



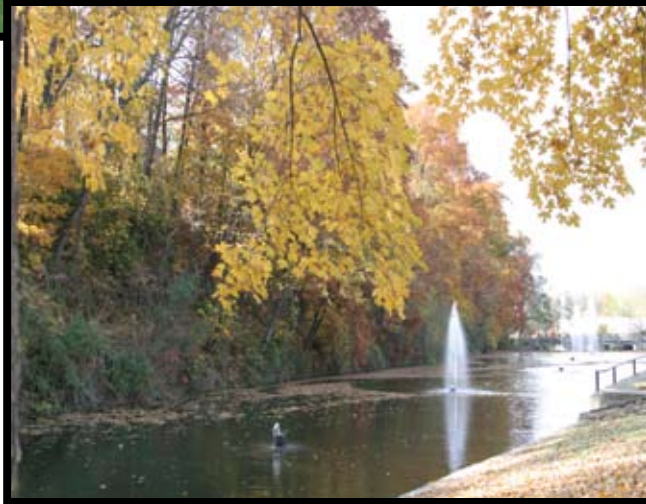
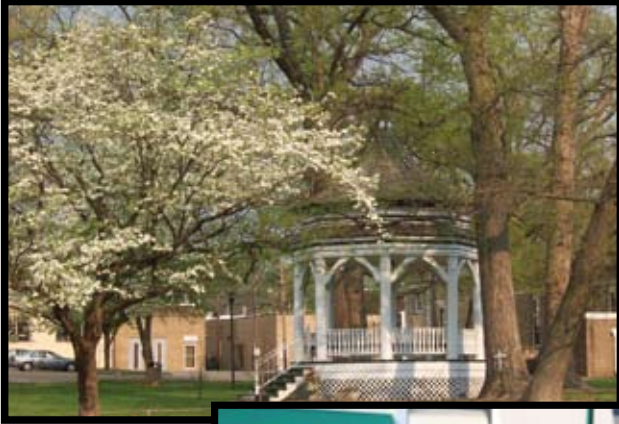
2009

City of Siloam Springs

A Year in Review
A Look Toward the Future

David Cameron, City Administrator





Our Mission:

To deliver effective municipal services through the partnership of community and government.

Our Focus:

Growth Management Finance
Technology Employees
Communication

Mayor

David Allen

Board of Directors

John Turner

James Fuller

Danny Wasson

Judy Nation

Ken Wiles

Carol Smiley

Mark Long

City Administrator

David Cameron

Contact us:
City Administration Building
400 N. Broadway
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

(479) 524-5136

Produced by:
The City of Siloam Springs

Quick Facts

Police Department Facts

5, 101 calls received from 911
6 minute average response time for a 911 call (including non-emergency calls)
7 officers completed basic LE Academy
32 certified officers
4 certified officers at command level
19 full-time support staff
1 part-time support staff

The police department also installed and implemented a new computer aided dispatch program that gives officers more information on possible suspects and repeat offenders.



Library Facts

1,638 new memberships
113,954 materials loaned
24,566 Internet users

Animal Shelter Facts

2,349 total visitors
212 dogs adopted
142 cats adopted
571 licenses issued
3,277 animal control calls

Recycling Facts

757 tons of newsprint, cardboard, tin cans, plastics, glass, aluminum and scrap metal recycled
\$92,982 additional revenue on recyclable goods
\$22,539.59 saved in tipping fees from the landfill by recycling.
25-30 percent of households regularly recycle
2.45 percent of all the trash collected in Siloam Springs is all that's recycled
31,000 tons of trash hauled to the landfill for a cost of **\$924,000**

Code Enforcement

190 call-in complaints
712 field initiated complaints

Of those complaints, 503, or 52 percent were regarding tall grass, weeds or trees. Twenty-two percent, 202, had to do with sign issues or sign permits. Trash and debris accounted for nine percent, or 83 of the total complaints, and inoperative/unlicensed vehicles and improper storage each accounted for five percent of the complaints.



Dear Community,

I want to begin by apologizing for the tardiness of this year's State of the City newsletter. The final months of 2008 and January 2009 were utilized for completing the hospital sale and addressing the recent ice storm.

