



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF Council Member Becky Tuttle



On January 15, 2019 Becky Tuttle was sworn in as District II council member, fulfilling the final year of Pete Meltzer's term. Tuttle's deep interest in economic growth and the quality of life for Wichita residents keep her busy developing strategies to help retain young talent, improve the safety of the community, and make it easier for businesses to thrive. While each day is unique and exciting, like most people, she is challenged with how to get everything done in a day.

## FEBRUARY 28TH, 2019

Her day begins at **4:30 a.m.**, checking emails and texts before crawling out of bed. Each morning, she reminds herself of three things she is grateful for in the previous day (with no repeats), and three things she is excited about in the day ahead.

At **7 a.m.**, she arrives at her other part-time job at WSU Tech, which keeps her connected to institutions that are vital in meeting Wichita's ever-changing employment demands.

For the first meeting of her day at **10 a.m.**, Tuttle meets with city staff and food policy committee members to discuss drafting a ten-year City of Wichita Master Food Plan to ensure everyone has access to healthy foods. This plan would also benefit the economy. If even 5 percent of the \$1 billion Sedgwick County residents spend on food was local food purchases, an estimated \$54.6 million would circulate through the county each year, according a report from the Health & Wellness Coalition of Wichita, using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Shortly after that meeting, at **10:45 a.m.**, she attends the weekly Mayor's media briefing.

Then at **11:30 a.m.**, Tuttle rushes to the Women in Public Service luncheon, where she was asked to present on "Getting to YES!" The presentation focuses on her past experiences in fundraising and advocacy initiatives such as Bike Share ICT. While often seen as just a recreational opportunity, multi-modal forms of transportation — such as walking and bicycling — have a profound impact on attracting talent to our community and bringing residents and visitors back downtown.

Afterwards, at **1 p.m.**, she meets with the executive director of a statewide organization to learn more about the benefits of early childhood education. Improved literacy can contribute to economic growth, reduce poverty, decrease crime and prevent diseases through the spread of information.

**“**  
*It is with a focused vision that  
I navigate through each day,  
constantly looking for ways to  
make Wichita even better.*

— Council member Becky Tuttle

At the 10 a.m. meeting she skypes with Wheatland Elementary third graders, who are building their own town called Peanutville. The students want to learn more about the City of Wichita and what it is like to be a council member. Tuttle motivates them to be future leaders and encourages them to stay in Wichita.

At her 2 p.m. meeting she discusses what the future MiLB baseball team could mean for the revitalization of Wichita's core, and how it can spur opportunities. While not in District II, these decisions have momentous economic development implications for the greater good of the city.

From 3 to 5 p.m., Tuttle checks emails, returns phone calls, and finishes her portion of the National Civic League, All-American City application. Recognition as an All-American City would be an incentive that attracts new businesses and talent to Wichita, as it values communities that leverage civic engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness and innovation to successfully address local issues.

Around 5 p.m., she meets with community partners to hear about plans to expand a program that provides training opportunities to ensure a more skilled workforce, and finds out what they need to be successful. As markets shift and we become even more global, productivity and worker efficiency are becoming more important to the bottom line.

Then at 6 p.m. she attends a WSU basketball game. To Tuttle, sports are more than just a fun way to spend an evening because they can help increase economic prosperity, provide employment opportunities and contribute towards raising aspirations of the youth.

When Tuttle arrives home around 8:30 p.m., she begins reviewing the City of Wichita Council agenda packet. The four-inch pile of paper needs to be

carefully read and questions prepared for the next day's agenda review meeting, always considering how everyone wants Wichita to look in the next five, ten and twenty years.

*"Strategic visioning is essential so that we remain nimble to embrace opportunities that arise. But we can't just wait for them to come. As Milton Berle once said, 'If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.'"* — Council member Becky Tuttle

Finally, at 11 p.m., she is back in her bed setting the alarm for 4:30 a.m. And the cycle repeats.

Becky has an open-door policy, and also keeps her mind open for anyone who has ideas on how Wichita can continue to thrive. **Have suggestions on how to make Wichita the best city it can be? Reach out anytime to [btuttle@wichita.gov](mailto:btuttle@wichita.gov).**



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