



## Mayor's Minute



*I hope you were able to put away all of your summer and fall toys before Old Man Winter decided to make an appearance in mid-November. The weather certainly has put me in the holiday spirit. Stop downtown and support your local businesses as you begin your holiday shopping. Check out local sales on Saturday, November 29, for Small Business Saturday.*

*As always, you are welcome at council meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Feel free to contact me at City Hall with your questions or concerns or e-mail me at [bltasker@cmsinter.net](mailto:bltasker@cmsinter.net).*

*Have a safe and blessed holiday season with family and friends!*

## New Faces at City Hall

Our new City Administrator, Jean Southward, has been “on the job” for almost two months as is “learning the ropes.” She is experiencing the budget process and all of the legal items that are involved in that part of her position. She has met with all department heads and established a good working relationship with each one. Stop in and welcome her to the new position.

Our new Police Chief, Dave Ellis, has been with us for a month. He is bringing the department up-to-date and recertifying our position. Chief Ellis is currently interviewing candidates to be added as part-time officers to our department. We welcome Chief Ellis and encourage you to stop in and meet him.

## New Police Car

It is time to replace our old tan police cars and we are applying for a grant through the Federal Government to help with the cost. The grant would be for 40% of the cost of a new car. Each year the city places \$6,000 into a car reserve account so that every 5 years a new vehicle can be purchased. We will not know until the spring if we have been successful in obtaining the grant.

## No Parking Reminder

Residents are reminded that there is no overnight parking on city streets. This is to allow the snowplow trucks to efficiently remove snow from the roadway. Your cooperation is much appreciated.



## Community Partners

The city and CC-C Schools have entered into a partnership to improve the storm water run-off system near the elementary school. A new 12-inch storm drain will be connected to an overloaded drain system near Seventh Street. It will then go across school property where it will be changed to an 18-inch tile to accommodate rain water run-off from the school and continue to the county drain system.

## Christmas Tree Lighting

The City Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on December 11 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. The United Methodist Church has once again taken the reins on this project. Join us for a few Christmas Carols, the lighting of the tree, and hot cider with donuts. This is a fantastic community tradition for all ages to attend. It will last approximately 30 minutes.



## Making Progress

The old Kellogg Elevator on North Division Street continues to be torn down. Progress is slow, but steady. The work crew is currently removing the old tracks from the cemetery to the building structure. Work will continue this winter as weather permits. We appreciate your patience and the progress that the crew is making.



## Sewer Grant Project

The city was awarded a \$610,000 grant from the state to study and collect data on our sanitary sewer and storm-water sewer systems. We must provide a 10% match (\$61,000) for this grant. All of our catch basins have been televised and about 90% of sanitary sewer lines have also been televised. Camera work is beginning now on the storm water sewer lines. Once completed, this will allow us to determine exact location by GIS technology, size, condition, and make of our infrastructure. We can then develop an assessment plan for repairs and improvements.



## Street Project

This past summer saw a couple of major street reconstruction projects, along with 26 blocks of slurry seal.

The project on Walnut Street was a complete reconstruction. The blacktop was ground and recycled. The clay base was removed and replaced with sand and gravel. Roadside drains were placed and connected to the storm water drainage system. It was then re-blacktopped. The cost was approximately \$35,000.

The other major project was on First Street, between St. Mary's Hall and CC-C High School. This was also a complete reconstruction, similar to Walnut Street. In addition, the catch basins were rebuilt from severe disrepair and additional 12-inch storm drain tile was installed. This project cost was about \$70,000.

The slurry seal (a mixture of sand, fine gravel, water, and tar emulsion) was swabbed on 26 blocks to seal the blacktop. The cost of this was about \$3,000 per block. If we can keep the water from entering the cracks in the blacktop, going through some freeze-thaw cycles, our streets will last longer.

All of these projects were paid with Act 51 dollars. This is money we receive from the state gasoline taxes and car registration fees. It must be used on street projects.



## Sidewalk Repair

Several sidewalk projects were also completed this year. Eight small sections were replaced or repaired and two long sections were replaced. These sidewalks are improved by a cooperative effort between the homeowner and the city. The homeowner pays 75 cents per square foot and the city use Act 51 money to cover the remaining cost. The city provides all of the labor. If you have a damaged or missing sidewalk and want to check in improving it, stop by City Hall and talk City Administrator Jean Southward.