It's once again time to reflect on the significant moments of the past year, and look ahead to our 2009 agenda. It's been an exciting year for the City, with noteworthy accomplishments and groundwork laid for future growth and expansion. We also addressed a number of challenging issues where both the Board of Directors and the voters were asked to make difficult decisions.

Financial

Continuing a trend that has spanned over four years, Siloam Springs once again has a balanced budget. In these uncertain economic times, it's more important than ever that we continue to look to balance our spending with our revenue streams. In order to do so, we must continue to look for ways to diversify our revenue streams, rather than just raising utility rates. It's important that we continue to evenly distribute the cost of operating the local government. In the last 18 months we have renegotiated contracts and established fee schedules that will generate an additional \$1 million per year for our community without raising your utility rates. Had the City

attempted to collect these fees via rates, it would have cost each residential user approximately \$13.00 more per month. We are proud of this accomplishment.



It's always a challenge to allocate funds everywhere they are needed without depriving our citizens of any services, but City staff has done an excellent job continuing the tradition of a balanced budget. Though our community grew in excess of 29 percent from the last census, the size of our City staff grew 18 percent.

Streets

In 2008, Progress Avenue was finally opened. The completion of this project begins a vision that started long ago, of Progress Avenue being an area of growth and opportunity for economic development. Progress Avenue will only grow in importance as two of our most visible signs of progress, our new hospital and high school, will be built alongside it. In addition to Progress Avenue, we completed three streets this year. We extended Dogwood Street between Jefferson and Tulsa, we reconstructed North Hico, adding a center turn lane, and we completed the reconstruction and much needed drainage improvements on Country Club Road. We also began the \$1.5 million street widening and drainage improvement project on North Carl Street that will bene-

fit the traffic flow near Northside Elementary, the Middle School, and Allen Elementary.

Highway 412

A project that continues to generate a number of questions is the status of the Highway 412 widening project. The City has relocated approximately 90 percent of the electric lines, and continues to secure easements for relocating water and sewer utilities. According to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department the widening project will be advertised for bids in April 2009.

City Lake

One of our biggest projects from the end of 2008 is carrying over into early 2009, the improvements at City Lake. The City signed an agreement with the Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) that said SWEPCO would invest \$3.5 million into the City's infrastructure to improve City Lake and to improve water quality and volume downstream of the lake, and to improve the volume of water being sold to SWEPCO. We estimate this will generate an additional \$300,000 of revenue for our community each year in addition to the \$3.5 million investment in the Lake itself. In 2009 we are going to explore the idea of putting in a recreational area at City Lake, making it a destination where families can go and spend the day.

Historical Landmarks

During 2008 and 2009, the City, with some collaboration with outside parties, worked on some of our town's most notable landmarks. With the Oak Hill Cemetery Association, the paths through the cemetery were paved and the mausoleum received some much needed repair and maintenance work. The Oak Hill Cemetery Association also made a gift to the cemetery of a new columbarium with an angel on top. Right now we are replacing the rock walls in the section of the Sager Creek behind the library, putting in stones that will step down to the creek at a 45 degree angle and removing the concrete dam. This, along with the addition of large rocks, will allow the creek to flow as naturally as possible, and will create pools that will increase the health of the creek.

Drainage

Drainage continues to be a significant issue for City staff, and in 2009 we plan to make significant progress. Staff is currently addressing more imminent needs while also creating a master drainage plan. The community can expect to see the City begin construction of the six acre Lincoln Street regional detention pond. This project is being financed through a cost share agreement between the City, Crye-Lieke Realtors and the Second Baptist Church. We also purchased land in 2008 for the construction of another regional detention pond in the

Tara Heights and Willow Court area. In 2008 the City added a full-time surveying technician that will benefit the City Engineer's office, particularly when it comes to drainage issues.

Community Development

The housing market may have slowed some this year, but this allowed our Community Development department time to work on some in-house projects. They were able to complete the H-1 zoning overlay district, adding standards for building in historical areas. They also drafted revisions to an existing sign ordinance that was adopted in 1997. Admittedly, the proposed revisions were controversial, yet with positive collaboration from the business community and the City, we were able to come to a good resolution. In March, the City adopted by resolution the Siloam Springs 2030 Comprehensive Plan, which gives a unified vision for the future. This year we also asked the voters to consider annexing additional land into our City limits. The majority of voters did not agree it was in the community's best interest at this time, and we appreciate you for communicating with your local government by voting.



