



Friday, December 19, 2025

Mayor Stines, Councilman Byrd Share Farewell Messages

Outgoing Mayor Elijah Stines and First Ward Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem David Byrd delivered farewell remarks after their eight years in city government during their final council meeting on Monday evening.

Byrd said his two four-year terms as First Ward councilman have been “a great ride.”

“As I look back over eight years of meeting agendas and things in my head, Boone was doing well when we started, but the trajectory and the velocity of the growth have increased a lot. And it's due to a lot of hard work by everybody. I mean our partnerships with the (Ames Regional Economic Alliance) and things like that have all helped,” he said. “I look at all the things that we've done and all this growth that we're looking down the barrel of, and it's amazing.”

Byrd said, “One of the other favorite things that I've enjoyed is getting to know each person in here, and all of the events and things like that that we've done in trainings over the time.” He added with a smile, “I've even got to honk the horn on a fire engine. It's just been a fantastic experience. And thank each and every one of you.”

Stines, who served six years as Third Ward councilman before two years as mayor, began by reciting Newton's Law that an object at rest remains at rest and an object in motion continues in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless it is acted on by a net external force.

“Cities are no different. Progress does not happen by accident. Momentum does not sustain itself without effort. It takes intention, leadership and sometimes uncomfortable work to keep moving forward. Over the past eight years ... this council, our staff and our partners have chosen motion over the status quo. We chose to act.

“During that time, the trajectory of the city of Boone has improved significantly. We have made decisions that position Boone, not just for today but for the future. Those successes did not come from standing still. They came from taking thoughtful risks, asking hard questions and being willing to imagine what Boone could become, rather than simply preserving what it has always been,” Stines said.

He noted that the city's recent successes belong to many people.

“They belong to the City Council, whose members have shown dedication and willingness to think beyond individual terms or individual wards. They belong to our city staff, whose professionalism, expertise and commitment turn ideas into reality every day. It belongs to our community partners who invested in Boone and believed in the direction we were heading,” Stines said. “Leadership, however, is rarely about unanimous agreement. Not everyone can see beyond the horizon. Not everyone is comfortable taking calculated risks. Not everyone is comfortable with any amount of change. The responsibility of those entrusted with governing is to weigh all perspectives, to listen carefully and then to make decisions that serve the long-term good of the city as a whole.”

He continued, “Those in leadership must also do their utmost to educate the citizens on the path ahead, to reassure them that growth is imperative to our long term survival, growth with an eye towards preserving what makes Boone unique, preserving what makes us want to call Boone home, that often means making difficult choices, choices that may not be popular in the moment, but are necessary for the future we are building.

"Momentum always meets resistance. Change always does. Resistance is not a signal to stop. It is reminder that progress matters and the importance of sharing a positive vision for the future to build a critical mass of enthusiasm to build the future. And now more than ever, it's important that Boone continues to push forward.

"The work is not finished. The motion must continue. As I conclude my service, my hope is simple: that Boone never forgets that forward movement requires effort, courage and collaboration. May this council and those who follow continue to act as the force that keeps this city in motion, guided by vision, grounded in responsibility and committed to the future of Boone.

"It has been an honor to serve the city, represent Ward Three and to serve as your mayor. Thank you for the trust you placed in me and thank you for the work you continue to do on behalf of Boone. The best chapters are still ahead. Thank you."

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