

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 22, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Taylor at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Rausch, Mr. Fogt, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Groat, Mr. Reams, Mr. Berbee

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mayor John Gore, Director of Administration Terry Emery, Finance Director Jenny Chavarria, Police Chief Floyd Golden, Fire Chief Jay Riley, IT Director Aaron Story, Public Service Director Mike Andrako, City Engineer Jeremy Hoyt, HR Director Brian Dostanko, Law Director Tim Aslaner, Exec. Admin. Assistant Anna Krutowskis, Events/Recreation Coordinator Laura Michalak, Parks Superintendent Brodie Rockenbaugh, Project Manager Marc Dilsaver, Utility Engineer Kyle Hoyng, and Clerk Kristina Jones

**REPORTERS PRESENT:** Taylor Evans-Journal Tribune, Sean Lehoist-ThisWeek

**CITIZENS PRESENT:** Eric Phillips, Ben Vollrath, Rod Siddons, Janell Alexander, Steve Stolte, Mardy Hanlon-Stotle, John Cunningham, Bryan Witt, Jean Moffitt, Tom Moffitt

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There being no additions or corrections, the minutes for the meeting on January 8, 2014 were approved as written.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

Mayor Gore reported the following:

#### **Finance Department:**

The auditors will begin the fiscal year 2014 audit of the City's financials on Monday, January 26, 2015. The annual audit and reports are due by June 30, 2015.

Effective February 15, 2015, the City will no longer accept credit card payments in excess of \$500.00. This is in an effort to reduce the costs associated with processing credit cards. Currently the City spends approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 per month on these fees. The City will be sending letters to those businesses whose utility bills exceed \$500.00 per month and will also post the new policy on the website, Facebook, City Hall monitors, and utility invoices.

The Utility Division accepts methods of payment including cash, check, money order, Automated Clearing House transfer payment (ACH) and customers banking institution's bill pay system.

The Income Tax Division will accept cash, check, money order and payments from customers banking institution's bill pay system.

**Maintenance & Operations:**

The City has responded to two snow events since the last Council meeting. On January 11<sup>th</sup> we used 105 tons of salt and on January 19<sup>th</sup> we used 5 tons of salt. Although the winter is not over, we are very comfortable with the amount of salt on hand having already received 950 tons of our 1,500 ton order for this winter season. According Streets Superintendent Joe Tracey, we have approximately 3,800 tons of salt on hand which is more than we have ever had. The capacity of our storage facility is estimated at 6,000 tons. This salt reserve will provide piece of mind when we deal with harsh winters such as last season.

The City has entered into a contract with Ameriscapes for mowing and trimming work at Oakdale Cemetery. Ameriscapes will perform an estimated 26 mows throughout the 2015 season which will begin in April and end in November. The entire cemetery will be mowed/trimmed in one day and this work will occur weekly. The contract price is on a per mow basis and the work will only occur if needed.

**Engineering:**

The City of Marysville received notification from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) on Friday, January 9, 2015, that grant funding for the Marysville Upground Reservoir project has been awarded in the full amount requested (\$427,250.00).

Funding will come jointly from the ODNR Division of Watercraft 2015 Cooperative Boating Facility Grant and the ODNR Division of Wildlife Boater-Angler Fund.

Due to the short notice, a budget amendment with an Emergency Clause for the full funding amount will be on the next agenda for City Council due to the ODNR reimbursement.

**Preliminary Schedule:**

Consultant Selection - February 2015 through April/May 2015  
Engineering Design - late Spring 2015 through December 2015  
Bidding - January 2016 through March 2016  
Construction - Spring 2016 through Summer 2016

Mayor Gore gave the State of the City Address, printed below in its entirety.

***2015 State of the City Address***

By Mayor John Gore  
January 22, 2015

**Introduction & Administration Overview:**

Good evening. It is an honor and a privilege to be with you this evening and present the 2015 State of the City Address. I would like to begin by acknowledging members of City Council. Council President Nevin Taylor, Vice President J.R. Rausch, Councilman Henk Berbee, Councilman Dan Fogt, Councilwoman Deb Groat, Councilman Mark Reams and Councilwoman Tracy Richardson. Council, I cannot thank you enough for the support that you continue to provide; each of you plays an important part in the operations of the City. Clerk of Council/Law Office Manager Kris Jones, thank you for all that you do for Council and for the City.

I would like to also take this opportunity to honor the memory of Clerk of Council, Connie Patterson.

Also, thank you to all the City's Boards and Commissions members.

I would like to acknowledge our City Administrator, Terry Emery. Terry- thank you for all of your hard work and all that you do. It has been a pleasure working with you over the past 3 years.

I would also like to thank each one of our Executive Staff members. Would you please stand as I call your name? Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator Jenny Chavarria, Police Chief Floyd Golden, Fire Chief Jay Riley, Human Resource Director Brian Dostanko, IT Director Aaron Story, Public Service Director Mike Andrako, Engineer/Deputy Public Service Director Jeremy Hoyt and Public Information/Executive Assistant Anna Krutowskis. I would also like to acknowledge our City Law Director Tim Aslaner.

I would like to thank all of our City employees. Their commitment and dedication to carrying out our services has been outstanding and I wish to thank them for all that they do.

In 2014, the Administration focused on Uptown development and revitalization. This included the demolition of the former City Hall and the construction of Partners Park. The much anticipated Partners Park will open this spring, and plans are underway for its dedication on May 29<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the first Friday Nights Uptown of 2015. We are thankful to our partner's in this project: Memorial Health, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc., Honda Marysville, Union Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., The Richwood Banking Company, Dayton Power and Light. Without our Partners, this park would not have been possible.

I'm happy to report that the State of our City is strong and stable.

