

**MAYOR'S REPORT
MARCH 26, 2014**

ENFORCEMENT OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

As spring officially arrived on Thursday, March 20th and the warmer weather is approaching; the city is reminding our residents that increasing patrols of our residential and commercial neighborhoods are being stepped up to identify property maintenance violations.

Please take pride in your homes, yards, neighborhoods and businesses so that you will not be cited into court on a property maintenance issue.

On tonight's agenda; I have forwarded legislation if adopted by council that concerning **Roofs, Gutters & Downspouts**. The city has received numerous complaints regarding tarps blowing around on roofs for many months. The legislation I am asking for is an addition to 1397.09 & 1399.09 that all residential and commercial roofs in need of repair throughout the city where repairs can be made in a reasonable time period that are impaired by adverse weather conditions that such repairs could not be made within a reasonable time period. Alternative roof coverings; i.e. tarping, to provide a temporary repair to such roof will be afforded to the homeowner for no longer than 45 days with permission from the Safety Service Director. If a longer period of time is needed, an extension may be offered by the Safety Service Director.

All tarps shall be secured without creating danger to persons or property.

ELDERLY VAN

The elderly van has been temporarily discontinued because the van was inspected and failed to meet the safety needs of our passengers.

The city filed an application for a new Specialized Transportation Vehicle from Ohio Department of Transportation on March 21st and will not know anything until July if the city will be awarded funding.

Meanwhile, I am actively pursuing acquiring a vehicle to temporarily service our senior citizens.

MEALS ON WHEELS

I participated in the Meals on Wheels National Initiative on March 19th along with other elected officials which allowed me to assist volunteers and make deliveries of hot meals to many wonderful Struthers senior residents.

This program is excellent for our seniors and it was enriching for me to be a part of the program on that day.

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Myself and Auditor Bohl attended the Tax Review Committee Meeting on Monday, March 24th at the Board of Mahoning County Commissioners. The purpose of this meeting was to review tax abatements and evaluate their compliances to investments and job creation for the past year.

MY CAP

I have nominated Ruth Charles to represent the City of Struthers on MYCAP. She previously has been my liaison to MYCAP and provided the city valuable information pertaining to programs that our available to our city residents. Ms. Charles is very active in our community and has been a fabulous asset.

2014 BUDGET ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA

I have submitted the proposed budget to members of council for their review and consideration. I am pleased to inform you that the proposed budget addresses all current obligations and provides for additional operational equipment and personnel needs. As Administrators, Auditor Bohl and myself still yield to the economic uncertainties with the State and Federal Funding that continue to bear unpredictable revenue sources. We find ourselves also being optimistically conservative due to the rising costs of workers compensation rates, local government cuts. The General Fund total budget for 2014 is \$4,196,327 and that is \$288,396 higher than the 2013 Budget.

I have appropriated funding to address upcoming projects such as: repair to the main fire station, replacement of engine #81, cruiser placement in the Police Department, and replacing a plow/dump truck in the Street Department and the Specialized Transportation Match should we receive the Elderly Van funding. Increases for building safety and unforeseen road repairs and crack sealing are also allotted for in this budget.

I have also addressed nonunion, full time employees (clerical) and department head employees proposing of 2% on their base salaries for 2014. Additionally, part time employees as well as seasonal employees are addressed in the 2014 budget.

In preparing the 2014 Budget, Auditor Bohl and myself have once again been optimistically conservative as we proceed with our spending to insure funds for emergencies and basic needs of our city.

The 2014 proposed budget allots for OPERS' increase to cover the additional wages in police & fire pension plans; the plans have been changed as to how they are paid. You can find this modification in this proposed budget at 2C. Insurance is based on current census of employees and as always subject to change. Contract for Patrolman and Captains that have been agreed upon per contract negotiations; wage increase agreements are applied to the 2014 Budget. Additionally, increased amount to Engineering Service categories to cover design work for various city projects in 2014.

I would like to thank Auditor Bohl for her assistance in the preparation of this proposed budget and I look forward to working with Council as we move forward in finalizing the 2014 Budget.

Respectfully Submitted

Mayor Terry Stocker