

MAYOR'S REPORT

January 2, 2019

2018 In Review!

Financial Review - 2018 Income Tax Revenues collected have remained steady, despite the recent federal and state income tax reform that was implemented in 2018. The City's income tax receipts had only a slight decrease of 2% in the overall collections for the year.

This past year saw a continuation of major capital and equipment improvements in the City. A review of major activities implemented or initiated in various areas are as follows:

Street Improvements - A total of 10 roadways were resurfaced during 2018. Of the ten streets, two major arteries in the City were resurfaced. These major streets included Midlothian Blvd from Youngstown Poland Road to Fifth Street and SR289 from Bridge Street east to the City limits. Other streets resurfaced included Garfield Street (Manor to Wilson), Smithfield Street (Garfield to Poland Avenue), Spring Street (Youngstown Poland Road to Dogwood), Sexton Street (Youngstown Poland Road to Dogwood), Como Street (Eighth to Ninth), Harvey Street (Fifth to Eighth), Oakview Avenue (Washington to Chestnut), and Omar Street (Fifth to Eighth). The total cost for all streets resurfaced in 2018 was approximately \$760,000.00. The City utilized grants from the Ohio Public Works Commission and from the Ohio Department of Transportation, both in the amount of \$406,000.00 for the resurfacing. The City's share of all of the resurfacing in 2018 was paid for from the Road Levy Fund in the amount of approximately \$354,000.00.

Capital Equipment Purchases and Construction Projects - In addition, approximately \$80,000.00 was used for capital equipment purchases during 2018. A City dump truck was replaced along with the purchase of a new zero turn lawn mower. Another major capital improvement for the City was the construction of a new salt storage facility located adjacent to the City Road Department. The cost to construct the salt storage facility was approximately \$52,000.00 which will allow street department personnel direct access to road maintenance materials and improve response times to the residents during winter storm events. Other capital projects include the construction of approximately 2,800 square feet of sidewalk on Garfield Street from Manor to Wilson. This project provides safer walking conditions from the residential areas of Garfield Street to the schools, churches, and commercial areas along Fifth Street. The cost of the project was approximately \$208,000.00 of which \$164,000.00 was paid from an ODOT Transportation Alternative Grant obtained by the City. The City's share was approximately \$44,000.00. The City also completed the construction of new sidewalk at the Northside Gateway Greenspace located at Bridge Street and Wilson Avenue. The project was funded by a \$21,825.00 Nature Works grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

2019 Preview

Struthers Dam - Among the many projects set for 2019 is the removal of the Struthers Lower Head Dam in the Mahoning River. The removal of the 100 year old structure spans 158 feet from river bank in Struthers to the City of Campbell River Bank. The dam structure was the foundation of a former railroad trestle that served the Coke Plant Facility of the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company. Funding for the dam Removal Project was obtained by the city through a OEPA WWRSP Grant and funding from a n LTV Trust Fund established when the steel mills closed, for cleaning up the Mahoning River. The cost to complete the Dam Removal and clean-up process is \$2,300,000.

State Routes Resurfacing - The resurfacing of SR 616 from Struthers City Limits to Campbell City Limits has been scheduled for this year. The total cost of the resurfacing of SR 616 is approximately \$950,000. The Ohio Department of Transportation will provide 80% of the project's cost. Struthers share of the project's cost is set at 20% or approximately \$190,000. As part of the Ohio Department of Transportation Road Resurfacing Program, SR 170 (Youngstown Poland Road) is scheduled to be resurfaced in 2019 as well.

Local Paving - The Struthers Local Paving Program will include 9 road surfaces which were recommended by the City's Pavement Condition Rating Analysis Program. The following streets were recommended:

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|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1) Edison Street | – | from Youngstown Poland Road to 5 th Street |
| 2) Geneva Street | – | from 8 th Street to 5 th Street |
| 3) W. Wilson Street | – | from Youngstown Poland Road to 5 th Street |
| 4) 8 th Street | – | from Elm Street to Maplewood Avenue |
| 5) Maplewood Avenue | – | from Youngstown Poland Road to 5 th Street (CDBG) |
| 6) Hamilton Blvd. | - | from 5 th Street to Poland Avenue |
| 7) E. Harvey Street | – | from Garfield Street to Poland Avenue |
| 8) E. Omar Street | – | from Garfield Street to Argone Street |
| 9) Euclid Street | – | from Sexton Street to Morrison Street |

New 911 Technology - The Struthers Police Department and the Struthers Fire Department will be aided greatly by the addition of the new and upgraded E911 system provided by Mahoning County

Essentially, it's like taking the old copper line telephone 911 system and moving it into an internet protocol 911 system, which is much more advanced technology. With that comes capabilities down the line; text to 911, people will be able to send pictures and video, and locating callers will be based on the phone's actual location rather than through tower triangulation.

The emergency service agencies will work alongside wireless carriers to increase the tools that 911 operators have to use while responding to calls. There is a new translation service. Should there be a caller that only speaks Spanish there is a service that can be immediately accessed to provide a translator and get the information needed. The upgrades also will provide 911 operators with call

histories tied to certain addresses, which will provide emergency services personnel responding to the situation with potentially life-saving information.

For example, if an operator gets a call from a home where an individual with prior violent incidents lives, the operator will have access to that information and can pass it along to the responder. Mahoning County upgrades its 911 systems every five years to ensure the technology doesn't become obsolete.

These new additions along with upgrades to the Dispatch Center at the police department will enable the Police and Fire Departments to better serve the citizens of the City of Struthers

Some other areas the City will further pursue or address in 2019 include:

- Continue to pursue and address unsafe and blighted structures in need of repair throughout the city.
- Council implementation of a new Mandatory Landlord Registration Policy.
- Implement Legislation to Council to address Sanitary Sewer Delinquencies.
- Crack sealing Mauthe Park parking area.
- Address Storm Water runoff issues on SR 616 at Mauthe Park.
- Revision of the City's Website.
- Working with Castlo concerning acquisition of property for economic development by the City.

I would like to extend my sincere wishes to all city residents and employees for a very safe and prosperous 2019 new year.

Mayor, Terry Stocker