

Nampa City Council  
Sept 7, 2021

Mayor and Council: It is an Honor and privilege to appear before you tonight. I am speaking on behalf of several of Ken Harward's former colleagues, friends, professional acquaintances. We are requesting the city approve a resolution naming the Recreation Center after Ken Harward.

By way of background for those that do not know me, I was honored to represent the city of Nampa as city attorney for 40 years. During that time Ken Harward was the city Finance Director (Ken was not much for titles and in fact he wore many, many hats for the city).

Ken was Finance Director for 24 years and thereafter executive director of the Association of Idaho Cities working actively with all cities in the state and the legislature. I worked with Ken for all of those 24 years with Norm Holm coming on board a few years after Ken.

Ken Harward is one of the most outstanding individuals I have had the honor of working with in my legal career. Here tonight are several supporters of naming the Recreation Center for him. (Have stand and perhaps introduce).

I hope all of you have had a chance to read the letters in support of the Harward Recreation Center. They are amazing. Ken was a major reason Nampa is what it is today. They show what local government, that which is closest to the people, can and should do in a non-partisan setting.

It is appropriate to recognize one who has facilitated such tremendous and long lasting improvements for the city. It started with Ken changing our irrigation system from city drinking water billed by usage to our current system. That model is now common in the State in residential developments. Ken obtained a 95% federal grant to construct the wastewater plant which serves us to this day. Our wastewater rates were by far the lowest for years with capacity for new development of all kinds.

City Hall: The city was court ordered out of its old city hall due to inaccessibility. Ken used revenue sharing funds to construct this one. Ken also got the school district to deed this land to the city with a city agreement they would put a Civic Center auditorium at this site for public purposes.

Financial Records: Ken was the leader in open accountability in financial records to the public. Nampa probably has as many awards for accurate financial accounting as any city in the country.

Nampa Recreation Center: I can say with absolute certainty this project would not have happened without Ken Harward. From land acquisition involving a trade with NNU for Kurtz park to one of the first uses of Judicial Confirmation to build the Recreation Center without property tax dollars but rather user fees.

Think about our University, NNU, for just a moment. Ken facilitated the vacation of 16th Ave which ran straight through the campus and then the reroute around the campus. He then had NNU acquire Constitution Park to trade for Kurtz Park (which had a restriction if not used as a Park would revert to the heirs of Belle Kurtz—a major hurdle which Ken cleared). He had a relationship with John Brandt for the Civic Center Auditorium as well as the Brandt Center on NNU Campus. NNU award Ken its Centennial Medalian in appreciation and recognition.

The list goes on and each is incredibly important and complex in its own right. We have the Snake River Stampede today because of Ken Harward and the judicious use of an Urban Renewal District to get basically sewer and water to what is now the Idaho Center District. Look at that area now. The old Stampede grounds is another benefit to the citizens with its ballfields, boys and girls club, hispanic center, playground, grade school and so forth.

In everything Ken undertook for the city he always had the full support of the Mayor and entire city council. In turn the city had the support of a vast majority of its citizens for these projects. This is local government at its best.

Just to recap briefly: Ken Harward was the person who made the following things happen for Nampa—  
pressurized irrigation water at a fraction of the cost;  
Wastewater treatment plant built with 95% grant; City Hall we are currently in; Civic Center next door; obtaining land from school district for these; financial records—truly an achievement; Golf courses; Idaho Center, Public Safety building. Park facilities, pathway system, ball fields for kids, fiscal conservatism.

We request the city council to approve a resolution naming the Recreation Center after Ken Harward.

There may be others in attendance who would like to speak if the council so desires.

Thank you for your time.