MAYOR'S REPORT DECEMBER 9, 2009

A REVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009 PART 1

OHIO EPA METHANE GAS CONVERSION PROJECT "GRANT"

I am most proud of a 2008 goal becoming a reality in 2010. The Ohio Water Pollution Control & American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 has awarded the City of Struthers \$4,000,000.00 for the Methane Gas Conversion Project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. First of all the generator system was deplorable and was scheduled to be replaced next year. This project consists of installing two 500 kilowatt generator, gas scrubbing system, sludge thickener, mixer for the sludge storage tank, waste gas burner and piping replacement, and the demolition of the existing primary digester cover.

Methane gas is a by-product of the Wastewater Plant's digestion process and presently the gas is burned off through a waste gas burner. This product will use the methane gas to run a generator to power the operations of the plant for future generations in saving tax dollars and to work towards bringing clean and *green* energy to our community. It is the first of its kind in this area. I would like to thank council members who supported this project.

OHIO EPA CASTLO GRANT

On May 8, 2009 the City of Struthers was awarded \$200,000.00 to provide for the removal of two above ground storage tanks and three underground storage tanks at Castlo Industrial Park. These tanks were abandoned over 30 years by the former Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, together with associated contaminated soils from approximately 2.811 acre parcel at the industrial park.

EDWARD J. BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT'S (JAG)

- The City was awarded \$56,385.00 to pay an existing officer to fill the position of school resource officer. In lieu of one of our budget cuts for diversion officer; we are pleased to assist the school in this capacity.
- I am also happy to report that we obtained approximately \$22,224.00 for the use of a cruiser for our Police Department which will allow for cruiser replacement to continue maintaining a reliable fleet. This Dodge Charger is 4 cylinders but in emergency pursuits it can be utilized as an 8 cylinder hemi engine.
- Also our Police Department has established a gun range for training purposes and obtained four M-16's .223 caliber assault weapons in which training has been completed and four M-14's .308 caliber assault weapons through Military Surplus at no cost to the citizens therefore; modernizing our police weaponry to meet society's needs.

STORM WATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The fees you see on your sewer bill each month have funded the following culverts that were rebuilt to eliminate many years of erosion and infestation of rodents and to clean the water and slow the impact of the water during major rain events to prevent flooding downstream.

- Spring Street Culvert Restoration
- Judith Lane Culvert Restoration (lower Spring)
- 5th Street Culvert Replacement
- Helena & Route 616 Culvert Restoration

SOUTHEAST SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT GRANT

This project was funded through an OPWC grant to allow future development. It included the rehabilitation of sanitary sewers in the Park cliff, Haywood, Oakland, Schenley, Clingan Road and Wetmore Avenue areas. The work included approximately 2,400 feet of pipe bursting, 1,200 feet of pipe slip lining, 300 feet of sanitary sewer replacement and connection of 20 sanitary laterals. The total project cost was \$377,600.00, grant award amount is \$260,544.00; Mahoning County Share is \$76,086.00 and City Share is \$40,970.00. This project is near completion.

COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CHIP) GRANT

Our City has successfully competed for a FY 2009 community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) grant award. The total grant award is \$500,000.00 and the City of Struthers will provide rehabilitation assistance to 5 LMI owner-occupied households (4 units in the Target Area and 6 units citywide). In addition, funds will be provided to rehabilitate 2 rental units occupied by LMI tenants. Down payment Assistance/Rehabilitation will be provided to 2 LMI households to purchase and rehabilitate units on a citywide basis. A new activity, Emergency Monthly Housing Assistance will provide up to \$3,000 to 8 eligible applicants to assist in preventing home foreclosures.

CLEAN UP AND RECYCLING GRANTS

- A \$2,500.00 grant was received from Ohio Department of Natural Resources for implementing a Litter Cleanup Project which was held on May 2, 2009.
- Mahoning County Solid Waste Management awarded the City five \$350.00 grants totaling \$1,750.00. The grants were utilized for recycling receptacles at the park, compositing, fluorescent bulb recycling and rubber cribbing for the Fire Department for stabilizing rolled vehicles. The Green Team funded the City's Annual Scrap Tire Drive and Appliance Drive both held on May 16, 2009.

ELECTRIC PROGRAM GRANT MONEY

First Energy Solutions provides Community Grants and Struthers is one of the 50 communities it is being offered to. The program gives customers long term electric generation savings and the funding is available through Powering Our Communities to help local

communities during this difficult recession. The City of Struthers will be award over \$124,000.00 in grant money.

LED SIGN

I am very impressed with the LED Sign located in the heart of downtown Struthers which was donated by Aqua Ohio Water. The sign is a beautiful addition to downtown Struthers and is a great benefit to our community for announcing various events as well as posting public announcements.

Businesses and nonprofit organizations may now advertise through ads on this sign. The revenue generated will be used for sign maintenance, utility costs and well as general fund uses.

TAX RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER UPDATE

The Tax Recovery Plan has generated \$13,560.26 during the month of November 2009. Individual collections have amounted to \$7,443.26, while delinquent account collections have generated \$6,117.00 for a combined total of \$13,560.26. The Tax Recovery Plan has generated over \$48,000.00 for the months of September and October of 2009.

This plan has benefited tax payers by provided an opportunity to acquire a payment plan which controls and maintains current and future city tax debt.

THANKS TO EMPLOYEES

None of the above could have been achieved without the diligent efforts of our hard working department heads, employees and administration. We are a serious team here to get the job done with the taxpayers interests at the crown of our agenda.

As mayor; I applaud each and every employee because there is not a task, duty or activity done within this team that doesn't deserve a cheer. Thank you employees; you have made me proud to stand as your representative in the City of Struthers.

Respectfully Submitted:
Terry P. Stocker Mayor