**Finance Department:**

I will begin this evening by reporting on our City's finances. Led by Director Chavarria, the 2014 General Fund Revenues totaled \$18,446,655.00 which is \$1,314,960.00 more than 2013. This is attributed to an increase in income tax receipts. Income Tax Revenues continue to be the major source of revenue at 81% for the General Fund.

Income Tax Revenue totaled \$15,042,306.00 for 2014, which is \$1,075,268.00 more than anticipated and \$948,094.00 more than 2013.

The City of Marysville was awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) its fourth consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the year ending December 31, 2013. This Certificate is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the City and its Administration.

In 2014, the Ohio Senate passed the Municipal Income Tax Reform bill, House Bill 5. The bill was intended to standardize and streamline various rules and regulations, making them uniform across the state. However, the bill tramples on municipalities' home rule and greatly reduces revenue and includes "unfunded mandates." Municipal income tax loss is estimated at a minimum of \$500,000 per year for the City. This is in addition to the \$500,000 in State funding that was recently cut (Tangible Personal Property, Estate Tax, and Local Government Fund).

The bill will be effective for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2016.

**Law Office:**

In 2014, the Law Director by ordinance became for the first time in-house and full-time. As a result, Mr. Aslaner has been able to devote much more time to the areas of advising Council, boards, commissions and City departments; delinquent tax litigation; contract formation and review; and assisting in many engineering, planning and zoning issues. With his office being located in City Hall and being available every day, has allowed him to review matters and answer questions in order to help eliminate potential legal roadblocks and restrictions.

In addition to advising the City and its departments, boards, and commissions, the Law Director is responsible for representing the City in proceedings in Court or before administrative boards. In 2014, the Law Director's Office filed 86 complaints in Municipal Court and Small Claims Court for the collection of unpaid municipal income taxes. 33 cases were resolved with the payment of taxes, interest and penalties before trial. Many others entered into Agreed Judgment Entries to reimburse the City through scheduled and court ordered installment payments.

As a result of these court filings, the City in 2014 collected \$25,039.45 of unpaid municipal income taxes including penalties and interest. In the many cases where default judgments were entered and payments were not made in accordance with the terms of the Court orders, the Law Director has pursued collections by way of judgment debtor exams, show cause motions, and the filing of Certificates of Judgment against property owned by the Defendants. The City is making progress in these collection efforts.

The Law Director represents the City in Municipal Court in the prosecution of all misdemeanor and traffic cases that arise within the City of Marysville. There were a total of 1,695 charges arising in the City that were filed in Marysville Municipal Court in 2014. Of those 1,695 charges, 357 were criminal and 148 were related to the operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs. The Law Director's office conducted two jury trials in 2014.

### **Economic Development:**

Union County Economic Development Director, Eric Phillips and his team have reported a total of 138 new Single Family Residential Units and 14 new Commercial/Industrial buildings and/or additions.

New/expanded business development in Marysville included a total of 22 businesses. CORK Wine & Dine, Heritage Cooperative, Hinkley's, Meijer, Morioku Technology North America, Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems, Uptown Steakhouse and Whit's Frozen Custard are among the 22.

Marysville had several business highlights in 2014:

- Memorial Health's new City Gate Center opened to much fanfare in December. The 34,000 SF building contains an urgent care, physical therapy services, imaging, and sports medicine operations. The project retained 30-40 jobs and created 10 new positions.
- After much anticipation, Meijer opened a new super center in July. The new 192,000 SF retail center, located at Coleman's Crossing, also houses a new US Bank and Subway, and is home to over 250 employees.
- Construction was completed on Nationwide Children's "Close-to-Home" Center in May. The 20,000 SF facility, located in City Gate, houses a children's urgent care and various medical offices. The project created 30-40 new jobs.
- Construction on the Honda Heritage Center, located just northwest of Marysville, was completed in December. The 160,000 SF facility houses research and training operations, as well as a museum showcasing Honda's prolific history in North America.
- Construction was completed on Sumitomo's new 355,000 SF facility on Industrial Parkway. The project retained 123 jobs and created 15 new positions. The facility opened in December.

- Moriroku continued construction on a new 41,000 SF facility which will house the company's headquarters, R&D center, Quality Assurance, and other operations once complete in early 2015. 50 new jobs are expected as a result of the project.

Team Marysville, an association of Marysville officials, business owners, and residents established in 2012, continued to work toward improving and revitalizing Marysville's historic Uptown District. Members of Team Marysville implemented a number of projects, including an Uptown Clean-Up Day and increased marketing efforts. The organization also continued to advocate for the establishment of a Special Improvement District, which if implemented, could bring additional services to businesses and residents in the Uptown District.

In December, work to develop Union County's first Trail and Greenway Master Plan reached conclusion. The Plan sets forth a bold vision for future trail development and greenway preservation in Marysville and Union County by showcasing natural and cultural assets, illustrating how a countywide trail system can be implemented, and identifying the types of trails most suitable for Union County's diverse landscape.

After being awarded \$12.5 million through the State of Ohio's Straight-A Grant, renovations began to transform the former Marysville Middle School into the Marysville Early College High School. Upon opening in September, the MECHS became Ohio's first manufacturing-related STEM high school.

### **Division of Police:**

The Marysville Division of Police, led by Chief Floyd Golden, had a very busy 2014. The police division handled a total of 17,687 Calls for Service (CFS) during 2014 compared to 15,627 in 2013. The CFS covers a broad range of activity, and can comprise anything from a request for extra patrol in an area, to a call concerning a traffic crash, a missing child, a disabled vehicle, a suspicious person, a theft or a homicide. These CFS have been increasing each year placing a larger demand for police services, and assistance. As a result of those CFS, a total of 1933 Incident Reports were initiated. This was a three percent increase from 2013. Division personnel initiated 3,343 traffic stops in 2014. This was a 78% increase of traffic stops compared to last year. A total of 1,179 traffic citations were issued compared to 756 in 2013. Officers also issued 2,164 traffic warnings compared to 1,025 warnings in 2013.

