

CITY MANAGER

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019-20

August 7, 2020

Despite COVID, it has been a pretty good year!

In this annual report, I hope to recap those accomplishments in one document for your review. This is not a comprehensive list, but a reasonable overview of some of the larger successes.

1. INFRASTRUCTURE

The #farmercityforward initiative has gained strength this year. We have invested more than **$4,786,250** in all areas this past year. Just a reminder – this is for expenditures up until the end of Fiscal Year 2020.

They include:

* Streets
  + Completion of Water/Washington St improvements
  + Completion of Maple/Western improvements
  + Completion of John St improvements
  + Completion of Brookview drainage improvements
  + Purchased new street sweeper
  + Awarded $108,000 SRTS grant
  + Removed 5 dead or dangerous trees
  + Replaced multiple street sign blades
  + Multiple pavement patch repairs
  + Re-marked tennis courts to include pickle ball
  + Discussed improvements for intersection of Plum/150 with ADM

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* Water
  + Completion of Extension across I-74
  + Applied for $1 million grant for water main replacement
  + New fire hydrants; hydrant replacement program
  + Fixed 13 watermain leak repairs and replacements
  + Filter #4 replaced
  + Water holding tank cleaned for first time since 1990’s
  + Addressing multiple zero-read meters capturing more revenue; lost water – including Day’s Inn and the Fire Station
  + Conducted lead service line study in cooperation with the University of Illinois
  + Eliminated positive lead test results to all but one
* Wastewater
  + Completion of extension across I-74
  + Replaced pump at Tertiary Filter Lift station
  + Addressed pump at Cemetery Lift Station
  + Addressed issues at aeration detention basin
  + Replaced pump at Activated sludge tank
  + Clarifier tank cleaned, fixed and painted
  + NPDES permit approved with chlorination system
* Electric
  + Completed extension of utilities across I-74
  + Replaced Power Plant operator position with hybrid Lineman Crew Supervisor – succession planning
  + Distributed more than $1,377 in energy efficiency grants, including 1st phase of energy efficiency improvements at Maxwell Counters
  + Purchased new flatbed truck
  + Multiple commercial meters replaced
  + Replaced lights with LED at BMX track
  + Replaced 24 streetlights around town with LED
  + Successful URGE test
  + Installed outdoor cameras around power plant facility

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* Miscellaneous
  + Pool - renovations started – to be completed by end of year
  + Parks – new fencing at South Park
  + Parks – new riprap at ponds
  + Police – awarded camera grant for cars & body cameras; begin gun range construction
  + Police – awarded AED worth $23,000
  + Police – purchased and are utilizing speed trailer
  + Demolition of 101 S Main St
  + TIF funded renovation of 113 S Main St, 501 Depot Rd.
  + Approved agreement for Knights Baseball to utilize South Park’s east field
  + Approved agreement with Farmer City BMX for use of South Park

1. FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

We have made many positive changes in Administration and Finance this year. We have saved more than $222,000 in changes including the following:

* Saved $220,000+ declining Zindars/Drake’ demand for final Prairie Ridge payout
* Switched debt collection through the State Treasurer’s office and recouped more than $1,300
* Changed cleaning service – saving $1,188
* Requesting sales tax increase referendum
* Reviewed closed session minutes; up to date
* Upgraded IT server for financial and computer systems
* Completed a supervisor evaluation via third party consultant on City Manager

1. TRANSPARENCY/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

* Downtown parking survey
* CM interviewed with WHOW promoting the Census and CodeRed
* CM participated in an accreditation panel for the School District
* Mayor and CM welcomed Congressman Rodney Davis to tour our power plant and wastewater treatment plant
* CM participated in Central Illinois CEO program

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1. ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF NOTE
   * Awarded $10,000 in COVID-19 Local Business Stabilization grants
   * We have issued and resolved more than 50 code enforcement complaints, from junk in yards to unlicensed or inoperable vehicles.

We have been able to accomplish these things without the need for higher property taxes or new taxes. We have also been able to succeed using minimal, necessary strategic drawdowns of fund balance. This has allowed us to maintain higher than expected percentages of fund balance in our accounts, which equates to a strong financial stability. However, we are hopeful the sales tax referendum is approved in order to do more.

I believe this next year will still be exciting as we work to achieve the following:

* Complete pool renovations
* Completed Safe Routes to School sidewalks
* Completed new gun range building
* I-74 development
* Madison St drainage improvements
* John St. drainage improvements in front of pool
* New Activated sludge lift station electrical panel
* New Tertiary filter electrical panel
* Upgraded relays on Engine #5 at power plant
* Completed rate study for water/sewer
* Completed energy efficiency study at the wastewater treatment plant
* Completed downtown parking striping
* Completed updated city hall roof
* Completed water tower cleaning

Thank you!

Sue McLaughlin, ICMA-CM

City Manager