

Eupora 2040 Action Circles Meeting

Recording Transcript

August 27, 2026

Eupora Civic Center

1. Civic Trust, Belonging, and Shared Leadership

Group Leaders: Gina Brown, April McMullen, and Doris Tanner

We need to try to encourage the powers that be to hire some of the people here to work, because we have assistant principals. Her sister owns a retired senior-care place. We have people who are accountants who are living somewhere else, and they could be pouring into this community.

We also talked about civic trust. That was the main thing. And we spoke about accountability. These people who work in these public offices need to be held accountable for the way they receive people, because you have to deal with race, different classes of people, disabilities, people with disabilities, and we want everybody to feel like they belong here.

So, we who are in these offices need to know how to speak to people and speak to them in a respectful way. And if they don't, they need to be held accountable for what they do. That way, you can earn trust with the people who are in charge.

And that all goes back to leadership. If we reach out, we're going to start at home. And then if it doesn't work at home, then we can bring somebody in. But let's try to use the resources we have here first and then spread abroad.

Local residents are successful in various aspects of life contributing to their community. Teachers leaving Webster County or Eupora that could be here working in this area. Others such as: Assistant Principal, Accountant, Senior Home Administrator, Seasoned Teachers out of Eupora

If civic trust means accountability, leaders must earn trust, have a code of ethics, and be respectful of race, class, and history. Leadership needs to support home first and then reach out and represent our community.

Our leaders and staff have to know how to address different folks. But civic trust also comes with how they represent our community.

How do they represent our community? What do they do for us? If we want to change something or if we have a concern in our neighborhood, how do we get to them? How do we have that discussion with them? And how will they back us or work on that for us?

POSSIBLE IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS:

- 1. Create a volunteer registry (perhaps with a Google form and CheddarUp: <https://www.cheddarup.com/>)**
- 2. Create an organizational list of civic groups, churches, etc., who may need volunteers**

2. Accessibility, Mobility, and Welcome

Group Leaders: Hays Burchfield, Cord Crenshaw, and Susan Glisson

The first thing that came to mind was Main Street, of course, and High Side, and the efforts in previous outreach and meetings to make Main Street one-way, as well as replacing the steps on High Side and kind of making them as they should be — deeper rather than so steep — and incorporating that with the one-way conversion.

Also, adding more handicapped ramps, including more outdoor seating, and making it less geared toward cars and vehicle traffic and more toward pedestrian use and welcoming to pedestrian use and enjoyment of a vibrant downtown area.

People may just want to bring lunch and enjoy the area. Give them a place to sit that's not directly in front of a restaurant, similar to what we have with the park — just more spaces like that, including Depot Park.

In turn, that would help with beautification and maintenance of Main Street and just the general care for it because it's being used more.

There's the potential for new rooftop places and access, similar to places like Oxford, where people can enjoy the sunset.

There's also potential involving the building at the corner of Main Street and Highway 182, and continuing to get new businesses downtown.

There should be code enforcement related to accessibility issues, steps, and the current conditions of buildings around town.

More murals and artwork around town, and similar experiences that other cities have done. Tupelo used to have the Gumtree Festival, where kids could take a little square on the street that was marked out and do chalk artwork. It's an easy way to have engagement. It's temporary, accessible to all, and could even turn into murals.

Susan also mentioned something Odie talked about — some stenciling projects that could be done. The City is working on getting the supplies to create a stencil that honors the previous historic Webster County Courthouse, which will be used to beautify the concrete bridge over White's Creek on Hwy 9.

It's also about access across some of the busy streets, like Gifford around the elementary school, maybe around the lake, and getting from Gifford Street School to Tobie Brantley Park. Eupora Elementary looks like a prison and needs help. Make it more friendly and more pedestrian-oriented, not just vehicular, and make it possible to cross roads safely.

POSSIBLE IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS:

1. **An audit of accessibility, especially one that prioritizes ADA compliance. (Find out what BSA staff may know in terms of compliance standards).**
2. **Create a survey on transportation needs (rides to Starkville for shopping/doctors' appointments? Other local needs?)**

3. Children, Youth, Schools, and Lifelong Opportunities

Group Leaders: William Ford, Denise Mays, Suzanne Shaddix, Franche' Yates

The sheet they gave us was actually really helpful. The first one said “youth advisory,” so we thought, what better way to get the youth involved than forming a youth committee?

We are hoping to get all churches, schools, and different people involved in putting together this youth committee. That would help with communication, which is another thing on the list: improve communication among schools, parents, churches, employers, and youth organizations.