The police division has four more sworn officers than in 2004. During those ten years the population of Marysville has increased from the 2004 total of 16,949 residents to the current population of 22,051. This is a thirty percent increase in population. The current geographical area of Marysville is 16.216 square miles. With the continued growth of our neighborhoods and business community the demands for police services continues to increase.

Increased safety at our schools is a focal point of our operations that has resulted in many Alert-Lockdown- Inform- Counter- Evacuate (ALICE) training sessions with school staff. This has been accomplished by members of the police division as well as in collaboration with Union County Sheriff Jamie Patton's Office. Additionally, Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) radio equipment has been installed in City and County schools to enable direct emergency communications between law enforcement and the schools. The police division provides a full-time School Resource Officer at the Marysville High School. Our DARE Officer also handles some issues that may arise at other city schools.

The division continues to collaborate with Union County Sheriff Jamie Patton's Office and Union County Prosecuting Attorney David Phillips Office through the Union County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force to combat drug abuse in Marysville and throughout Union County. Charges filed in 2014 included many serious crimes, including murder, child rape and felonious assault. Drug and theft related charges continued to be the most frequently filed felony charges. In 2014, the Marysville Division of Police submitted cases regarding 75 incidents involving 101 defendants leading to 162 felony counts. The M.A.D.E. Task Force consists of the Marysville Division of Police, Union County Sheriff's Office and the Union County Prosecutor's Office. The Task Force submitted 10 incidents involving 17 defendants leading to 46 felony counts. Throughout 2014, PD personnel completed numerous trainings. Crisis Intervention, Search and Seizure, Alcohol Detection & Apprehension are among the training courses that were attended.

In 2014, Law Enforcement across America, received a lot of negative publicity. In an effort to show our support for the men and women of our safety services, the Union County Commissioners, Council President Nevin Taylor and I signed a joint proclamation on December 18, 2014, declaring Monday, December 22, 2014, "Law Enforcement Appreciation Day" in Union County, Marysville, Ohio.

#### **Division of Fire:**

Our Fire Division, led by Fire Chief Jay Riley, responded to a total of 3,194 calls for service in 2014. There were 2430 EMS calls (76%) and 764 fire calls (24%).

Training is an essential part of the Fire Divisions operational readiness. During 2013, fire personnel participated in 1,661 hours of EMS training and 12,278 hours of fire training. Members also participated in many educational outreach opportunities which included classes at the Ohio Fire Academy, the National Fire Academy and several conferences.

During 2014 we maintained a contract with the State of Ohio to perform EMS transports of patients from the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) to Memorial Hospital and from Memorial Hospital to the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. We performed 156 EMS transports from ORW to Memorial Hospital and 85 transports from Memorial Hospital to OSU Wexner Medical Center. These 241 runs resulted in \$80,671 revenues for ORW to MH and

\$71,592 for MH to OSU transports. These 241 runs generated \$152,263 in revenue or 20.8% of our total \$729,534 we received through EMS billing in 2014.

Fire prevention/investigative/code enforcement activity remained active throughout the year. The Fire Prevention Bureau completed ninety-nine percent of all life safety inspections in required occupancies. They visited and inspected 998 business occupancies, many with follow-up inspections to address code violations. They also successfully conducted fire investigations of suspect fires, working hand-in-hand with law enforcement when criminal cases are suspected.

The Fire Division continues to partner with community groups such as Union County Senior Services and Marysville Kiwanis to make smoke detectors available for all senior residents of Union County. During 2014, 121 smoke detectors were provided to local seniors free of charge. Other community-focused programs and events included the Keeping Kids Safe Project, Juvenile Fire Setters Program and a County public health standards assessment as well as routine outreach education sessions.

In 2014, the fire division continued to be involved in community events, allowing them the opportunity to engage with our community. This was evident through the fire departments participation in Friday Nights Uptown, the Union County Fair, reading with Navin Elementary students and attending the Home Depot and Lowes fire safety events to name a few. Firefighters also hosted 44 fire station tours, provided fire safety education demonstrations to 1,670 elementary students and educated 475 individuals on the proper use of fire extinguishers.

### **Information Technology (IT):**

The City's Information Technology (IT) Department is directed by Aaron Story. The IT Department had a very busy year with many new projects that were completed, plus many more that are currently under review and being prioritized for 2015.

Some of the major accomplishments for 2014 were:

A new TV Signage Package called Industry Weapon was implemented into all three main city building entrances for public information on upcoming events as well as public notices.

A total of 23 new desk-top pc's and 6 laptop pc's were installed throughout the city.

A total of 20 new iPads were allocated. Seven of the new iPads were allocated to City Council members allowing them to work wirelessly and send and receive documents eliminating all paper correspondences.

Along with this new equipment allocation 23 Touchscreen laptops were installed into Police cruisers along with new adjustable keyboards, GPS antennas, and multifunction modems. This installation brings all police cruisers state of the art communications and much needed user friendly hardware.

A total of 199 Web Site changes were requested and completed in 2014.

A total of 158,085 web site visits were logged, with a 3 minute and 22 second average time per visit.

Microsoft Office was upgraded from version 2003 to 2013 for all city users.

In June of 2014 a Helpdesk Trouble Ticketing system from Solarwinds was implemented to help track our user's issues.

This system allows all city users to log-in and enter their IT issues and assign a priority. Once logged in, the system automatically assigns the Trouble Ticket to an IT staff member to begin work. At any given time the user can sign-in and track their tickets progress. Once the issue is complete and the ticket is closed, and the system automatically notifies the user.

