



Mayors Fall 2018 Newsletter

By Mark Korin

TO BE CONTINUED..... will be no more. As the old saying goes, “It’s not over until the fat lady sings” and I hear her song loud and clear. I made the very tough and difficult decision to write another chapter in my life. I chose not to run for re-election, to be your voice as the Mayor for the city of Oak Grove, Minnesota. Looking back I have spent the last 26 years of my life actively involved in Oak Grove leadership. I have held every volunteer position and appointed as Chairman for both the Parks and the Planning and Zoning Commissions writing ordinances, policies and helped rewrite the last four Comprehensive plans. I served as a City Council member for two years prior to being elected as your Mayor. In my first Mayoral four year term, I was appointed to work as the Interim City Administrator for almost a year and did so for no additional pay. It has been a privilege to work for you as your Mayor for the last eight years with a decisive common sense voice, bringing positive changes and conservatism, with promises of making reduced government operations a reality. Working diligently, we accomplished the impossible by **lowering taxes 34%**, but more importantly, holding the spending down, allowing the levy to stay at a **ZERO PERCENT INCREASE** after the reductions and holding strong for the last six years. What this means to our residents is we started as the 19th HIGHEST taxed city out of 25 and became the **LOWEST TAXED CITY** in all of Anoka County. By the way, we have stayed there for the last three years! As Mayor, I shared my knowledge of what I have learned from both local government operations and in the private sector sharing the years of problem solving, management and business expertise. I have held firm to my beliefs and kept steadfastly to the goals I have promised from the very beginning of being elected. I stood up decisively against the naysayers and entrenched government growers and proved them wrong. The City Council and I have led the city with proven private sector business values, allowing city operations to function more efficiently, but focused on “best operational and lowest costs possible at the best value for the needed services”. **The changes we implemented over the last 10 years for our city have been monumental, unmatched across this state.** I viewed the title of Mayor to be a hands-on job, not just a position, one that would focus on correcting government operations, speaking out as your voice, to make the tough decisions to right size the staff, the benefits, the budgets and make “**Oak Grove Great Again**”. I also had the honor to be the lead for Oak Grove at the Capitol driving the never ending mission to take our city back from an out of touch, unreasonable, over bearing Met Council and bring back major decisions dealing with development rights and growth direction to the leadership of our own community. There are many aspects of this position that I am going to miss. **Most of all**, I am going to miss meeting people across our city, county and state that I would never have had an opportunity to meet otherwise. A special thank you to all the residents that put your faith in me, that supported our goals, our mission and supported our decisions throughout the years. All I ask is that you, as residents, elect strong knowledgeable leadership willing to stand firm against unreasonable government intrusion by using the foundations we have worked so hard to build. That brings me to this; in every one of my articles from the very beginning I have closed with a “**TO BE CONTINUED.....**” Well, **GOD** has a path for all of us. So instead, I would like to leave you with this. May **GOD** continue to bless each and every one of you. May **GOD** continue to bless our great city, the leadership and most importantly, keep our first responders safe. And last but not least, may **GOD** continue to bless all of the wonderful staff that keeps our city operating, safe and a great place to live, work and call home. **UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.....**