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# Message from the Mayor

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Happy New Year!

Everyone once again faced a challenging year in 2021. We, as a City, remain nimble as possible in order to navigate these unparalleled times. It is especially important to recognize and celebrate our achievements of this year and stay true to our goals going forward. Please allow me a brief summary of some of our future endeavors as a benchmark going in to 2022:

1. We continue to see economic impacts as a result of Covid-19, so it is imperative that we reevaluate the City budget and prioritize accordingly. ARPA funds will enable us to put a significant investment in to improving our infrastructure. We will be hiring additional staff this year to better meet our growing City's service delivery needs and to help maintain our public spaces. We will look at tourism, economic development and broadband initiatives to make certain that we are well positioned for the future. We will seek to create efficiencies through service contracts, partnerships, and internal staff positioning in a way that ensures the delivery of top-tier services.
2. We will take action regarding our efforts in managing growth. The ClemsonNext initiative has been key in allowing our citizens their input on how growth in our City could look. Numerous volunteers were involved in the process of gathering this information and summarizing it before it was presented to City Council for consideration. The list of recommendations will be placed on the City's website to allow the public to track our progress towards accomplishing the work. We are in the critical phase of transitioning from planning to action; I encourage your continued participation.
3. "Town Halls" and "Conversations with Council" were a start to increasing citizen engagement and fostering better communication between City Council and the Community. We have been able to address several concerns that were revealed in these forums and continue to work on others. This year will bring a new group (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission of Council) to further our efforts in making sure all voices in our community are heard and that diversity and inclusiveness are ingrained in our culture.
4. Helping our businesses and residents remains a priority and requires that we be astute and engaged in this ever-changing environment. We will continue to look for innovative ways to support business and keep our residents safe and healthy. Further, we must never lose sight of our core/city services that are essential to the health and safety of our Community.



I am thankful for our Clemson Community and look forward to an Energized and Productive 2022!

As always, I want to hear from you. I use social media as a way to distribute information but never as a catalyst for conversation. Call me. I am happy to sit down over a cup of coffee. Let's Talk!

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*Go Tigers!*

*Mayor Robert Halfacre*

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