To date, 366 Trouble Tickets have been entered and 357 have been closed.

The Council of Governments was again very active in 2014. A UCCOG Sub-Committee group was added to entertain the frequent requests coming into the UCCOG plus allow the technical members the time to focus on the more in-depth needs, then present these items to the standing monthly UCCOG group.

The UCCOG's original Local Governments Incentive Funds (LGIF) loan to connect fiber optic cabling to the city's Police and Court facility, fiber loop into Bunsold Schools and City Hall is now complete.

A total of 6.5 miles of new fiber was pulled by the UCCOG in 2014.

In late October 2013 the UCCOG was awarded a \$81,000.00 Local Governments Incentive Fund (LGIF) grant for the study of a combine data center plus a industry study for the possible expansion of the UCCOG's fiber network plus a county wide network fiber audit.

This grant was not officially put into place until January 2014 for the UCCOG to begin utilizing funds.

The UCCOG awarded \$35,000.00 of the grant to Ice Miller Whiteboard for network/fiber consulting and \$40,000.00 to NetGain/Chesapeake-NetCraftsman for the combine data center study. This study has been reviewed by UCCOG technical members and parts of the study are under consideration for future implementation.

Also, a Request for Information (RFI) is in progress and being finalized to be distributed out to interested vendors for the fiber network audit and maintenance.

**Public Service Department:**

Mike Andrako our Public Service Director, is responsible for the oversight of Streets, Stormwater, Sanitation, Parks & Grounds, Recreation & Events, Wastewater, Water and Engineering. Let me begin with an overview of our Streets Division.

Superintendent Joe Tracy is responsible for the City's Streets, Stormwater & Sanitation Division. In 2014, Joe and his crews used 29,800 lbs. of sealant as part of routine crack sealing work. Sealing was performed on various streets in the Mill Valley, Connolly and Carriage Acres Subdivisions. Crews also performed sealing on various major arterials and collector streets including US 33 eastbound, Grove St. and 5th through 9th Streets.

Street crews also performed various concrete work around the City including:

- 130 feet of curb around various storm water structures
- 230 feet of curb on streets included in the 2014 paving program and Delaware Ave.
- 380 square feet sidewalk in various locations
- 7 ADA curb ramps
- 7 concrete driveway aprons

Throughout 2014 City crews were dispatched 34 times resulting in 2,540 man hours for snow and ice control. A total of 1,955 tons of salt, 50,558 gallons of brine, 1,500 gallons of "Beet Heat" and 1,500 gallons of calcium were applied to City roadways to combat the winter weather. The Streets and Sanitation Divisions benefitted from the City's relationship with the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) by utilizing its residents who logged 6,264 hours assisting the Division with various tasks in 2014.

The Sanitation Division with assistance from the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) and West Central workers disposed of yard waste, brush and leaves as part of their daily collection routes. This past year we also started hauling all of our leaves and wood chips to Price Farms. On the return trip from Price Farms to the City, we were able to haul stone from a nearby quarry saving money on material delivery costs. The savings thus far, eliminating both mulch processing costs and fees for stone deliveries after labor and fuel costs will exceed \$28,500.

In January of 2014, the City began a new five year contract (2014-2018) with Republic Services Inc. for Refuse and Recycling Collection. The contract included a toter-style collection system with automated side loading garbage trucks. The residents were provided 96 gallon containers for refuse and recycling. This increased the capacity of the recycling containers which were previously about 20 gallons. The result was a 43% increase in recycling totals and a 28% decrease in refuse collected in 2014.

Superintendent Brodie Rockenbaugh oversees our **Parks & Grounds Division**. Brodie and his team are responsible for maintenance and operations associated with our parks and grounds. For 2014 some of the notable updates and projects include:

**Partners Park:**

- Parks & Grounds staff assisted contractors and the design engineer with irrigation layout and landscaping.
- Parks & Grounds staff oversaw the installation of the splash pad.
- The City purchased 12 modern picnic tables (10 standard and 2 ADA accessible).

**Mill Creek Park:**

- Chain link fencing was replaced on fields C and D as a result of the extensive flooding which took place in December 2013.
- Batting cages were installed near the fields using Parkland Development Funding.
- Dugouts were installed on fields A and B along the 1st and 3rd base fences using Parkland Development Funding. These dugouts are comprised mostly of chain link fencing which will allow flood waters to flow through but still keep players safe. A poly-screen cover will be added to the tops of the dugouts in the summer to provide shade.

**American Legion Park:**

- The existing play structure was removed and replaced with a creative and modern play structure. The Streets Division helped get the play area level and prepared for installation.
- The concrete floor, which was cracked and uneven, was removed from the Upper Legion Shelter with the help of the Streets Division. Concrete work is scheduled for Spring of 2015. This is a very popular shelter having 21 reservations in 2014 and also being the home of the Concert in the Park series and the City Employee Appreciation Picnic.

**Dog Park:**

- Staff from Parks & Grounds and Streets Divisions worked closely to design and construct the new City Dog Park.
- Several large culverts were repurposed to enhance the unique experience afforded by the new dog-friendly park creating tunnels through earthen mounds.
- The park was overseeded with 900 lbs of Turf Type Tall Fescue, and 250 lbs of annual rye grass.

