

Annual Report to the Electors of the City

Presented by Mayor Anthony R. Moyer at the City Council Organizational Meeting on June 2, 2014:

It is my honor to give the first state of the city address as Mayor. I would like to welcome the return of Mr. Duane E. Bivans and Mr. Kenneth Stubbs, as they were both sworn in this evening for another term on Council. I would also like to thank the rest of Council for their dedication and often difficult task in operating the City of Harrington. Although there is a great deal of reward in the position, there are also a lot of hard decisions made. In addition to Council, I would also like to thank all the individuals that serve on the various committees, their time and dedication in serving this community does not and should never go unrecognized.

A lot has happened in the City this past last year on economic development. I certainly hope that I do not miss any or anyone. I would like to welcome Agri-Lab, the new owner of the Super 8, Baymont Inn & Suites, The Bowers Group, Mattlind Square, A2B Auto Group, Amber Kaye's Thrift Store, Hoagie time, OMG Collage, Weeks Services, Salty Wave, Pizza King, Verizon, ATI Physical Therapy, and OA Newton. There has also been the relocation of the Clutter Box, Subway, and Wonder Years. Also, the expansion of Harrington Florist and Cakery, and a new residential development approved for Richelle Homes. I welcome each every one of you and wish you continued success in the future.

There are no words that I can say, except thank you to our outstanding Police Department along with the LESO program. Chief Norman Barlow and Deputy Chief Keith Shyers have procured in excess of a \$100,000.00 in equipment and vehicles at no cost to the city. They have also replaced aging police vehicles through grants and sold equipment to purchase items the Department needed, again with no cost to the taxpayers. Chief Barlow and Deputy Chief Shyers, along with the rest of the Police Department, should be commended for all of their effort and time.

Another staple in the City is Freedom Park, which was once a dream and has now become a reality to the Police Department and the citizens of this wonderful City. We hope this will help bring our community together with the possibility of live bands, movie nights, and other functions within the City. We are privileged to have a Public Library and Parks & Recreation Department. Our City's quality of life is enhanced by these departments at very little cost to the citizens. We are just completing a needs assessment study for the library that was funded through State monies. This needs assessment will establish a path forward for our Library's future. Parks and recreation, headed by Mr. Falasco and his staff, are seeking grant funding for improvements and enhancements for the building.

The Police Department and the Council have partnered with the Lake Forest School District, to provide a school resource officer at W.T. Chipman and also South Elementary School. During the school year, the SRO will provide a safer environment for our children along with important knowledge to the teachers in cases of emergency. During the summer months, he will be helping patrol our City streets.

The City Manager, Ms. Terry Tieman, and the staff have initiated many changes to the financials of the City by purchasing new accounting software. This has improved our cost tracking, helps with checks and balances, and provides more documentation than what we have seen in the past. This has helped identify areas for savings and in doing so, has helped in creating a balanced budget. While most costs to the City have risen, as they have in all of our own lives, Council has created a budget with a modest 2% increase. This makes our budget for the Fiscal Year 2015 four million seventy thousand dollars (\$4.07 million). With this comes stability in a time when many jurisdictions do not share the same outcome. The citizens should be proud to hear this news especially when many towns and cities are running into deficits.

A new contract for the upcoming year has been signed regarding trash pickup with no increase to the citizens. This year the city added a Saturday Spring clean up day, and since it was such a success, we will be looking into offering more Saturday Spring and Fall cleanup days in the future.

We have purchased a large jetvac truck to help maintain our drain lines, which has helped in reducing storm water flooding, and also purchased the SCADA system to alert the City of any issues that may arise at our pump stations.

Starting July 1, 2014, a milestone will be reached. With the complete replacement of all the water meters and the necessary data gathered, the city will be charging a usage rate for water and sewer. This will be making the system fair and equitable to all the citizens. As of July 1, 2014, the City's record-keeping will also be separated, in that water will pay for water and sewer will pay for sewer. In the past, we all paid the same amount for water and sewer then monies were transferred to the General Fund. This will cease and bring more transparency to the budget process. There will also be a tax increase of 35 cents. This tax money will pay for all the other expenses of the City not related to water and sewer, which is how a City should run.

Our Comprehensive Plan was signed by Governor Jack Markel on December 16, 2013, which leads the way to a much anticipated Zoning Code Rewrite. This rewrite will be taking place during the upcoming fiscal year. Our City Codes are extremely outdated and are in dire need of change. This rewrite will shape the future of how we deal with not only commercial properties but also residential properties. The City is aggressively tackling the brown water issues many of you face, as well as the issues with our inflow and infiltration (I&I). The steps we will be taking to correct these issues will generate more saving and help to stabilize future cost increases.

As a Mayor I am proud of the City of Harrington and the progress we are making. We owe this progress to our Council and our dedicated employees. It is my hope that for the future we all work together as a team and continue to make progress in the right direction for all who live and work in the City and surrounding areas.

In closing, I believe we are making the right decisions, and in doing so, we are better off today than we were in the past. Sometimes change is difficult but the future of this City is dependent upon it. We have a community of caring and hardworking people, and I believe it is our duty to make it a better place when we leave than when we came.

May God bless the City of Harrington and all those who live here.