

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT  
February 24, 2025 Council Meeting

1. W. Main Street (WMS) Project update:
  - a. Progress Meeting #11 Minutes have been emailed to Council members
  - b. Progress Meeting #12 is scheduled for March 12, 2025 at 10 AM in Council Chambers
  
2. ODNR Div. of Forestry Notice: FYI- We are in receipt of a letter from the ODNR (copy enclosed) basically putting us on notice that the funding we were awarded through the Division of Forestry "might be impacted by the review of programs as part of federal Executive Orders...". The letter goes on to state, "I want you to make informed decisions regarding continued grant expenditures, because I cannot guarantee reimbursement of those expenditures if the status of the grant changes". Please know we have reached out to our Arborist (who's being funded under this grant) and asked him to pause all new activities until further notice. It is our intent to pay him for services rendered to date, but until we know the status of the grant going forward, no additional expenditures will be accepted.
  
3. Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP) Façade Project: There was a kickoff meeting held last Thursday with the newly procured Construction Management team LDA Architects, and several Applicants of the Storefront Improvement (Façade) Project. Also in attendance were representatives of the county Landbank, Eastgate (grant administrator) and the county 503 Corp. The applicants had an opportunity to hear from LDA about the process going forward and set up meeting times when the applicant and LDA can get together to start looking at their projects. We will be reaching out to anyone who was not at the kickoff meeting so we can start talking about next steps. As a reminder, The Façade budget is \$583,000 and the construction services fee for LDA is covered by the Landbank.
  
4. Dispatch Services Agreement Renewal, GOTL: The three (3) year Dispatch Services Agreement with the Village of GOTL is expiring at the end of April, 2025. Both parties are in agreement that the services provided are mutually beneficial and would like to extend the agreement an additional three (3) years. The total annual fee for service in 2024 was \$36,500. As in the previous agreement, there will be a slight fee increase each of the three years through 2028. Without objection, I would like to add a Resolution seeking Authorization to enter into the Agreement on the next council agenda.
  
5. Ashtabula County EMA Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: FYI- As I am part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan- Update Planning Committee, I will be participating in the update process, which is now under way. In accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, an update is required every five (5) years if covered communities are to remain eligible to receive funding under FEMA's mitigation-related grant programs. Our goal throughout this process is to start updating the status of mitigation projects and strategies contained in the current plan. I was also part of the update process five years ago, when the committee last convened. I will keep council apprised of the progress as we move forward.

6. My Upcoming Schedule: FYI- I will be attending the Ohio City/County Management Association (OCMA) Annual Conference in Columbus this Wednesday, 2/26 through Friday, 2/28. Should anyone need me for any reason, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.