**Eljer Park:**

- New batting cages were installed using Parkland Development Funds.
- The Park's engineered capping system was inspected by the Ohio EPA in October. As a result of the inspection, cracks were filled with assistance from the Streets Division while reseeding and outfall vegetation removal was completed by the Parks Staff.
- 10 Purple Robe black locust trees were planted south of the soccer field replacing the existing dead cherry trees.
- MJBSA (Marysville Junior Baseball and Softball Association) utilized the baseball fields from early September through late October for their inaugural fall baseball season. Many other youth sports organizations used the Eljer Park facilities for basketball, sand volleyball, baseball, softball, football, soccer, and even cricket.
- 2 trees were planted at Eljer Park as part of the City's Memorial Tree Program.
- A straight rail feature was added to the skate park.

**Swartzkopf Park:**

- A replacement swing set was purchased to replace the existing unit. Installation will take place in the first quarter of 2015.

**Courthouse Christmas Tree:**

- Parks and Grounds staff, with the assistance the City Facilities Division and Del-Mar Tree Service, worked to create a light display on our Courthouse Christmas tree.
- Del-Mar donated time and equipment to assist with project.

At Oakdale Cemetery, 77 burials and 23 cremations were prepared last year and 58 lots were purchased.

A total of 40 headstone foundations were installed by Parks & Grounds crews.

The Parks & Grounds staff collaboratively worked with the Streets Division to layout and install a much needed access path in the cemetery.

Approximately 20 Austrian Pine trees were removed which were infected with diplodia, overgrown, or were in the ROW of the railroad. Staff will install new, suitably sized and functional plantings in late winter or early spring.

**Recreation & Events Division:**

In September 2014, Recreation & Events Coordinator Amanda Morris accepted another job and the City hired Laura Michalak as the new Recreation & Events Coordinator.

Our Municipal Pool was a hit this past summer with an average of 224 visitors each day and over 18,000 visitors spanning its eighty-four day season. We had 129 youth compete on the Stingrays Swim Team and a total of 47 days in which camps and/or groups visited the pool. Two hundred -fifty pool memberships were sold in 2014.

The return of the high dive was a big hit at the pool.

Over 2,400 youth participated in activities within our City's park system. These activities included baseball, softball, football, soccer, volleyball, lacrosse, t-ball and disc golf.

Co-Rec Sand Volleyball had 36 teams (approx. 300 players) participate in two 8-week sessions and Co-Rec 3-on-3 Basketball had 8 teams (approx. 40 players) participating.

Union County Grand Prix Series held 9 of 13 races within the City at various parks, trails and streets. Races involved a total of 1,862 participants who ran over 7,400 miles and donated more than \$40,000 to charities within our community.

We held two Concert in the Parks as well as the Annual Day in the Park this past summer at the Sean Doebert Amphitheater.

Friday Nights Uptown completed its fifth season. Friday Nights Uptown continues to grow, having the best attendance to date! The four events consisted of The Rib Fest, Wine & Jazz Fest, Chalk the Block and The Founders Day & Car Show.

NSX Nite was presented for the first time in Marysville on October 16<sup>th</sup>. We are hopeful that this will become an annual event as the NSX car club was very appreciative of our warm reception for them. The evening mirrored an Uptown Friday Night event with food vendors and music.

The Annual Christmas Walk & Community Tree Lighting, held December 1<sup>st</sup>, wrapped up the year. Children helped flip the switch on the community Christmas tree featuring over 4,000 lights. A six foot Nativity Star was added to the top of the tree.

The **Division of Wastewater** under Superintendent Rick Varner, operated in 2014 with zero violations of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit discharge requirements.

In May, the Ohio EPA performed a Compliance Inspection at the water reclamation facility. The treatment facility was evaluated for all aspects of operation. Records on discharge reports, laboratory data, equipment Operation & Maintenance records, along with general inspection of the facility is performed. The City received an excellent report on the compliance inspection.

In 2014, The Marysville Division of Wastewater continued its partnering effort with the Union County Engineer, The Ohio State University, Union County Health Department, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and various other state and county organizations in a research project targeting wastewater subsurface treatment for small communities on a site located along Industrial Parkway.

High Strength Wastewater Surcharges are for those contributors who discharge compatible pollutant concentrations above those normally experienced at the treatment facility. This program assures the City treatment facility is paid for any additional treatment cost incurred to remove those pollutants to a permitted level. In 2014, these surcharges provided additional revenue of approximately \$325,793. These charges reflect the actual cost incurred by the City to treat these high strength wastes.

Wastewater crews responded to 35 emergency complaints. 34 of these complaints were the responsibility of the homeowner to correct and one was due to City sanitary issue which was resolved. Crews also replaced or rebuilt 30 air relief valves, completed two lateral repairs and completed 3,550 work orders.

The **Division of Water**, managed by Superintendent Scott Sheppard inspected several contracted water main installation projects throughout the City and County in 2014.

These projects include:

- Numerous sections in the Jerome Village subdivision to include Hyland Croy Roadway extensions and Glacier Park Neighborhood - Sections 2, 3 and 8
- New California Woods
- Heritage
- Scott Farms

Last year a total of 763,067,000 gallons of treated water was pumped from the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) into the distribution system. On average 58% of that total was surface water provided by the Upground Reservoir and the remaining 42% was well water.

We continued working with URS to engineer a new Water Treatment Plant (WTP). We are analyzing a treatment process and have started piloting that process to meet OEPA requirements. We have reviewed draft renderings of the WTP buildings and are moving forward with the design of the plant. The final engineering design and permitting will be completed by the end of the 2015, which could allow for construction as early as 2016.

Water Distribution crews focused on two (2) water main replacement/abandonment projects in 2014. These projects eliminated old problematic cast iron lines by either taking them out of service or replacing them altogether. These old cast iron lines have deteriorated over time and have a history of breaking at any given time interrupting service to our water customers. The replacement projects included:

- Van Kirk Dr. West of Hickory Dr. (complete)
- Sherwood Dr. East of Hickory Dr. (ongoing)

A water line leak survey was conducted on the entire distribution system in order to minimize the amount of unaccounted water. According to Aqua-Line, they located fourteen (14) leaks throughout the system. The total gallons-per-day loss was estimated at 88,700 gallons. The leaks found as part of the survey were repaired by Water Distribution crews shortly after being notified.

