# MAYOR'S REPORT JANUARY 25, 2012

As the city enters 2012 there is much to look forward to and just as much to remember during the past four years.

Looking forward into this year several projects are scheduled to begin:

## RESURFACING OF LOWELLVILLE ROAD

The resurfacing of Lowellville Road from Yellow Creek Bridge east to the city limits with the Village of Lowellville is to get underway in mid to late August. This project was ranked #1 by the local District 6 OPWC Committee and awarded the highest points from a total of 58 submitted projects from all communities in Mahoning & Trumbull Counties. On July 1, 2012, the city will be awarded \$87,900 from the Ohio Public Works Commission which will be 20% of the overall cost of the project. Federal Highway funds from Eastgate Regional Council of Governments in the amount of \$361,100 has already been awarded to the city. This amount from Eastgate will cover the remaining 80% of the total project cost of \$449,000 which will free the taxpayers of any cost for this project, including engineering design and construction administration.

#### YELLOW CREEK TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT

Partnering with Mahoning County and Mill Creek Metro Parks, a Transportation Enhancement Grant has been obtained to rehabilitate the Yellow Creek Bridge structure, expand the entrance to Yellow Creek Metro Park and to install new curb, sidewalk, and decorative lighting spanning the bridge and portions of the downtown area. Bridge railing, bridge deck replacement, and a new sign and planter area will be constructed on the SE corner of the bridge identifying Yellow Creek Park along with a walkway along the approach bridge rail to serve as a pedestrian overlook of Yellow Creek.

The city will utilize Community Development Block Grant monies (CDBG) to replace additional sidewalks and curb in the project area; these sidewalks have not been replaced in many years; and this will give the area a new and improved facelift furthering our Downtown Development. The curb and sidewalk will be replaced from the intersection of State Street and SR616 to approximately 200 feet east of the Yellow Creek Bridge and Park Entrance.

#### RUNGE BLVD. SAFETY UPGRADE PROJECT

Road restoration and resurfacing of Runge Blvd. between Hamilton Blvd. and SR 616 is to begin in early spring once the weather stabilizes. The project consists of curbing, driveway approaches, storm inlets, 400 ft. of 12 inch storm sewer and resurfacing. The plan is to lower the roadway surface and rebuild the storm water collection system. Grant funding was approved from the Ohio Public Works Commission in the amount of \$179,000 and bid was within the original amount stated in the Auditor's Fiscal Certificate at \$169,202.10. Work on this project will begin in the spring of 2012.

#### **LOOKING BACK:**

## **BOB CENE WAY UPGRADE PROJECT**

The city has finally completed a project that includes the reconstruction a roadway and rail crossing on Bob Cene Way (aka: Union Street). The roadway construction began in November 2008 and suspended in April 2009. At that time, the roadway was complete, except for 400 remaining feet of the roadway and one rail spur crossing. Since April 2009, the city, the contractor and their engineering consultant, MS Consultants, Inc. worked with two railroad companies (Norfolk Southern of Atlanta, GA, and the Ohio Central Railroad from Coshocton, OH) to have track signals relocated and to obtain authorization to construct the crossing. Authorization was finally obtained by the city in early November 2011 and construction commenced. The city had to follow very strict requirements regarding construction and insurance. The remaining roadway and crossing was at last completed on December 12, 2011.

The project completes an important step in providing an internal roadway system within the Mahoning River Corridor Initiative.

#### FIRST ENERGY LIGHTING INCENTIVES

The city was afforded a grant incentive through Ohio Edison and The Illuminating Company to install high efficiency lighting throughout our city building. The energy efficient overhead lighting assists in reducing energy to assist us in our efforts of *Going Green*.

## METHANE GAS GENERATORS/WWTP

The \$5.4 million dollar ARRA awarded the city is up and running at full capacity as reported by Plant Manager Bob Gentile. We have seen our electrical usage drop by 30% and our natural gas costs have been reduced by 80%.

I have attached a letter from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Ohio to MS Consultants whom entered the Methane Gas Conversion Project in the 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards Competition. The project was selected to receive an Honor Award and will be presented at the Engineering Excellence Awards on June 21, 2012.

#### **MOVING FORWARD & TONIGHT'S AGENDA:**

## **NATURE WORKS GRANT**

On tonight's agenda I am asking council to authorize myself and the Park Committee to apply for a grant with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Nature Works Program to allow for the opportunity to obtain additional playground equipment for Mauthe Park.

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MAHONING COUNTY

Through cooperative efforts between the city and Mahoning County, legislation is being requested for a MOU with Mahoning County upon the approval of County Commissioners to take over the major maintenance of the bridge over the Mahoning River on Bob Cene Way. The city would assist in snow removal, sweeping and minor maintenance of the roadway, If approved, this takes a major burden off of the city.

## FALL LEAF COLLECTION GRANT

The city will receive grant funds from the Mahoning County Solid Waste Management District in order to implement a fall leaf collection and composting program. The 2012 amount is \$4,000. The agreement from Mahoning County will be forthcoming in September.

I received notice on January 17<sup>th</sup> of Jeff Pantell's retirement from the Struthers Police Department in March of this year. Jeff has served the city for over 30 years and I would like to thank him for his valuable service to our community.

I would also like to thank Law Director Carol Clemente-Wagner for all her years of service to the city and welcome Dominic Leone as our new Law Director and I look forward to working with him.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry P. Stocker Mayor