Oklahoma

We renegotiated our contracts with West Siloam Springs, Oklahoma this year to continue

providing them with water and sewer services, and signed new contracts for secondary fire and EMS. Our former contracts with West Siloam Springs had expired and their community had grown and developed to the point that more structure was needed. Our objective was to make sure that cost share was allocated properly, and we were able to work with them and negotiate agreements that do not place the entire burden of infrastructure and cost upon the City of Siloam Springs, but equally distributes the cost to everyone who uses it. We also were able to agree, just prior to the end of the year, to providing EMS service to the citizens of West Siloam Springs and secondary fire service to the city of West Siloam Springs and to the casino.

Late last year we made a very difficult decision to discontinue EMS service into Adair and Delaware Counties. Given the economy and the cost, the City could simply no longer pro-

vide this service without some form of subsidy. We were able to work out a contract with West Siloam Springs, but in spite of this positive step, there was still tremendous disappointment in the outcome. We initially believed the issue would be resolved during the eighteen months of advance notice we provided. It is an unfortunate situation that I hope will move towards a resolution in 2009.

Lawsuits

The City was also involved in two lawsuits this year. We're still awaiting a judge's decision on the jail's potential settlements, and are limited in our comments other than that the City is admitting no fault and that the payout cannot exceed \$1.85 million.

As a result of this lawsuit, the City ultimately made the decision to close the Siloam Springs Jail, the last city operated jail in Northwest Arkansas, in order to prevent future liabilities. In 2009, I anticipate closure to the lawsuit regarding the land involved along the Illinois River.

Looking Ahead

There are many things we're looking forward to during 2009. A lot of time was spent so far in working to finalize contracts with Community Health Systems regarding the sale of Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital. The final contracts on this deal were signed in late January 2009, and we hope to have a new hospital open in 2012. In 2008 the City



made a \$50,000 contribution to Siloam Springs Youth Baseball in anticipation of their 2009 regional tournament for the Little League World Series. This is going to be a great opportunity for our town, and will bring a lot of people in to visit. Be sure to come out and support the youth baseball program. We're also hoping to add a new section to the Dogwood Springs walking trail. This section is a joint project with JBU and would add 1.74 miles to the existing trail system. This will loop the trail from its current end at the corner of University and Dogwood streets around the JBU campus, where it will join the existing trail near Oak Hill Cemetery.

The challenges of 2009 are going to be more drainage projects, continuing to diversify revenue streams, finding funding solutions, addressing the "gateway pond," where to go with our library, and continued economic development. We will also begin construction of the wastewater treatment plant, which came in over budget, so we're going to explore strategies to pay off that cost. Not only that, but our water plant is starting to reach capacity, so we're looking at infrastructure improvements to that facility as well. We will be

extending East Tahlequah Street to connect Country Club to Progress Avenue, and we hope to start construction of an additional Tahlequah extension, adding four lanes from Progress Avenue to Highway 59. This will add another east/west route through the northern portion of the City, as well as improve access to the future hospital and high school off of Progress Avenue. We also plan to reconstruct the intersection of Lincoln and Main, adding a designated turning lane to the intersection and improving the flow of traffic. I look forward to working with my leadership team to re-evaluate the City's strategic plan and determine a fresh vision.

Since 2007 we have worked on improving communications, by improving the website, www.siloamsprings.com, our quarterly newsletter, the community guide and this state of the city newsletter. I hope to build on those efforts in 2009 to increase our communication with our community. I hope that each of you has a blessed 2009 and I thank you for the opportunity to serve this community.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Cameron". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David Cameron
City Administrator



Airport

In 2008, the Siloam Springs Municipal Airport completed a 2,000 square yard runway holding apron expansion and a 3,000 square yard terminal apron expansion. With increased operations at the airport, as well as projected additional aircraft that are going to be based at the airport, the new holding area will provide both existing runways with the ability to complete aircraft checks without delaying aircraft waiting for departure. The new additions will increase safety conditions, reduce congestion and eliminate unnecessary delays.

The final project cost was \$367,255 and was 95 percent funded by FAA AIP funds, along with 5 percent state funds, leaving the City with approximately \$450 out of pocket expense.

Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital

In early 2009 the final papers were signed to turn Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital over to Community Health Systems. Siloam Springs has had a

community owned hospital since the 1950s, but began looking for a buyer in 2006. The important thing for City officials was finding a buyer who would not only not close the local hospital in favor of an emergency care clinic, but finding a buyer who would do what was needed to keep quality health care moving forward in Siloam Springs

They found exactly what they were looking for in Community Health Systems, a company from Tennessee that owns, operates or leases more than 110 hospitals, including Willow Creek Women's Hospital and Northwest Medical Center. Community Health Systems specializes in keeping quality health care accessible to smaller communities. CHS agreed to build a new, \$40 million hospital on Progress Avenue.

Work on the new hospital is expected to be completed by 2012. At this point the City will have the option to buy the new hospital back from CHS.

Contracts with Oklahoma

In 1966 the City of Siloam Springs began providing EMS service to citizens in Adair and Delaware Counties in Oklahoma. Since this service began, the City had been asking Oklahoma counties for financial compensation for this service. In June 2007, the City told these Oklahoma counties that if they did not come up with a way to provide this compensation, the EMS services would no longer run across the state line. It came down to the last day of 2008, but on that day West Siloam Springs Mayor Elaine Carr and former Siloam Springs Mayor M.L. "Moose" Van Poucke signed an agreement that West Siloam Springs would pay Siloam Springs about \$200,000 a year to keep the service running. Now the City of Siloam Springs has contracts providing West Siloam Springs with water, sewer, fire and EMS services.



Community Development

In March of 2008, City of Siloam Springs Staff saw the approval of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. This plan took two years to research and develop, and now is in the beginning stages of implementation.

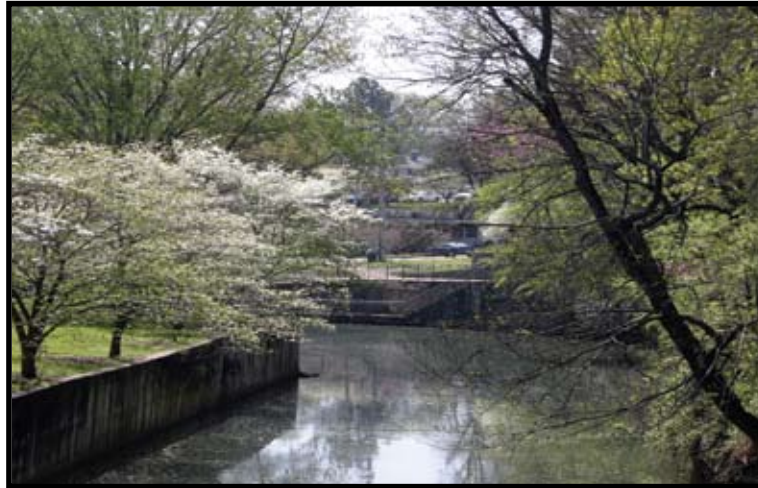
The plan was formed through the hard work of City Staff, aided by public comment sessions in which citizens shared their visions for Siloam Springs, and the collection of surveys which evaluated citizen's perceptions of Siloam Springs.

One of the key components of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan is the future land use map, which sets a plan for areas up to five miles outside of the city limits. Ongoing projects such as the 412 widening, the Sager Creek revitalization, expansion of the Dogwood Springs walking trail, the new hospital and the new high school are all addressed in the plan as well.

Staff is now busy implementing the plan, prioritizing its goals and objectives. Staff is also using taking advantage of the current economic slowdown to update zoning and out-of-date codes to ensure uniformity across our community.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

Engineering staff has begun the process of preparing a map in order to establish a Geographic Information System, or GIS, of the City. The City's new surveying/mapping technician is currently collecting initial data and preparing a base map for Internet publishing in early 2010. However, new data and viewing options are expected to be implemented on a continuing basis following initial



activation.

The base map will include existing features such as streets, parking lots, buildings and homes, property addresses, and water bodies including streams, lakes and ponds. The user will also have the option to view a high-quality aerial photo beneath the above mentioned items and may access other data including voting wards, zoning designations, parcel data, traffic counts, solid waste collections schedules, utility locations, sizes and materials, topographic

contours, flood zones and other useful information.

Such a tool will provide valuable information to the public as well as existing and prospective companies wishing to invest economic development in Siloam Springs. Loan institutions, appraisers, realtors, surveyors, engineers and others will be able to benefit from this information.