- The interior and exterior of the North Water Tower was painted as part of our normal maintenance on the City's water towers. The painting included the City's logo to match the other recently painted tanks.

### **Engineering Department:**

The City's Engineering Department is led by Engineer/Deputy Public Service Director Jeremy Hoyt.

2014 was a busy year for engineering with the demolition of the former City Hall and the construction of Partners Park.

As our City continues to grow, our Planning & Zoning efforts remain a critical component as we lay the groundwork for our future. Our Planning efforts include representation on the Board of Zoning Appeals, Design Review Board, Planning Commission and the Exterior Property Maintenance Commission for the City. As a result of these boards and commissions, City staff reviewed 131 requests which included the adoption of 34 zoning code amendments and 2 re-zonings in 2014.

A total of 390 Zoning Permits, 138 new single family homes and 14 new commercial structures/additions were issued.

City Capital Improvement projects completed include:

- 2014 Pavement Maintenance Program - This project included the pavement milling and asphalt resurfacing of 12 streets and 4 City parking lots.

This project also included the construction of a right turn lane at the intersection of East 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Coleman's Crossing Boulevard.

**Industrial Parkway Road Widening-** This project involved the partial widening of Industrial Parkway (to be a future three-lane roadway) and the installation of a shared-use path along the entire frontage of the newly constructed Sumitomo and Moriroku buildings. This project achieved substantially complete status during the fall of 2014.

**Partners Park -** This project involved the conversion of the former City Hall property into a City park which included a community pavilion, gazebo, recreational splash pad, Friendship Garden and parking lot. The Engineering Division was responsible for the design, internal coordination, construction management and contract administration for this project. This project achieved substantially complete status by the end of the 2014 calendar year.

This project occurred after obtaining approximately \$925,000 in donations from our Park Partners.

**US 33 Pedestrian Bridge -** This project involved the installation of a pedestrian bridge that connects Mill Valley (the largest subdivision within the City) to the City's Uptown Area and Marysville Schools' property on the south side of US 33. This project also included the installation of a shared-use path that connected the southern end of the bridge to Amrine-Mill Road along the Marysville Schools property. At the northern end of the bridge, a shared use will be constructed and provide connectivity to Valley Drive. The path will be installed by the Contractor in the Spring of 2015. After obtaining funding from ODOT for this project, the total cost to the City for this \$1.67M project was \$419,000.

The following funding submittals were awarded during the 2014 calendar year:

Ohio Public Works Commission Grant for the repaving of Milford Avenue from approximately Stocksdale Drive to SR 4 / US 36. These funds (\$325,000) will be available July 2015 with this project being incorporated into our annual Pavement Maintenance Program.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the Reservoir Improvements, which includes a boat ramp widening, parking lot expansion and provision of a walking access from the parking lot to the boat ramp area. After receiving the grant award, the requested funds (\$427,500) will be available in 2015 for engineering design with project construction anticipated in Spring 2016.

The Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Safe Routes to School program granted a partial award to provide for four (4) additional bike racks at Northwood and Navin Elementary Schools. This project is expected to be completed in the Spring 2015.

Total amount of grant money awarded for these projects combined just over 2 million dollars.

**Human Resources:**

In 2014, our Human Resources Department continued to enforce sound performance and policy standards, focus on the safety and health of our workforce and manage our wage and benefit programs with the utmost efficiency.

HR started the year by preparing for a fact-finder hearing, which they represented the City at, to establish a successor collective bargaining agreement with our Police unions. Having HR internally represent the city, saved us upwards to \$10,000 for an outside negotiator. A key provision negotiated and accepted in the process was the movement of a major portion of the employee's share of retirement that the city funded to wages.

HR then led our executive team in a policy manual revision process. This extensive page-by-page process ensured our policies were up-to-date with the ever-changing employment law world and also addressed some of the Administration's concerns to include; adding a fifth city core value of "Teamwork," improving our hiring process to shorten the time it takes to hire employees, instituting an annual buy-down of costly compensatory time, bettering policy and procedure to help bring injured employees back on light-duty, and (again) the movement of the city's funding of the employee share of retirement to wages for all non-union employees; thus finishing that major strategic goal. HR then held nine policy change briefings at five different city locations to detail the changes, field questions and change-manage the revision process with employees.

Health insurance costs will continue to be one of this city's largest challenges in the foreseeable future. HR continues to be motivated and innovative in the face of this challenge, but this challenge takes teamwork and collaboration. We are now in the third year of our \$15,000 BWC Wellness grant. The grant funded health risk assessments and bio-metrics for 37 employees and also identified employee health risks. Insurance usage data derived from HR's quarterly meetings with our insurance broker, also helped us identify learn session topics to reduce costs. In a strong partnership with Memorial Health, we held monthly health learn sessions called "Healthy Journeys," that targeted employee problem areas and health risks identified in the usage data. In collaboration with Union County, we held two health fairs this past year, with one on the date of our first Friday Night Uptown event.

Our Well Pointe team, made up of representatives from various city work areas, updated our City Wellness Plan and identified goals for 2015. They promoted our Well Points program, incentivizing employees to work-out, eat right, and take ownership of their health. They promoted challenges such as our 7th Annual Spring Slim-Down, Community Challenge and the use of our fitness facilities

All this hard work resulted in an 8% increase in the insurance funding line going into 2015, with an average of just 4.5% per year the last 4 years. Most of this increase is due to the taxes associated with Federal health care. In short, we can work hard and work smart, but it will only mitigate the cost increase.

