

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT  
May 13, 2024 Council Meeting

1. Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP): As everyone is aware, the city was awarded \$2.6M through the Appalachian Community Grant Program, which was announced by Gov. DeWine last Thursday at a program here in Downtown Geneva. Our project, which emphasizes downtown revitalization, includes paving of a central downtown parking lot, the installation of trees, landscaping, wayfinding signs, murals and site furnishings in various locations as well as replacement of sidewalk on the east side of S. Broadway from Erie St. to Eastwood St., with sidewalk, brick paver ribbon and stamped decorative concrete, in the city's central downtown.

However, another aspect to our overall-plan appears not to have been included, which involved the renovation of storefront façades in the CBD (where \$615,000 in improvements had been committed, with \$280,000 committed in private equity). We are still sifting through the details of the award and will pass on additional details as we learn them.

As we indicated last week, we are extremely grateful for the receipt these funds and believe when fully implemented, it will have a transformational impact on our community.

2. West Main Street Project Updates: The project continues and overall, things are going well. The contractor continued work installing the dewatering system on the north side of W. Main St. and there were additional adjustments made with detour signage. Additionally, the areas around the construction zone involving re-routed traffic are being monitored for speeding, as there have been resident calls of complaints (both in and out of the city).

Construction Progress Meeting #2: Wednesday, May 22 at 10AM in Council Chambers.

3. USDOT FY 24 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Collaboration: We are leading a collaborative effort with the Townships of Geneva and Harpersfield, seeking a USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning Grant for \$265,000 to conduct planning activities and create *a comprehensive roadway safety action plan*.

Presently, the USDOT (SS4A) Grant provides an 80/20 Federal/Local Match Ratio for planning applications (i.e.: the city is seeking \$95,000 with a \$19,000 local match payable over two budget cycles, 2025/26). Growth in all three jurisdictions is causing transportation-related issues and as a result, serious and fatal accidents in the region are well above the national averages. In this current grant round, our area will receive discretionary points because of the exceedance of fatal serious accidents. Ashtabula County has some of the highest rates of fatal and serious accidents per 100,000 people in the State of Ohio. This serious issue needs to be better understood to reduce and eliminate fatal and serious accidents.

Key Deliverables for each entity in this grant-funded project would be:

1. Comprehensive Transportation Safety Action Plan
2. GIS Mapping of all transportation elements – including roads, rails, sidewalks, trails, and on-street parking.

3. Comprehensive Safety Assessment of roadways, intersections, and pedestrian/cyclist infrastructure and identification of countermeasures.
4. Broad Public & Stakeholder Engagement
5. Public Education and Outreach
6. Community Developed Land Use Plan

FY 24 Round Projects will be awarded in 2025. The city would have 18 months from the date of the grant agreement to complete the Plan.

4. Stormwater Master Plan Update: FYI- At the last work session with our consultants, we reviewed previously identified troubled areas and added a few more to a working map. Now, our consultants are in the process of physically visiting/inspecting these “priority” areas and will be updating their information along the way. Such inspections could identify infrastructure issues and/or other natural occurrences that may need to be addressed. They will map and document their findings then we’ll plan to get together again to review. Our next meeting is TBD.
5. Community Center Event Planner: Our new Event Planner for the Community Center, Lauren Merinar, is now officially onboard. We held an organizational meeting last week with our existing Community Center representative, Lynn Gersper, and IT. We are working on integrating the two through updated technology (shared electronic calendars, etc.) and establishing general operating procedures. I anticipate having Lauren at a council meeting soon for a proper introduction.
6. ODNR- Div. of Forestry Grant Award: The City (the lead applicant), in cooperation with the Village of GOTL and Geneva Twp., are in receipt of a \$50,000 grant from the ODNR-Div. of Forestry. A breakout of the grant funding and uses are summarized as follows:
  - a. \$30,000 is for the Forester
  - b. \$12,000 is for High-Risk Tree Removal
  - c. \$8,000 is for Tree-Planting (in all three jurisdictions)

To receive the awarded funding, I will need to enter into a *Subrecipient Grant Agreement (SGA)* between the ODNR-DOF and City of Geneva.

I’m requesting council authorization to enter into the SGA between the ODNR-DOF and City of Geneva.

Additionally, we have prepared and posted an RFP (Request for Proposal) for a qualified consulting Forester to serve as an independent contractor. The chosen Forester will be compensated through funds awarded by the ODNR, Division of Forestry grant (RFP enclosed).

7. Yard Waste Pick-Up Service: FYI- The city’s annual curb-side yard waste pickup has now begun. Pick-up of acceptable yard-waste occurs on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month through October. A full description of our terms and conditions can be found on our website (hand-out enclosed).