With the youth committee, we'll be able to make decisions like hosting different events for people in the community. We need to do an “interests' inventory” with the youth so we know what they'd like to do. We especially need to do some kind of boys' workshop.

One thing we said was Grandparents Day. The youth committee could do something special for grandparents or something like that. They could put together different activities, work with Mississippi State, do some agricultural things in the community, and help with different youth projects.

We also talked about workshops. Annually, we could have a workshop where we bring in colleges and different businesses. Bring in plumbers, electricians, auto mechanics, and different people to teach the kids something — how to change a tire, work on some electrical things, teach them about credit, résumés, entrepreneurship, and things like that.

Also have colleges come and say, “These are the GPAs that we look for. This is what we look for on the college application.” Something like a college fair.

We could do that every year to prepare the graduating class and also get juniors and sophomores prepared for their senior year.

Then there's the PTO. When we speak about communication among schools, parents, and churches, the elementary school — Ms. April is the president — does a wonderful job communicating with everybody about what's going on with the elementary school.

But the high school and middle school don't have a PTO.

So, if we have an event, a lot of parents who aren't on social media don't know what we have going on.

If we had a PTO in place, that PTO could send letters to the local churches, send emails, and send certain things saying, “Hey, the community is doing this. Do you have any kids you would like to be involved?”

So, PTO doesn't just pertain to the school. It's the whole community. Everybody can get involved, and that's a good way of communicating.

Sometimes I get long-winded, but it takes a village to raise a child.

The community has to work together, and that's what she was getting at. It takes the whole community in order for a child to be successful.

It takes the schools. It takes the churches. It takes the employees of the city. It takes all the people in the community.

And we can't be selfish: "I've got mine. I'm not worried about the kids getting theirs. They're just going to have to do like I did."

We can't have that kind of attitude.

We have to have the attitude that we want to reach out and let the kids be the best they can be and give them the best opportunity we can give them in order to learn.

If we do this, we'll have more people in college. We'll have more people learning how to do a trade. We won't be running around trying to find a plumber or a bricklayer. We'll have them right here in our country, and we will have a better nation.

This is the greatest nation known about in the history of the world, these United States. We want to keep it like that, and education is the way that we do it.

And I'm not just talking about going to college. When I talk about education, I mean learning.

Know how to do something. Know how to lay brick. Know how to fix a car. Know how to build cabinets. Know how to do these things.

Our country is going to be even greater when we do this.

We'll have fewer people on welfare. We'll have fewer people on food stamps and all of these things. There are some people who are going to have to have social programs, but we know we have too many people on social programs right now.

But if you don't teach them how to do anything, then what can you expect?

Success breeds success. If you get out here and start having success, you're going to see it spread.

We're doing all right now, but we want to do better.

And we want to start right here in Eupora, Mississippi.

We want our city to be the best. Then we'll worry about Mississippi, and then we'll worry about the rest of the country.

But right now, we want Eupora to be the best that it can be.

I wanted to write down something that would be beneficial for the schools.

I really hate that we don't have a lot of people — people on the school board, our principals, and people like that — who are here who could actually get stuff done.

Parents need to be knowledgeable about credits because a lot of parents don't understand how class credits work.

By the time a student becomes a sophomore or junior, something happens and a parent is looking like, "Why? I didn't know anything about this."

First off, a lot of parents don't know how the credits work when students start.

I believe it started in sixth grade — it's been a while since I've been out of school.

Another participant: It starts in ninth grade.

Okay.

That's stuff that people need to know, that parents need to know.

Like she said, it would be awesome if they had a representative to make this stuff known.

Because we all know how high schoolers are. They're not coming home telling us anything.

And we didn't go home and tell them anything either, especially if it had something to do with the school and I may have been acting a butt. Of course I'm not going to tell my mom or dad to come up to the school.

So that would be a very good idea.

Hopefully, if we can start talking to the right people, we can get that moving and headed in the right direction.

Facilitator: That's fantastic.

And here's the value of having a community strategic plan, right?

You write up these things, and the plan has got to include who's responsible for doing those things and what's the accountability plan to make sure that it happens.

Y'all are starting to see, I bet, the connections that are weaving from the different reports, how they're all weaving together.

