I anticipate seeing many of you at the 57th Annual Employee Service Awards dinner, to be held Thursday, February 27th at the Veterans’ Memorial Center. This event is another way the City demonstrates the significance and value of our employees, and thanks them for their years of service, their contributions, and their accomplishments.

This year, we will not only be honoring full-time employees, but also part-time and limited-service employees, beginning at 10 years of service and in five-year increments thereafter. In addition to acknowledging those who attained certain service milestones during 2019, we also will be celebrating those who last year won our Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Awards.

The event begins with a social gathering with drinks and appetizers, where honorees and guests mingle. I will be your emcee, welcoming to the podium our Department Directors with their remarks about each honoree before we pose for portrait photos with one of our five City Councilmembers.

Those City officials and employees being recognized, and their one guest each, are hosted by the City. Tickets for additional guests and others wishing to attend are $15 per person. Reservations can be made through your Department Secretary up to Thursday, February 20th.

Showing up to support your colleagues, and being engaged in their moment, is meaningful to everyone. We share a belief in the value of teamwork and a spirit of cooperative effort.

This will be a fun evening. You will learn more about your co-workers in many departments, and see how each of us fits into the big picture. The prepared remarks shared by Department Directors illuminate what each employee contributes to our City family. What we do at all levels is important to the mission and vision of the City in a positive way.

Before and after this event, we are preparing our next biennial budget. This important exercise discusses the City’s financial outlook, desired projects, and seeks to strengthen teamwork.

We began with a budget overview on February 10th with Department Directors and Management Analysts. This will be followed by a Council goal-setting workshop. Budget instructions will be issued on February 19th. By law, we are required to adopt a balanced budget by the end of June.

I know that our employees are up to this challenge. Thank you for your service, your innovation, your contributions. If not for your dedication to public service and teamwork, we could not offer the professional and responsive services that we do.

Jason