

Date: February 8, 2010  
To: Members of Council and Citizens of Amherst  
From: David A. Taylor, Mayor  
Subject: State of the City Address

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As we enter 2010 we still face challenging economic times. Although we have submitted a balanced budget for 2010 we will look to reduce costs and find opportunities for savings throughout all our departments. I again want to thank all the City employees, including elected and appointed officials, for their support of a pay freeze for this year. In addition, I also want to thank the residents for approving the redirection of monies to the general fund. By all of these actions we have been given an opportunity to catch our financial breath during these difficult times.

This year we will re-enter negotiations with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, full time full time dispatchers, part time dispatchers, part time patrol, and the AFSCME service union, as well as non-bargaining employees, including the fire department, for 2011 and beyond. Hopefully if the economy improves we can have a favorable outcome for all concerned.

The enterprise/revenue accounts for the water, sewer, and electric are in stable condition. Our rate consultant, John Courtney of Courtney & Associates, will return to a future meeting to review these accounts with Council.

Based on our financial status the capital projects we are reviewing for 2010 will include:

#### STREETS

- We have received preliminary approval for State Issue I funds in the form of a grant in the amount of approximately \$175,000.00. This project consists of the resurfacing of Cleveland Avenue from Rt. 58 west to Central Drive for Phase I in 2010. We will submit a request for our share of this project to council once we get final approval of the State Issue I funding. We will apply for a 2011 grant of State Issue I funds to complete Phase II of Cleveland Avenue.
- We will be submitting the list of streets for the 2010 resurfacing program as soon as we have it finalized.

- The Ohio Department of Transportation will be resurfacing the off ramps at Rt. 2 and Rt. 58, which will also include new traffic signalization. The project is scheduled for completion this year.

#### SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

- The sanitary sewer relining project from Rt. 58 to Oberlin Avenue has been re-bid and awarded in the amount of \$344,816.00. \$100,000.00 will be grant stimulus money through state and federal agencies. It is approximately a 90 day construction time frame with the tentative start date of March 8<sup>th</sup>. For the most part work will be performed at night and traffic will be maintained throughout the project.
- We will be submitting to council a request for funding to complete the siphon chamber project.
- We will continue to eliminate Inflow & Infiltration in our sanitary sewer lines through root control, grouting, relining or replacement as deemed necessary.

#### ELECTRIC

- Our reviews of the upgrading of the Hendrix electrical distribution lines and AMR metering for commercial and residential customers are on going. Both projects are major capital outlay of funds. We are investigating the possibility of obtaining grants for these projects through AMP Ohio.
- We have submitted an Agenda Request to Council to fund our tree trimming program to remove limbs from electrical lines.

#### WATER

- Both Lorain and Elyria will be increasing the purchase cost of water in May of this year.
- We will be looking to replace water lines where needed.
- We will also continue to replace old water meters with AMR meters.

#### WPCC

- Renew our NPDES permit for the Water Pollution Control Center.

All of these projects are part of our maintaining and upgrading the infrastructure throughout the street, water, sewer, and electrical systems.

In 2009 there were thirty two new homes built and eighteen new businesses opened in the city. In 2010 Panera Bread will be opening at Deerfield.

I look forward to working with Council and the rest of the administration this year. Together we will keep our city safe, and continue to make improvements where needed in maintaining the quality of life our residents expect.