**Final Thoughts:**

As stated earlier in this address, our City is strong and stable and this is due to the support of a great community, City Council and all City employees. Overall, Marysville had a very productive and successful 2014. We will continue to manage our resources in a fiscally responsible manner and look at ways to improve our services to the community. Thank you again, City Council members and all City staff for your hard work and commitment.

I would also like to recognize Union County officials, especially County Commissioners Gary Lee, Charles Hall, Steve Stolte and County Administrator John Cunningham for your continued support and partnership. Thank you to Union County Economic Development Director, Eric Phillips for all of the joint ventures with the City and County. Thank you Superintendent Diane Mankins; the relationship we have with our school system is extremely important. I believe that our strong Marysville school district contributes to a vibrant, growing community and as we continue to develop, it is pertinent that we preserve the high quality education and services that they provide.

I would also like to thank God for providing me the guidance to serve the citizens of Marysville. Thank you to my wife Cathy and our family for all of the support you have provided me. I would like to thank the residents of the City of Marysville for their ongoing support and contributions to our community which makes Marysville a great place to live, work and play. Thank you!

**REPORT OF CLERK OF COUNCIL:** No report.

**REPORT OF PLANNING COMMISSION/DESIGN REVIEW BOARD:** Planning Commission and Design Review did not meet in January. There were no updates.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS:** Rod Siddon with Frontier Community Services spoke before Council to request a letter of support for the Marysville Senior Village. This development would be at the corner of South Walnut and Professional Development. It will sit on ten acres and have fifty units, which are all duplexes. The current zoning allows for duplexes and that is what they are choosing to use rather than multi-level buildings. They will be improving and adding about 400 feet of Professional Drive which will help open up a large tract of land for future developments. These apartments will be funded through the low income tax credit program

through the State of Ohio. Seniors ages 55 and up with income not greater than 60% of the area median income for this area.

Mr. Siddon understands that there are three developers seeking support this year, he would suggest the Mayor and Council support all three. It gives the City a better chance of landing at least one project.

Mr. Berbee asked if the development abuts Eljer Park? Mr. Siddon said they do abut Eljer Park and would like to approach the City for funding to allow us to connect the walking trails. Their development will have a community building, shelter house, and dog park.

Mr. Taylor asked if they currently own the land. Mr. Siddon said no they currently have the land optioned for purchase.

Mr. Fogt asked if they would maintain ownership. Mr. Siddon said Frontier is a long term owner of our affordable housing.

Mr. Taylor asked if you do not get the funding then you will not be building, correct? Mr. Siddon said without the tax credits the rent would be two times higher and there would be no sense to build the senior housing. Mr. Siddon said if none of the three projects are awarded the tax credits then you will probably not see any of the developments.

Mrs. Richardson said if you are asking us for a letter in support, then why should your company get it over another company. Mr. Siddon asked if I should have to make the case that we are better than everyone else. Mrs. Richardson said that is what she is asking for. Mr. Siddon said we have a product that is more desired by seniors because it is all single story, they all have attached garages, two bedroom, one bath and they are about 930 square feet. They have a nice sized kitchen with lots of cabinets, they have washer/dryer hook ups in each.

Ms. Anne Daniels spoke in support of the senior housing. She is the director of Community and Seasoned citizens. She thanked the City for keeping the parking lot cleaned.

**RESOLUTIONS:** None.

**ORDINANCES:**

The ordinance "TO AMEND CHAPTER 110, FACILITY COSTS AND CITY FEES, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MARYSVILLE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY" was presented for first reading, title only.

**Administration Comments:** Ms. Michalak passed out a documents which compares fees to other communities. Mr. Andrako said we feel the rise in rates is necessary to keep up with

everyday operations at the pool. The revisions allows a 15% discount for any passes purchased on or before April 15, 2015. We would like to incentivize pre-season purchases. Mr. Andrako said we would like to pass an emergency clause and waive the second and third readings, so that we give residents a chance to purchase the pre-season passes before the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Council Comments:** Mrs. Richardson said her real concern here is with waiving the readings. She has noticed the substantial changes and she is concerned that residents have not had a chance to weigh in on all the changes. She remembers being on the save- the- pool committee a number of years ago and she knows there is a huge interest in the pool. She just wants to make sure that residents have a chance to come to us if they have concerns about the changes. Mr. Emery said that was extremely valid, and the reason for bringing this forth and passing it in the aggressive manner is because we have seen a decline in memberships over the last few years. We would really like to move this along as quickly as possible to provide people with enough time and opportunity to be looking at that incentive as something worthwhile to consider and try to pick up our membership numbers.

Mrs. Richardson said she would feel more comfortable if we had one more meeting.

Mr. Berbee moved to pass the emergency clause and the question put, stood:

Mrs. Groat- YES;	Mr. Reams- YES;	Mr. Berbee- YES;
Mr. Rausch- YES;	Mr. Fogt- YES;	Mrs. Richardson- YES;
Mr. Taylor- YES		

Mr. Fogt asked about the active military passes being scratched all together. Mr. Andrako said that is because no one ever used it in the past two years. Mr. Fogt asked about weekly passes. Mr. Andrako said no one was buying them, either. They would either buy a daily pass or season pass.

Mrs. Richardson asked why we are considering giving a discount to child care providers, since they are a business. Mr. Andrako said it was a recommendation from the pool staff. We see people who are watching kids out of their home and they want to take the kids to the pool on a regular basis.

Mayor Gore said a couple of years ago there was a situation where we had a grandmother who watched her grandchildren, and she really did not have a family pass.

Mrs. Richardson said it would be hard to prove if you are a child care provider and she is wondering if someone who conducts child care should be able to bring those children for less than a season pass holder. Mr. Andrako said you could treat it as a family pass, each kid over age 5 could be added. Mr. Andrako will look into the exact reason for this.