The fire department will

be able to re-view hydrant locations, water main sizes and pressure testing reports to adequately plan emergency responses. City utility crews will be able

to quickly locate the necessary water valves, sewer manholes and electric switches required for quick repair. City planners will have the ability to monitor development progress and provide accurate recommendations for proper development planning. Finally, the engineering department will be using the aerial images and topographic data in order to effectively manage and address existing drainage issues.

Sager Creek Restoration

Sager Creek is one of Siloam's most beloved landmarks, and during 2009 it will be getting a facelift designed to increase the health of the creek.



The majority of the changes will be behind the library and west, through Bob Henry Park. Crews will be removing the vertical rock walls that currently line the creek and replacing them with stones that will step down to the water, with a steep slope on the south side and a gentle slope on the north. The concrete dam downstream of the low-water bridge will be removed in order to increase the flow of the water downstream. Stones will also be placed in the creek, to create shallow dam-like structures called step pools that will create a more natural look than the old concrete dam did.

These improvements will not only enhance the appearance of the creek, but will actually help improve the quality of the water. The slow pace of the water

as it moves through downtown Siloam Springs provides an excellent environment for the growth of algae. The improvements will keep the creek moving at a faster pace, allowing less time for algae to grow and thrive.

The project is estimated to cost \$350,000. Of the \$350,000, approximately \$200,000 is being paid with a grant the city received from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. The city is matching

that grant with \$150,000 of either cash funds or "in kind" services, such as use of City crews for demolition of the dam.

Parks & Recreation

In 2008, the Parks and Recreation Department hosted 13 different types of camps in their Adventures in Exploration summer program, including sand volleyball, triathlon training, policeman, gardening and ceramics. Three hundred children attended at least one camp. Parks and Recreation is planning to offer many of these camps, and some new ones, this summer.

Other summer programs included the first Kid's Triathlon, which occurred July 12, 2008 at the Family Aquatic Center. Over forty kids, ranging in ages from 4 to 12 years old, participated. The children started in the pool, then rode their bikes, then ran the final leg of the race. The second annual Kid's Triathlon will be July 11, 2009.

In addition to these two great programs, Parks and Rec also sponsored Movies in the Park, the Kid's Fishing Derby, the Family Country Dance and Fire in the Sky, and plans to hold all



of these events again this year.

Parks and Recreation also sponsors a variety of sports programs, which rose in popularity in 2008 and early 2009. They host basketball and softball leagues, and in 2008 they debuted a co-ed sand 4 on 4 volleyball league and a co-ed indoor 6 on 6 volleyball league. They also sponsor tournaments in flag football, sand volleyball and softball.

Tulsa/Lincoln Street Detention

A cost share agreement between the City, Crye-Leike Realtors, and the Second Baptist Church resulted in the expedited construction of a six acre regional detention pond serving approximately 65 acres along Hwy. 412. Located east of the Revenue Office, this detention



pond collects and detains storm runoff from three large drainage channels.

The first channel directs water from the south and southwest. This channel has been enlarged and relocated in order to reduce flooding tendencies in the Quail Run subdivision. A smaller channel collects water from the Second Baptist Church property and the third channel brings runoff from the easternmost end of Main Street. Therefore, these improved channels and the new basin will immediately reduce downstream flooding potential.

North Carl Street

The \$1.5 million North Carl Street widening project began construction late last summer. The three most significant improvements associated with this construction are the increase in pedestrian safety, the reduction of traffic congestion at major intersections, and the

drastic improvement of drainage facilities in the area.

School children have been provided safer pedestrian travel via a dedicated 5' sidewalk. The area for automobile traffic was expanded from 20' to 32' and the Carl Street intersections of Cheri Whitlock and Hwy. 43 were expanded to provide left turn lanes. This will allow right turning traffic to easily navigate through the intersections while left turning vehicles stage in

their dedicated areas.

In addition to the actual street improvements, two substantial drainage improvements reduced the area's risk of flooding. A huge underground drainage system was installed to collect surface water and carry it along Carl Street. Finally, the concrete box culvert carrying water under Carl Street was increased from a single 4' by 10' box to four 5' by 8' boxes, which has been calculated to prevent the 100 year storm event from topping the roadway.