POSSIBLE IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS:

- 1. Work with Franche' Yates and others to host a youth meeting and discern youth interests and begin to create a youth advisory committee. (age appropriate) (Scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th at 4 pm at 24 N. Dunn St.)**

4. Housing, Neighborhoods, Infrastructure, and Care of Place.

Group Leaders: Odie Avery, Lenwood Gladney, Dave Libbee, Teresa Libbee

We kind of started the conversation talking about neighborhoods a little bit.

Eupora is a small town, but we still have pockets. We have neighborhoods where people kind of get to know the folks who live around them.

How is there a better way — or how is there a way — that we can build on that and strengthen those core neighborhoods?

A neighborhood-watch-group kind of situation, a neighborhood registry, a neighborhood Facebook group, or something like that where everybody can communicate and connect with each other who lives in their immediate proximity.

That would also create a situation where you know what's going on with a neighbor who might need an extra hand with something, and people can come together and help someone who might not be able to haul away some trash at their house, keep their grass cut, bushes trimmed, or whatever.

We talked about the idea of being a little more welcoming. This kind of crosses over, I think, with maybe group number seven — the welcome piece.

When someone new comes to town, how can we make sure we kind of introduce ourselves as a city and as a neighborhood? How do we make them feel as welcome as possible?

It could be taking a batch of cookies, baking a pie, or whatever.

The little neighborly things that live in lore — we can bring those things back and just have a better connection with folks.

When it comes to housing specifically, though, we talked a lot about how right now Eupora feels very rigid in how our ordinances are set up, what is allowed and what isn't.

I think having some flexibility with the size of housing and letting people do something a little smaller if they want to could help.

Maybe it's a starter home. Maybe it's a retiree's house.

They don't need a three-bedroom, three-bath house.

They just need something to accommodate themselves and maybe one or two other people.

What can the city do to incentivize that?

New construction and flexibility — making it as straightforward as possible so that if somebody wants to come here and build a house, they can easily do it in an affordable fashion.

That's always going to be the struggle right now with inflation and prices having increased so much over the past few years: how do you keep something affordable?

A lot of the cost comes in labor.

If we can develop community networks of people who can help with labor, that might help make it easier for someone to get a starter home or get a house built for themselves.

One of the things on the list that we touched on a little bit was: we don't know where we want to go if we don't know where we're at.

There was an item on here about creating an inventory of vacant lots, vacant buildings, deteriorated structures, and developable land.

I think that's a great idea — to have a snapshot of what the city looks like.

If somebody is looking for a place to build a house or a place to start a business, we may have it all in one place.

They could pull up this map and say, “Oh, there’s a property next to Sonic that’s available. I’m going to find out who owns it.”

Maybe even keep a registry and database of who owns those properties that might be rentable for a business, for sale as a business, or a vacant lot where a house could easily go.

We talk sometimes about subdivisions, but we’ve got a lot of vacant property where there’s already existing infrastructure.

There’s already water. There’s already sewer. There’s already electricity.

It’s cheaper to build on that existing lot than it is to go to the edge of town and build a brand-new subdivision.

So, keep those things in mind.

The only thing I’ll add is, we talked about neighborhoods.

We don’t have to segregate everything into neighborhoods, but that was just an idea we had.

We have aldermen who have their territories and stuff. We need to think about civic trust and get them involved. How can we get them involved?

But also, we don’t have to go for the whole bang at one time.

We can do pilots.

If we have an idea and we’re able to move forward on it, pilot it or try it in one neighborhood first.

Everybody can have input as to where we see that this would benefit an area first.

Let’s try it here, see how it goes, and then build on it from there.

One thing I was thinking about when you were talking about community was when I was younger, my dad and our community had block parties.

Each street would host a block party every year.

One year, my dad’s street would host the block party. We’d have basketball goals and games going on. We’d have barbecue. We’d have the fire department come and spray down the kids.

Then the next year we’d go two blocks over and meet the people who were on that block.

One thing we could think about is having a block-party committee.

Maybe certain communities can host it, and that would get everybody into different neighborhoods and meeting different people within Eupora.

I just had one comment about new construction.

It would be great to encourage anyone who’s building a new house from the ground up to think

ahead and build it for aging in place, whether or not they're going to be there permanently.

There just needs to be a larger number of homes designed for wheelchair access, roll-in showers, and things like that.

That ties into the accessibility piece as well.

Another thing I forgot to mention that we talked about is something similar to Habitat for Humanity's approach.

How could we either take on something like that, or is there a way to do a similar organization that helps people with renovations to existing houses?

A lot of folks may have lived in a house for 40 years and just don't have the means or ability to fix the kitchen, fix the bathroom, fix the roof — whatever it may be.

