

# CORE VALUES

# at work

## political leadership

Leadership comes in many shapes and sizes but in city government it's about having the courage to make unpopular decisions when they have to be made. It's about standing-up for what you believe, saying what needs to be said, and doing what must to be done because it's the right thing to do.

Political leadership aims to find the right answers for the community. It listens and acts with respect and humility at the risk of being wrong for the sake of doing right.

Leading cities is rarely about choosing between right and wrong; it's about having to face two "rights" and pick one for the good of the whole. This is tough stuff that affects people's lives and tests the character, values and beliefs of each political leader on every issue.

One of the best examples of Kingsport leadership in action was the decision to build two new sports complexes. Despite severe financial constraints, City leaders found a way to commit \$5 million to build new ball fields where thousands of children's dreams will be played out for years to come.

Critics suggested waiting for better financial times but the city's leadership team stood behind its commitment to put Kingsport's children first now, not later.

Sometimes leadership is about planning ahead for tomorrow but other times it's about making the decisions that are needed to make things right today.

This is the leadership legacy of the Heritage Park and Sullivan Gardens fields which went from "what if" to "what is" thanks to a few courageous leaders who stepped up to the plate and hit a home run for Kingsport's kids.



### Making the impossible, happen.

At a time when fiscal pressures seemed insurmountable the city's leadership had the courage to invest in Kingsport's kids – building 8 new baseball fields and 4 new soccer fields. The fields fulfill a promise to give kids a place to do what they do best. A place full of conversation, laughter, and cheers.  
A place for dreams to unfold.