revenues that this government can use in providing various services to Temple's residents, visitors, and businesses.

Now, let me talk about the Expenditure side. And here are the points I want to underscore:

From an expenditure standpoint, I and your City Council members have worked together to make sure we provided quality service to our growing residential population and our expanding industrial and commercial base. You can see this in the growth of our General Fund and Water and Sewer Fund annual budgets, as well as in State and Federal grant funds that this government has successfully sought.

A key factor that I and members of the City Council always keep in mind is this: Be cautious in proceeding with any project where we don't have sufficient money in hand and aren't sure when, or if, we are going to receive those funds.

I reported to you earlier that for FY2022, our General Fund budget showed anticipated revenues of \$4,541,667. Then for FY2023, this total had increased to \$5,335,283. Now for FY2024, the City of Temple's General Fund budget shows anticipated revenues of \$5,487,531. Thus, over this three-year period, the anticipated increase in revenues is \$945,864.

From a parallel standpoint, our FY2022 General Fund budget showed budgeted expenditures of \$4,960,688. The parallel amount for the FY2023 General Fund budget was \$5,587,058. And now the FY2024 General Fund budget shows anticipated expenditures of 5,487,531. So, over this same three-year period, the anticipated increase in expenditures is projected to be some \$526,843.

Also, our FY2022 Water and Sewer Fund budget showed budgeted operating expenses of \$3,439,724. Then for FY2023, this total had increased to \$3,778,219. Now for FY2024, the City's Water and Sewer Fund budget shows anticipated operating expenses of \$4,371,303. Thus, over this three-year period, the anticipated increase in operating expenses is \$931,579.

I am delighted to offer this observation: In each of these two fiscal years, the dollar amount for budgeted expenditures was more than the dollar amount of the actual expenditures. And that gives me a good "comfort level" as I review the recently adopted FY2024 City of Temple General Fund and Water and Sewer Fund budgets.

THE STATE OF THE CITY OF TEMPLE'S GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION. I'll conclude my annual State of the City presentation by reporting on Temple's governance and administration. My comments are divided into four parts. I'll start with a report which encompasses the totality of our local government. Then, in sequence, I'll comment on the valuable contributions of our citizens who serve on various boards, commissions, and committees. Next, I'll recognize the valuable service of our elected officials. Then, I'll conclude with some comments pertaining to our City employees.

THE CITY OF TEMPLE IS RECOGNIZED AS A CITY OF CIVILITY. There are more than 350 cities in the State of Georgia, ranging from the very large City of Atlanta to incorporated towns with less than 400 residents. All of these cities are members of the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). Within the past

two years, GMA established a new standard for Georgia cities. If an individual municipality met a series of qualifications, it would be eligible to become a “City of Civility”.

I am pleased to report that in 2023 the City of Temple was recognized by the Georgia Municipal Association for meeting the requirements to become a City of Civility. One step in this process was adoption of a resolution pledging to practice and promote civility within our city and especially within this local government. The GMA-provided resolution, adopted by the City Council in April, included a pledge to practice and promote civility within this local government and with our citizens.

We are pleased that Temple is among the local governments in Georgia who have met the criteria to be identified as a City of Civility. And I would observe that the conduct of our City Council meetings month after month in 2023 was an accurate reflection of our collective commitment to show respect for each other and for our citizens, even when we aren’t in agreement with each other.

CITIZEN BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES. A “State of the City” presentation would not be complete without calling attention to the contributions made throughout the year by the men and women who give of their time and talents to making this local government operate more effectively. And for all of our citizens and businesses who were involved in serving in some way with a citizen board, committee, or commission in Temple in 2023, I want to thank you for giving of your time.

Earlier in this State of the City report I called attention to those who served last year on the Temple Planning Commission and/or on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Thank you for your commitment, your insights, and your involvement.

A “thank you” also goes to those who served on the Special Events Committee. The feedback we received from those who participated last year in Founder’s Day and/or in our Christmas tree lighting certainly can attest to the great job done by this committee.

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS. I want to thank the members of our State Legislative delegation for their individual and collective commitment to represent the interests of our citizens and our community.

I certainly want to thank each member of the City Council of 2023 for his/her collective and individual service and commitment to the welfare and forward progress of the Temple community. I enjoyed working in 2023 with each of you, and I look forward to another productive year in 2024...for this local government and for our community. And I want to say to former City Councilmember Tom Wallace that I appreciate his service to this community and that the City of Temple is a better place because of the contributions he made during the six years that he was a member of this body.

OUR CITY STAFF MEMBERS. In recognition of their valuable service in 2023, I want to thank all of our City of Temple employees.

And as I conclude my State of the City report tonight, I think it is fitting for my concluding comments to pertain to a City of Temple employee who will be retiring from this local government in less than three weeks.

Approximately ten years ago the City of Temple had had several City Administrators to work here for only a short time; and then, for whatever reasons this local government had “to go back to the drawing board”. City officials were made aware of the approaching retirement of the City Manager of Douglasville. An interview was scheduled with that individual, who was retiring as City Manager of Douglasville after 24 years in that position...along with previous work as a consultant to that local government.

I’m told that at the end of the interview, Bill Osborne was offered the job of Temple City Administrator. He accepted; and now is in his ninth year as our City Administrator. Although he now is 84, he tells me that he may be back on the job market soon just because he enjoys working. And that work experience goes back to mid-1950s. Certainly, we wish him well in retirement or in some new job. I know he has enjoyed his time with the City of Temple, and I know all of us appreciate the job he has done for us and for our community.

CLOSING COMMENT. From this State of the City address that I have presented to you, it is obvious that the City of Temple accomplished many things in 2023 and it is also obvious that various challenges remain. To my elected colleagues in the City of Temple, to our staff, and to the residents and businesses in this community, my concluding thought is this:

We have come a long way and have accomplished a lot, and we still have to go further in order for the City of Temple to reach its potential.

May God bless Temple, and may God bless each of you.

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