If we could get an organization together like that, I think it would go a long way for housing.

POSSIBLE IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS:

1. **Check in with LOU-Home in Oxford regarding their homeowner training program. Can it be duplicated here?**
2. **See if BSA/someone can create a land use map for the city. Vacant lots/Infill opportunities; housing that is in need of repair.**
3. **Begin exploring affordable housing opportunities. Host a meeting of all interested parties: the City, local banks (with CRA requirements), realtors, builders, advocates for affordable housing, etc. Find common ground on opportunities like an Adams Ave revitalization.**
4. **Seek community input on a blight removal policy.**
5. **Explore possible creating of a labor bank? A Habitat for Humanity Chapter?**
6. **Crafts class for all ages (in concert with the Youth Action Circle)**
7. **Block parties?**
8. **Adams Ave revitalization**

5. Distinctive Local Economy

Group Leaders: Glenda Smith, A gentleman whose name we didn't catch

We were trying to sit here and figure out what we could do to regulate money back to our own community.

So, we came up with garbage pickup.

Right now, I think it's regulated through a company outside of Eupora. You have to send your money — I send my money to Starkville — and that money goes over there.

I was thinking, well, we could bring that back down here.

That way, it could create a few jobs, and the money that people make here could go back into the town.

AT&T — you have to go to a store somewhere else to pay that.

I was thinking, bring that company back down, or any of the cell-phone companies, and put up a building where people could have a tech person hook their phones up and things like that.

That would create jobs and put money back in here.

Then, let's say the beef jerky plant. You could start producing more beef jerky.

Beef jerky, chicken jerky, turkey jerky — anything that brings money back.

Of course, everybody knows Walmart. If we had something like that, everybody wouldn't have to go somewhere else.

Money is just going out. Nothing's coming in.

We're taking all the money out of town and taking it somewhere else. They're spending it there, and their towns are growing, but we're just staying in one spot.

Uber drivers — you need Uber drivers.

Plenty of people around here can't drive or do whatever they need to do. Senior citizens and everybody.

Taxi drivers.

Anything to circulate the money.

Medical transport.

A lot of times people need someone to take them somewhere to get medication or take them to the doctor.

We mentioned car dealerships.

Bring some more of them in, and maybe car manufacturing — not make the whole car, but we could get parts to make cars.

Just bring something in to circulate money.

Furniture manufacturing — that was booming at one time in this town, but all of that went out.

And I'm sure we could look around. Furniture is still being made.

You could go somewhere and say, "Do you need this part made?"

"Yes, we do."

Well, we could do that in our town.

The more jobs we bring in here, the more food places and everything else we could have.

We'd have enough people to go around and kind of level everything out. We could keep things instead of losing them and going somewhere else.

My partner said a bowling alley.

I love bowling.

That would be something for entertainment.

I think the nearest bowling alley is in Columbus.

Columbus or somewhere — there's not one around here anymore.

I love bowling. I probably can't do a whole lot of it now because of arthritis, but still.

Clothing stores, restaurants, places where you can buy things — just a number of things.

We even said a catfish place.

We could build a pond somewhere and give people jobs doing that.

Just little things.

We were talking about an imaging place. You have to go all the way to Tupelo or Starkville to do anything. You could do that down here.

We were also talking about buildings that have been vacant for a long time.

Put those buildings back into use.

You could put things in there and wouldn't have to build it all from the ground up.

I'm loving this approach of thinking about the services that you already need that have been shipped out somewhere else.

Is there a way to bring that money back into the community instead of shipping it somewhere else?

We can teach entrepreneurial preparation in some of those workshops.

Teach people how to do crafts.

Furniture brings a trade back.

POSSIBLE IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS:

- 1. Explore the creation of a small business/entrepreneurial class (MSU, UM, SMA, Golden Triangle Regional Group (Rudy Johnson), other agencies?) Odie already posted on Facebook and there was a lot of interest. (Ask Rudy Johnson for additional grant writing support with their agency.)**
- 2. Research the time-banking idea. Are there examples to follow in the country somewhere?**
- 3. Research creating a small business incubator program.**
- 4. Research if the City can start a business? A grocery store?**
- 5. Research cooperative businesses.**
- 6. Consult with Jason Coker/Together for Hope on creating alternative currencies.**

6. Gathering Places, Recreation, and Public Life.

Group Leaders: Doug Brown, Rebecca Dean, Benny Dean, Jesse Strider

We came up with a lot of ideas.

Top of the list: recreation.