Progress Avenue

Progress Avenue opened in 2008, and is truly a sign of the City of Siloam Springs' progress, and of its growth and vitality. In the future, Progress will be home to the new hospital and a new high school. In preparation for that, during 2009, the City will be working to improve its East-West traffic corridors. The Street Department will be extending E. Tahlequah Street. The first extension will be from Country Club to Progress Avenue. Construction should begin this spring, with a completion date of late October or early November 2009. The second section of Tahlequah, from Progress Avenue to Hwy. 59, will begin construction this summer and should be completed by the end of the year. The City will also be adding another street across the old rodeo grounds, which will

run from Hwy. 43 to the site of the planned high school, and two other, unnamed streets which will both run off of Progress Avenue, providing access to a planned medical complex and the new hospital.



City Lake

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) entered into a new agreement with the City of Siloam Springs, in which SWEPCO agreed to pay as much as \$3.5 million to improve City Lake in exchange for the right to take water from the lake to use for cooling purposes. The improvements include a new spillway, a new intake structure, an underwater structure with a screened opening that draws water into the pump station, and a new pump station, which will have the capability to pump more water up to SWEPCO Lake than was previously possible.

The new spillway will include a low flow discharge structure that will keep at least four cubic feet of water flowing downstream, as long as the water level in the lake is no lower than one foot below the top of the spillway. This will ensure that property owners downstream of the lake will have an acceptable amount of water running through their properties at all times. The

previous spillway was 200 feet long, while the new spillway will be approximately 340 feet long.

The new pump station will consist of two pumps that will be capable of pumping varying amounts of water between six and ten million gallons per day (MGD). Previously there were two pumps, which pumped about 5.2 million gallons per day (MGD) when operating at full capacity.

The final physical improvement to City Lake is a new intake structure. The intake structure is an underwater structure which is connected to the new pump station by approximately 200 feet of pipe. This is where the water flows into the pump station, in order to be pumped approximately 6,000 feet to Lake SWEPCO.

In addition to the improvements to City Lake, the agreement also included changes to the City's water contract with SWEPCO. The water is charged per acre-foot, or the amount of water that would cover one acre of land, if the water were one foot deep, which is approximately 325,830 gallons. The previous rate SWEPCO was paying the City was \$16 per acre-foot. The new rate is \$50 per acre-

foot for the first 200 acre-feet they use each calendar month, and \$37 per acre-foot for each additional acre-foot used that month. Altogether the City estimates that approximately \$300,000 additional revenue will be collected annually. All improvements are scheduled to be operational by the end of March.

Cemetery

In early 2009, Oak Hill Cemetery received a new columbarium with a six foot angel statue adorning the top of it. The new columbarium was funded by the Oak Hill Cemetery Association. This year the Association also donated \$45,000 toward the cost of paving the cemetery road, which was matched by the City, and over \$11,000 toward the repair and maintenance of the old mausoleum, which is now the chapel.



City Information

Department Directory

Administration	524-5136
Airport	524-4103
Animal Services	524-6535
Cemetery	524-3332
City Clerk	524-5136
Community Development	238-0921
Court	524-4947
Engineering	238-0927
Electric	524-3777
<i>To report service interruptions</i>	524-3777
<i>Billing inquiries</i>	524-5136
Finance	524-5136
Fire Business Office	524-3103
Human Resources	524-5136
Library	524-4236
Parks & Recreation	524-5779
Police Department	524-4118
Solid Waste	524-8512
Streets	524-6554
Utility Billing	524-5136
Water/Wastewater	238-0927

To report any electric, water, sewer or animal services issues after business hours, please call dispatch at 524-4118.

Meeting Schedule

The Siloam Springs Board of Directors meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The Siloam Springs Planning and Zoning Commission meets the second Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m.

The Siloam Springs Board of Adjustment meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m.

All meetings are held in the City Administration Building at 400 North Broadway, Siloam Springs.

Business hours for the Siloam Springs Administration Building are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. You can also find us on the web at www.siloamsprings.com.

Action Line

The City of Siloam Springs website offers a link to the City's Action Line. The Action Line is a direct link between the citizens of Siloam Springs and City Hall, and can be used to ask a city-related question, voice concerns about City issues or make a comment to City staff. Click on the Action Line icon on our website at www.siloamsprings.com.