

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
December 11, 2023 Council Meeting

1. Leaf Pickup Final Week: With the weather cooperating, we'll be out through this Friday, December 15, picking up leaves. Our goal is to have all leaves that were raked to the curb picked up by the end of this week.
2. DORA update: As was discussed at the last Planning Committee meeting, the city administration is in the process of compiling information and preparing plans specific to the effective implementation and operation of the DORA (sanitation plan, safety response plan, cost estimates, etc.). Once this is completed, it will be presented to the Planning Committee for their review. I hope to get this information to the committee as soon as possible.
3. Water / Wastewater Infrastructure Grant (WWIGP) Application: I mentioned at the last council meeting that we were preparing to submit another application through the ODOD's WWIGP for the W. Main Street Infrastructure project, phase I. That application, seeking \$1.5M, was submitted last week. As discussed, the requested funding is for "gap coverage", which exists due to the significant rise in the cost of the project that greatly occurred between our engineer's March, 2023 estimate of probable cost and October's accepted contractor bid. If awarded, this will go towards significantly reducing our long-term debt financing.
4. State Capital Budget Funding Opportunities: We are looking to submit two separate applications for each of the funding opportunities through the State's Capital Budget Bill. Deadline: Dec. 18.

The first application, from the state's One Time Strategic Community Investment Fund, is for \$3M for W. Main Street Phase II, to enable us to proceed with the final 20% of the project that was cut out due to project costs rising beyond our comfort level. This phase, estimated at around \$3.5M, is just as crucial as phase I for safety, operational and functionality purposes. This funding will go a long way towards allowing us to finish the whole project as originally planned.

The second application seeking state budget appropriations is for continued improvements at the Recreation Center. Being driven by the fact the building needs a new roof, there are other necessary improvements needed too, like updating the restrooms, repairing and refinishing the gym floor, tuck pointing, etc. These improvements were targeted two years ago for state funding but unfortunately, were cut from consideration. Total amount sought is being finalized (\$250k).

5. Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP) update: We received word last week from Eastgate's Appalachian Regional Commission Program Manager Kathy Zook, that Geneva City's project "Downtown Revitalization" was included in the Eastgate ACGP development application submitted December 8. The primary goal of the application was to seek "sustainable, regional and transformative change" for future economic and community development within our Appalachian region. Along with Geneva city, there were several other area communities whose projects were also chosen to be included in the application, which is great for Ashtabula County. The decision timeframe is estimated to be early 2024.