Mr. Reams moved to pass the motion to waive third reading, and the question put, stood:

Mr. Reams- YES;                      Mr. Berbee- YES;                      Mr. Rausch- YES;  
Mr. Fogt- YES;                      Mrs. Richardson- YES;                      Mr. Taylor- YES;  
Mrs. Groat- YES

Back for second reading public hearing on February 12, 2015.

**PARKS & RECREATION REPORT:** Mr. Rausch said we had our Parks and Recreation meeting last week. Mr. Bob Berbee will be chairman and Ms. Carrie Milroy will be vice-chair of the committee. We are starting to look at our 5 year Capital Plan. We are going to do a tour of the parks in April.

**COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL PERSONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Fogt thanked Mayor Gore for his comments. He also thanked and congratulated the Police and Fire Department for all their efforts. Anything we can do to support in your performance and safety of your jobs, please let us know. He said as most of you know I am pretty conservative. He continues to worry about our debt and he appreciates the progress that we are making, and any debt we can payoff, he would appreciate we do.

Mr. Rausch said Council Retreat will be March 3, 2015 from 5:00-9:00pm at Decker Station. Please send the top five items you would like discussed to Mrs. Jones. He was at a MORPC meeting and in March they are going to begin construction on the 270/33 interchange. It will be a two year project. "Please have patience, it will be worth it."

Mrs. Richardson said clearly the state of our City is sound and due to a large part to Mayor Gore and the staff. She wanted to echo the sentiments from Mr. Rausch and Mr. Fogt, thank you for all your hard work, she truly appreciates it.

Mrs. Richardson said today, hundreds of thousands marched in Washington, D.C. to advocate for the legal protection of unborn children. What happens in Washington impacts all of us. She sincerely hopes that one day soon, our nation will once again have laws that preserve and defend all life and respect the dignity of every person from conception to death.

Mrs. Richardson said tonight, let's talk about access to drug paraphernalia in Marysville and what our role can be in it: Did you realize we have a head shop in Marysville? Does anyone know what a head shop is? A head shop is a retail outlet specializing in tobacco

paraphernalia used for consumption of tobacco, vapors, liquid nicotine, legal party powders, and new age herbs, as well as scales, magazines, music, clothing, and home decor; some head shops also sell sex toys or enhancements.

You might be thinking of Waterbeds & Stuff or other such stores in Columbus, but you can purchase glass pipes, water-bongs, vaporizers, rolling papers, rolling machines, and blunts right here in Marysville. She shared with everyone products that she was able to buy in Marysville today (pipe, rolling papers, flavored rolling papers, and blunts). While these types of stores sell these products for “tobacco use”, many products are more known for marijuana also. She has never heard of someone using a water-bong to smoke tobacco, but it can be purchased here.

Also concerning is who these products often target. While the Ohio Revised Code indicates that it is legal to purchase these items for adults 18 and older, many of these products are clearly marketed to younger audiences, such as the fruit flavored rolling papers and blunts.

A comparison of the 2012 to 2014 Union County Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicated there was a reported decrease in 30 day use of tobacco and alcohol, but marijuana use stayed the same. Additionally, youth reported that they risked harming themselves less if they used marijuana than tobacco, alcohol and prescription drugs. The perception of our youth is that it is healthier to smoke marijuana than it is to smoke a cigarette. As a community, knowing the trends of substance use, how those substances are used and by whom is important. Reducing the risk of youth substance abuse is a priority.

She would be happy to answer questions you may have. If you are interested in perhaps touring these local facilities or learning more about laws concerning access to drug paraphernalia, please don't hesitate to speak with me or send her an email. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Groat said thank you to the Administration for a good year and it does take team work and we have a good start. The Ward 3 meeting is on February 3, 2015 from 6:30-8pm at the Marysville Library meeting room B. There will be no March 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward 3 meeting. Cemetery Advisory Board will be March 4, 2015 at 4:30pm, we encourage anyone who wants to attend to come. Mr. Rockenbaugh has some great ideas that the City of Marysville needs to hear and consider. The Public Affairs Committee will be on January 26, 2015 at 6:00pm, we will begin reviewing the 10 year Comprehensive Plan for the City of Marysville and discuss possible changes to the Council Rules of Procedures for 2015 only.

Mr. Reams said the Humane Society will be having their annual chili dinner fundraiser on January 24, 2015 from 6-8pm at the Catholic Community Center. Mr. Reams said Mayor Gore talked about HB 5 and the impact it has to our community. He said we are looking at \$1,000,000 that this community will lose because of the changes by the State. He said he

was disappointed Ms. Pelanda did not come to the meeting this evening, and that this was passed as tax reform.

Mr. Berbee said they had a Finance Committee meeting where they discussed buying a new fire truck and moving wastewater notes to bonds. The Finance Committee will be bringing forward new legislation for the fire truck and moving the notes to bonds. Mr. Berbee reminded Council that they need to contact the IT department to change their email passwords.

Mr. Taylor said to Mr. Aslaner, that we have discussed burned houses and are approaching the six month plus mark on a certain burned building. What is the status of the building? Mr. Aslaner said he has not had any contact with the insurance companies. Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Aslaner to look into the status.

Mr. Taylor said you heard Mayor Gore's speech tonight, and it is not just the administration or council, it is because we all care about the City because it is our home and that is where we want to make a difference. When you see something that is not right at home, you need to let the house know and let the house fix it. He thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Mayor Gore thanked Council for their cooperation. He thanked everyone for all that they do. He is very happy to be a part of this group. He feels great about what we have done and what we are going to do and thanked everyone for coming tonight.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.