

Patrick Cale's Statement on Transparency

During the Transition of Leadership in the City of Muskogee

To the voters and residents of Muskogee:

It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as your Mayor. The trust you placed in me was never something I took lightly, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work on behalf of this community. As I prepare to step away from office, I feel a responsibility to speak clearly and openly about where Muskogee stands and why transparency and communication are especially important during this transition of leadership.

Moments of transition are when public trust must be reinforced—not assumed. Open communication, clear records, and honest explanations are essential to protecting the progress our city has made and ensuring continuity for those who will lead next. Transparency is not about politics; it is about stewardship and respect for the people who fund, support, and rely on their city government every day.

Over the past several years, Muskogee has experienced unprecedented momentum. Through long-term planning and sustained effort, major industrial investments have come to our community—investments that were unimaginable a decade ago and unthinkable a generation ago. Facilities are operating, others are under construction, and more are planned. These projects represent more than economic development; they represent opportunity, stability, and a future where families can build their lives here and where the next generation sees Muskogee as a place to return to, not leave behind.

That progress extends well beyond industry. Our schools are moving forward with new investment and modern facilities. The City has approved the largest Capital Improvement Program in its history, strengthening roads and infrastructure across Muskogee. And through a historic City-County partnership, we are advancing the Bass Reeves Public Safety Complex—bringing police, fire administration, EMS, 911, and the sheriff's office together in a modern facility designed to serve and protect our community for decades to come.

With growth comes responsibility. New digital and technology-driven facilities require significant public infrastructure and services, and they also generate significant public revenue. Franchise fees associated with these operations now provide millions of dollars annually—funding that supports public safety, emergency response, and essential city services. This revenue did not exist just a few years ago, and today it is transforming what Muskogee can do for its residents.

Not every decision along this path was unanimous, and disagreement is a normal part of our governing process. But as these issues were debated, one principle remained clear to me: transparency and fairness must never be compromised. Long-standing rules must be applied consistently, public records must be preserved, and relationships that affect city business must be disclosed openly. These standards protect the public, safeguard the City, and strengthen confidence—especially when leadership is changing.

I strongly encourage our Citizens to explore the issues discussed on our transitional website featured at: www.MuskogeeCitizensAlliance.com.

As this transition moves forward, my hope is simple: that Muskogee continues to communicate openly with its citizens, protect the progress that has been made, and govern with integrity and clarity. The future of this city is bright, and it deserves leadership grounded in transparency, accountability, and respect for the people it serves.

It has truly been an honor to serve as your Mayor.

— Patrick Cale
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