Pickleball. That's a popular sport across the country and across the state, and everybody seems to like it. If we could just find a place and maybe get that started, that's something to give everybody something to do and it's good exercise.

We also mentioned Frisbee golf. I think somebody said it's popular in Columbus and other places.

Karaoke at the lake. Some people love karaoke. Everybody loves music, so that would give everyone an opportunity to participate in trying to sing their favorite song and entertain everybody else.

At the lake, the walking path needs repairs.

If anybody's been to the lake and tried to walk, the walking path is terrible. That's the only way to describe it. It's terrible.

Also, the bathrooms at the lake need some repairs and upgrades.

We thought about having some grills at the lake like we've got at Little Mountain.

I think they've got some in the camping area, but not on the other part of the lake.

Set up grills for families to use.

A sand beach at the lake — that's one idea. I'm not quite sure, but that's one idea we came up with.

An arcade in town.

Try to find somewhere we could get that going — an arcade with games, pool tables, and so forth to give the youth some entertainment.

A lot of towns have festivals.

Eupora doesn't really have a festival like West Point has Prairie Arts and other places have theirs.

We don't have an annual festival.

We've done the chainsaw event and we've done a little bit of crawfish, but something with a wider scope would be a good idea.

We've had barbecue competitions and music at the park. We've had some of that.

Trying to go a little further and more in-depth with that.

We had scavenger hunts. Some places do that also. That would be intriguing for younger kids especially.

Halloween trunk-or-treat — we do that pretty regularly now.

As far as housing, I know we mentioned trying to get some housing, but have we thought about tiny houses?

Have spots with a few of those. There would have to be codes and so forth, but tiny houses instead of trying to build only a normal, regular house.

At the park with the new walking track, maybe put one or two basketball goals down there.

It may not have to be as elaborate as the ones at other locations, but have something there.

We mentioned more retail shops for clothing and so forth.

Even our Dollar General needs a major upgrade. I went there today. It needs a major upgrade.

The theater — opening a theater for plays and things like that.

The one we used to have, I think, is being used as storage space now.

But something like that could bring performing arts and things of that nature.

I think that mainly covered everything.

Have music in the park.

Just have a certain day when anybody who plays an instrument can show up and everybody plays together.

Or teach somebody to play an instrument.

Have a certain time when everybody comes.

I know in Mountain View, Arkansas, that's the way they do it — they all get in groups and play together. Guitar, whatever. Having something like that would be great.

A County Fair? We need an event calendar online and in the paper. Open the theater back up and have plays. More retail stores.

POSSIBLE IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS:

- 1. 2% Commission purchase a movie license from a program Odie Avery researched. It's possible the New Century Club would take this on, to host movie nights. Possibly using The Bly, owned by BSA.**
- 2. Email out to the Eupora 2040 full list a question about interest in a Halloween Block Party. The City is already handling the candy purchasing and distribution, for the kids' part. If there is interest in something for adults after the trick-or-treating time, here are the needs: speakers to play music, food truck coordination, a costume contest coordination.**
- 3. Explore a block party tied to the Christmas Parade. Odie Avery wants to do a Crawfish Festival in April and SouthWay will explore a Local Critters/Ecological theme to add related to the Old Cove. We also need to be thinking about how to support Churchill Day on Mother's Day weekend in May and other events.**

7. Eupora's Story, Communication, and Invitation

Group Leaders: Gina Brown, April McMullen, and Doris Tanner

We talked about launching the Eupora 2040 website.

We said to maybe also incorporate a public-information hub, and we said the library is a good place where we can meet up for that.

Volunteer-opportunity listings — you can always make a Google Doc attached to the calendar and have people sign up through that. Or you can use something I've used called Cheddar Up. You can put different events all in one setting and have selected availability for volunteers, and they can sign up that way.

Something we said that would very much incorporate history: we talked about maybe getting a few students who went to the Eupora Training School and then some students who went to Eupora High School. We could create a Did You Know? Campaign. A lot of people don't know the background and story of the Webster County Training School. Get some of the students who are still here to tell their story and the experience they had. Perhaps the Webster County High School students could work on this idea.

Like Ms. Dorris said, it's history. If we don't share the history, it's going to die.

I think that played a very big part in Webster County and Eupora.

Then have long-time residents.

I suggested maybe we could get with the nursing home and find some who are able to talk about and tell their history of being in Eupora — to share their stories about living in the city of Eupora.

Another thing we could do is get people who have moved away and maybe come home to visit during different events.

