

CITY MANAGER

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-21

November 19, 2021

While we’re still in a pandemic, things have been looking up and we accomplished quite a bit this past year!

This report will hit the highlights, but is not by any means everything we’ve have achieved since last August.

1. INFRASTRUCTURE

The #farmercityforward initiative has continued to succeed this year. We have invested more than **$1.9 million** in all areas this past year. Just a reminder – this is for expenditures up through August 2021.

They include:

* Streets
  + Completion of Madison St drainage improvements ($34,000)
  + Completed SRTS sidewalks
  + Applied for and received $75,000 grant for John St. drainage work (DCEO grant)
  + Restriped downtown to improve visibility
  + Installed new equipment at South Park playground thanks to a generous Kiwanis Club donation; fixed playground barrier
  + Removed 6 dead or dangerous trees
  + Replaced multiple street sign blades
  + Multiple pavement patch repairs
  + Repaired numerous trip hazards on downtown sidewalks
  + Striped crosswalks downtown
  + Began Master Plan engineering for sidewalks ($92,270)

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* Water
  + Upgraded meter reading system to smart phone app; improving read time and analysis
  + Installed auto-flusher to improve water quality in Prairie Ridge
  + Fixed numerous watermain leak repairs and replacements including a large one saving millions of gallons per year
  + Cleaned Water Tower
  + Finished addressing zero-read meters
  + Eliminated positive lead test results
  + Applied for $200,000 grant for new sand filters
  + Began Master Plan engineering ($57,500)
* Wastewater
  + Cleaned one clarifier ($17,000)
  + Applied for and received ARPA money to replace second Tertiary filter ($250,000)
  + Lined John St. sewer main and Green St sewer main ($154,000)
  + Replaced the service line for the Weedman Park bathrooms
  + Began Master Plan engineering ($57,500)
* Electric
  + Distributed more than $4,000 in energy efficiency grants (Maxwell Counters, McKinley Water and the School District)
  + Purchased new tree truck ($60,000)
  + Trimmed innumerable trees and bushes
  + Upgraded equipment at raceway
  + Replaced more than 10 streetlights around town with LED; replaced several poles
  + Successful URGE test
  + Moved several main lines out of alleyway for better access
* Police
  + Awarded bullet proof vest grant worth $800
  + Completed $45,000 police gun range building via the School’s Building Trades program
  + Saved more than $10,000 through new Cencom agreement with DeWitt County and 911
  + Negotiated renewal contract with FOP for 4 years; keeping COLA’s at 2%
  + Instituted new sex offender registration and watch program
  + Issued more than 50 code enforcement letters

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* Miscellaneous
  + Completed $1.36 million Pool renovation
  + Provided $22,000 in TIF grants
  + Assisted events throughout town such as Heritage Days and the Santa House ($14,000)

1. FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

We continue to make improvements and efficiencies in Administration and Finance this year including the following:

* Collected through the State Treasurer’s office more than $1,300
* Filed for unclaimed property through the State collecting $1,400
* Upgraded Civic financial system
* Changed Health Insurance plans saving more than $46,000 annually
* Provided COVID grants to struggling businesses during pandemic shutdown; filed grant and received those monies back from the state ($10,000)
* Received $31,000 from CURE grant for police salaries during pandemic shutdown
* Updated Personnel Policy

1. TRANSPARENCY/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

* Held Downtown Plaza visioning session
* CM assisted Ch. 3 with OurTown promotional week
* CM participated in Central Illinois CEO program

We have been able to accomplish these things without the need for higher property taxes or new taxes. We have also been able to succeed using minimal, necessary strategic drawdowns of fund balance. This has allowed us to maintain higher than expected percentages of fund balance in our accounts, which equates to a strong financial stability.

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I believe this next year will still be exciting as we work to achieve the following:

* John St. drainage improvements in front of pool (CURE grant)
* Second new Tertiary filter (ARPA grant)
* New sand filters at Water Plant (Community Project Funding grant)
* Upgraded breakers at power plant
* Prairie Ridge playground (TIF project)
* South Park concession stand upgrade
* Completed energy efficiency study at the wastewater treatment plant
* Completed updated city hall roof; new cameras throughout
* Extension of TIF 2 for another 12 years
* New vacant property registration process in order to apply for more grants

Thank you!

Sue McLaughlin, ICMA-CM

City Manager