

**MAYOR'S REPORT**  
**MARCH 10, 2010**

**2010 PROPOSED BUDGET**

The 2010 Proposed General Operating Budget before you tonight allows the City of Struthers to position itself to operate efficiently without reducing the level of services or manpower. All of this during the worst economic recession since the great depression; at a time when all of us have witnessed business failures, residential and commercial foreclosures and soaring unemployment. The need for City services rises due to deteriorating neighborhoods and increased crime activities while trying to maintain declining revenues. Each one of us, both city officials and employees has made very difficult decisions and sacrifices allowing for stability and a greater sense of certainty and direction for our community for this year and the future.

The next several years will be very challenging and pivotal as the need for job creation and economic development will be the top priorities.

I ask Council's support of the proposed budget before you this evening and thank you for all of your involvement. I would also like to thank Auditor Morell for all of her assistance in association with the preparation of this proposed budget.

**YELLOW CREEK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

The City of Struthers appreciates being invited to be a part of the proposed Yellow Creek Enhancement Project and the City of Struthers will partner with Mahoning County and Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District in this grant proposal. The scope of the enhancement grant will cover the bridge expansion joints, bridge deck, bridge railing, approach railing, approach sidewalk, landscape and/pedestrian overlook, park entranceway and lighting.

The City is willing to share in the local costs of the project, specifically: 20% of construction of any lighting requested by the City and 20% of the construction costs of any sidewalk requested by the City. Mahoning County will be responsible for 100% of all other engineering costs, including those sidewalk items requested by the City. The County will also be completely responsible for the full grant application, project management of the project, and all cost associated with the Construction Management of the project which includes those lighting and sidewalk items requested by the City.

Other grant sources have, and will be used, for additional sidewalk replacement and storefront façade renovations which help attract and sustain businesses that benefit the overall revitalization of downtown Struthers. This opportunity to partner with Mahoning County and Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District will serve as a model for regional collaboration.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM (NSP)**

As reported in 2009; the NSP was passed by Congress through the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) as a one-time funding provision to states and local governments for the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed upon homes and residential properties. The funding is available through the Mahoning County Program to demolish blighted structures, establish land banks for homes that have been foreclosed, etc.

As you are aware if you watch the news, the process of demolition began on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> on Poland Avenue and followed by another abandoned home on Hawthorne Street. There are an additional 10 homes that will be demolished hereafter and approximately 25 with paperwork in progress.

## **YOUNGSTOWN METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Councilman Mike Patrick, Safety Director Ed Wildes and myself attended a meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to gain information on Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority's (YMHA) embarkment on the development and construction of a new senior building and is actively searching for a location for this new building.

YMHA has a long history of providing housing to seniors in numerous neighborhoods. Struthers senior residents have been served for the past 35 years by the well known Struthers Manor, which houses residents with mid to low incomes with an average of 60+.

As Mayor, I made it clear that our community has land available for development and requested their consideration in locating in our City.

## **GRAFFITI**

Our Struthers Police Officers have brought forth the juvenile that sprayed graffiti on one of our business buildings and has been turned over to Mahoning County Juvenile Justice Center. I want to send a strong message that this activity or any acts of vandalism will not be tolerated in the City of Struthers and that although it was juvenile; parents have a responsibility according to our city ordinance. I thank our Police Officers for their efforts in tracking this individual and hope that more arrests will be brought forth.

## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

On Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM; the City will hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Struthers High School Football Field. City officials and employees donate their time to make sure that the event is an enjoyable one for the children. The Easter Bunny will be there to greet the children and each child will go home with a treat.

I would like to thank the businesses and organizations that donate to this event to offset the expenditures; because without their support we wouldn't be able to hold these events; so I graciously thank all whom have assisted in any way.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Mayor Terry P. Stocker  
City of Struthers

