

Over 40 mayors have served the city

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

k.davis@nwkansas.com

The Oberlin City Council held its first meeting on July 20, 1885 passing the first two ordinances.

On July 6 that year a special election was held putting J.W. Allen in the mayor's seat, N.G. Addleman as the police judge and W.A. Frasier, Frank Hunt, S.F. Colby, J.C. Wilson and George A. Metcalf as council members.

Since then, there's been 43 mayors and 835 ordinances passed and 649 resolutions.

The first two ordinances passed 125 years ago included No. 1 being the vacation of Oberlin public square and No. 2 granting the right of way to the Burlington, Kansas and Southwestern Company, through certain streets of the city.

Minutes from the first meeting included talk about the need for a city prison. Also on the agenda was a \$65 charge from the Pratt Brothers for removing 13 dead horses. The matter was referred to the city marshal for investigation and later the charge of \$50 was paid to the brothers.

Mayors who have served since the first one, J.W. "Cap" Allen include:

- A.W. Bariteau, 1886.
- A.L. Patchin, 1887.
- J.W. Allen, 1888.
- W.T.E. May, 1889.
- S.W. McElroy, 1890.
- H.O. Douglas, 1891.
- C.E. Chandler, 1892.
- H.Q. McGee, 1893-1894.
- Alonzo Smith, 1895.
- L.G. Parker, 1896.
- Art S. Steele, 1897.
- W.S. Fleming, 1898.
- A.H. McGee, 1899.
- C.H. Tilden, 1900.
- W.B. Mead, 1901.
- C.N. Page, 1902.
- G.B. Vawter, 1903-1904.
- C.H. Tilden, 1905-1906.
- George Hadley, 1907-1908.
- C.S. Maddox, 1909-1910.
- S.J. Morrish, 1911-1913.
- R.D. Strain, 1917-1920.
- C.S. Maddox, 1921-1924.
- W.K. Curry, 1925-1932.
- J.P. Noble, 1933-1934.
- H.Q. Banta, 1935-1936.
- J.C. Nitsch, 1937-1944.
- Earl Sproul, 1945-1950.
- E.W. Coldren, 1951-1955.
- Keith Nicodemus, 1956-1958.
- Don Fredrickson, 1959-1960.
- Guy Morrish, 1961-1966.
- Dwight Wenger, 1967-1970.
- Phyll Cramer, 1971-1974.
- Lloyd Corcoran, 1975-1979.
- Ed Stillions, 1979-1983.
- Dave Nichols, 1984-1987.
- Idella Frickey, 1988-1995.
- Charles Frickey, 1996-2001.
- Gary Walter, 2002-2003.
- Ken Shobe, 2004-2007.
- Joe Stanley, 2008-present.



THE FIRST MAYOR of Oberlin, J. W. (Cap) Allen, seated above right, front row, is pictured with his family. Others to his right are his son, Oberlin, first child born in Oberlin, and the mayor's wife. Back row (from left) Edith Allen, Guy C. Allen and Arthur Allen. Shown (below) is the Oberlin City Council and mayor in 1979: front row, from left, Don Kump, David Nichols. Back row, Wayne Lohofener, Mayor Ed Stillions, Dwayne Jones and John Guy.