We know a lot of people come home for Churchill Day. A lot of people come home because it's Mother's Day weekend.

Maybe we can have a little section or booth off to the side where people can come over and share their stories.

We could do video recordings on Facebook.

Share stories about living in Eupora and what Eupora has done for them.

I also told them we have to be open-minded when people share their histories and stories.

For some, Eupora wasn't always a sweet story. For others, it is.

We need to just be open-minded about that.

Someone also said people could talk about how White Creek Lake came about.

That's something I didn't know, and they were sharing about that.

People my age and younger — there's stuff they need to know.

There's information they should know about the City of Eupora.

Something to incorporate the youth into this: maybe we could make this into a senior project. Have seniors explain what Eupora looks like in their eyes, from their point of view. It could be a senior project and also gathering history. You can talk about the history of the courthouse that was out in Walthall.

We also hear a lot about how Main Street used to be booming.

Another thing we can incorporate to get more involvement from the community: maybe do a community cookbook.

Have different people in our community share a family recipe, and we can make it into a book. That could make a small profit that goes back into the community.

You could also take that and — this is something I just threw out there — do "Tasteful Tuesday." Have an older relative share an old recipe and put it on there.

Or share a gardening skill or planting skill to keep people engaged and keep them saying, "Oh, I wonder what's going to be next."

Educate the community about the Head Start program and what it offers.

For many years, we always thought that it just offered services to low-income families. That's not always the case.

And sharing skills.

Like I said, the library is good at this and 4-H is also good at this, but everybody can't make it to 4-H at four o'clock on a Tuesday or Thursday.

Maybe on Saturday, like I was sharing with them, because in school they don't teach home economics anymore.

They don't teach how to change a car tire and basic life skills that young people need to know about.

Maybe that's something we can incorporate on a Saturday morning at City Hall — a cooking class, baking cookies, canning.

I remember doing that with my mom at City Hall. It's been years ago.

We went through the process of canning strawberries, and I enjoyed that.

That was a special time between me and my mom that we can share.

Crocheting, gardening, sewing, canning, quilts.

She also brought up bingo.

Even though we have bingo at the VFW, you have to pay there.

Maybe we can have bingo at City Hall, or have a bingo night here, and have different businesses donate door prizes and gifts that we can give out.

POSSIBLE IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS:

1. **A community cookbook**
2. **Odie has a friend in West Point who is a producer. He's already agreed to help create a commercial and said 5K is a reasonable budget, which could come from the 2% funds.**
3. **Create a Substack/column of some kind on Eupora 2040 to begin to share developments, vision, successes and failures, to find allies, partners, and supporters.**
4. **WEBSITE IS LIVE: www.eupora2040.com**

CLOSING:

Odie Avery:

I just thank you all for being here.

I know it's busy. Life's busy. Everybody's got so much going on.

Just to be able to make it to events like this and public meetings — it's not always glamorous or super fun, but it's important.

So, thank you all.

Susan Glisson/Facilitator: I just want to say how incredibly inspiring it is that y'all have such creativity and such breadth of knowledge and high hopes for what can happen, with really specific, doable ideas. I mean, it's incredibly encouraging.

And I know when you think about doing a plan that's 2040 — goodness knows what's going to happen in 2030, much less 2040 — it can be intimidating.

I've been watching a lot of clips because I'm real sad about the death of Dolly Parton this week.

I saw a clip of her on some show I'd never heard of called *The Orville*. I don't know if y'all have heard of this show. Anyway, she's being asked about a future that is uncertain and even scary. Another character asks her character: "What do we do? I don't know what to do." We can feel like that. It's easy to get paralyzed and not know what to do now.

But Dolly's character said: "If we do right in the here and now, then the future will take care of itself."

So, I'll leave the last word to Ms. Parton. Thank y'all so much.

September 24th will be the next meeting. It'll be here (at the Eupora Civic Center)

That will be a time to hear back from BSA and from Southway and from the City what they have been hearing from you, to make sure that they're hearing what you're saying appropriately and responsibly. We'll start to put the ingredients together for the plan.

The hope is to have something by the end of November.

So, we've got to move toward: What do the ordinances look like? What do the building codes look like? What paperwork and legalities need to be put in place? What infrastructure is needed for housing and for all these great ideas? And also, what are some of these short-term items that we can start to do immediately?

So, September 24th, we'll see you here. We'll send out notes from this meeting. They'll be placed on the Eupora 2040 website. And y'all are fantastic. Thank you. I will always love you.