

## ***Mayor's State of the Borough's Address 2020***

*Friends and neighbors, thank you for joining us this evening for Shrewsbury's 94<sup>th</sup> re-organization meeting.*

*I would also like to recognize our special guests -- Judge Linda Grasso Jones, Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling, Monmouth County Clerk Christine Hanlon, Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden, Freehold Director Thomas Arnone, and soon to be Freehold Deputy Director Sue Kiley for being with us. Thank you for your service not only to the residents of Shrewsbury, but throughout our County.*

*I want to start by congratulating Deidre, Brendan and Jason on being re-elected. Your margin of victory in November is a testament to the great results you are achieving for Shrewsbury. The Borough is better because of your service on the Council. Again, thank you for all you do for our town.*

*I would also like to recognize and congratulate our new incoming Council President – Kim. The Council and the Borough will be well served by your leadership. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.*

*In looking back at 2019, I am extremely proud of what the Council has accomplished. Last year I asked that the Council undertake an examination of the Borough's operations to ensure that we are delivering the most cost-effective services for our residents. I am pleased to report that through various changes within our operations, the Council has been able to continue our great level of Borough wide services while reducing Shrewsbury's municipal spending for the first time in a decade.*

*Additionally, this year the Council has implemented projects which have directly improved our residents' quality of life. This includes ending through traffic off Route 35 onto Monroe and North Monroe, returning to once a week recycling pickups, reducing speed limits on our safe routes to school, reconstructing Obre Place to enhance student safety, continuing improvements to our parks and making significant investments in DPW's fleet. We will also be rolling out in the coming weeks a new website and mass notification system.*

*The Borough has also completed projects which are not as visible to the public, but equally important. These include building our town's first Emergency Management Room, partnering with Monmouth County to digitally store our records which in turn will save our residents thousands of dollars each year and completing a technology update and digital security overhaul of Borough resources.*

*I am also pleased to report that Shrewsbury continues to remain an attractive location for new businesses. In 2019 alone, 30 new businesses opened their doors in Shrewsbury.*

*It is important to note that none of these accomplishments would have been possible without our administration and professionals. I would like to especially recognize our administrator, Maureen, for putting up with us, especially me and Kerry, I thank you as well. Everyone's*

*support has been instrumental in Shrewsbury's accomplishments in all departments. I thank Ron and for all what DPW do for the town. I thank Chief Turner and Chief John Merris. Our town is better due to the services you provide and as well as your dedication to the Borough.*

*In the coming year, the Council must continue the positive momentum it has started -- working to ensure efficiencies in our operations, always improving the quality of our residents' lives and protecting the qualities that make Shrewsbury such a great place to live, work and raise a family.*

*Before I conclude, I would also like to personally thank our first responders for what they do to protect our residents. We are safer as a community because of what you do.*

*I would also like to thank my wife, Melissa and three boys, Connor, Carter and Quinlan for their support as I serve as Mayor. I know it can be hectic most of the time, but I would not be able to do what I do without you guys.*

*It is an honor to serve as your Mayor of Shrewsbury and I look forward to the coming year and what lies ahead.*

*I wish everyone all the best in 2020 and I ask for your support as we continue to build an even better Shrewsbury.*

*Thank you, Mayor Erik Anderson*