

MAYORAL UPDATE 1st QUARTER UPDATE 2022

It is hard to believe but one fourth of 2022 is already gone! I'm hoping that means no more snow or sub-zero temperatures. I'm definitely ready to put the snow shovel and snowblower back in the corner!

January Highlights:

In January Beth Fenstermaker, Sara Klay, Mike Fasig and Tyler Brumbaugh were sworn in as new Council members. Each will be representing the Village for four years. Mayor Schroll was also sworn in. She will be completing former Mayor Latta's term which expires in 2023.

The Village considered hiring the Putman County YMCA to operate the community pool. After numbers were analyzed, it was determined it was more economical for the Village to continue to operate the pool.

The Village also wanted to get a jump start on the paving season and determined what roads would be done for 2022. In hopes of getting a lower bid the Village was included on the Hancock County Engineers bid which was due by February 1.

The residents in Vista Meadows have dealt with flooding for several decades without much support or improvement. Administrator Like spent time investigating and trying to determine the issue in the area. The Village purchased a push camera and noted blockage in many of the tiles mainly due to tree roots. It was also determined that the grade was not correct and perhaps the tile had settled over the years creating this issue. Council voted in favor of contracting with JDR Excavating to fix the entire area.

Almost all the downtown streetlights have been converted to LED bulbs. This provides better lighting and is more economical. Hopefully the last few will be changed out when the weather cooperates.

Planning and Zoning spent many hours discussing the proposed rezoning for the Rolling Meadows subdivision. The McComb EDO filed an application to rezone 40+ acres as single family and multifamily. Several citizens within the current subdivision spoke at numerous meetings expressing their desire to remain as single family or condominiums which is currently permitted in their covenants and was the original intent of the development. The residents spoke out against any apartment type building as requested in the zoning application.

February Highlights:

February brought more construction to the Village. NWWSD made several upgrades to various water lines throughout the Village. Most of the work will be completed by the end of April weather permitting.

The Village again requested residents remove inoperable vehicles on their property. We know many places offer to pick up scrap including vehicles. Please do your part and remove the vehicles.

The Village Administrator and Mayor met with Representative Cross and Senator McColley to secure funding for the Church Street Interceptor Project. They also met with Commissioner Pepple and contacted Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik. The Village recognizes the need for upgrading our storm sewers and the Church Street Interceptor would be the beginning of many decades of upgrades.

The Village is considering buying the building directly to the East of the Administrative Office to house the McComb Police Department and Tax Administrator. We are working with RCM Architects and the Wood County Inspector to assess what changes and costs would be associated with the purchase and required changes.

Council also approved the posting for an additional full-time Police Officer. The position has been posted and applications are due by the end of March. We continue to contract with the Hancock County Sheriff's Office for twenty additional hours per week above and beyond their regular service to the Village.

The Village Council also set the wages and hours for the Village swimming pool. The pool will be open from 1-6 p.m. daily. Prices will remain the same as last year. We are currently accepting applications for lifeguards, manager, and assistant managers. Applications can be found on the Village website. Council also approved to accept bids to paint the pool house. The work would be done before opening day 2022.

March Highlights:

The North Meadow Drive storm water replacement project got underway in March. Hopefully, this will take care of any flooding in this residential area. The company will be returning to repair any driveways that were affected by this project once the asphalt plants start back up this spring. Dirt will be smoothed out and grass planted.

Military banners will again be hung throughout the downtown area. Due to the large number of requests, we have secured permission to hang some on the AEP poles. The banners will be up from Memorial Day through Veterans Day.

In 2021 council set money aside to order a new police vehicle. The vehicle ordered is a Ford Explorer and just like many new vehicles we will be waiting until mid-summer for it to arrive. The 2012 Ram truck will be sold.

The McComb Cookie Festival will again be taking place this summer. The festival is scheduled for July 16, 2022. Planning is underway with several of the previous events continuing as well as some scheduled new ones. Ed Aller is the chairman, and the next planning meeting is schedule for April 6, at 5:30 p.m. at the library.

The Village plans to resubmit for the Nature Works grant for improvements at the park. The grant would replace the split rail fence and replace the sand under the play sets with commercial grade rubber pellets. A recommendation from last year's submission was the need for community input. The fence was originally installed for safety purposes and is now dilapidated. Fleas and cat feces are in the sand making it an unpleasant place to play. We would appreciate any letters from the community in support of replacing both items.

Council also approved working with the Hancock County Community Foundation to establish a fund for the McComb Community Park. We will be working with their donor engagement officer to set this fund up. There will be more information provided once this is established. What a way to make sure your park is provided for future generations.

Over the years many residents have complained about the downtown area and the need for improvements. Downtown property owners were invited to a meeting on March 24 to hear about a grant opportunity for Downtown Revitalization. Poggemeyer Design Group gave an overview of the requirements and what the grant could be used for. Council voted to proceed with a letter of intent to apply for the grant. There will be more updates as this grant proceeds.

As you can see, we have had a busy first quarter as we continue to make improvements for the Village. If you ever have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please feel free to contact the Village Office.

Have a great Spring!
Cathy