

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY

MAYOR GREGORY H. EROSENKO

JANUARY 10, 2017

Section 606(g) of the Monroeville home rule charter requires that the mayor prepare and deliver an annual “State of the Municipality” report to the citizens of Monroeville. As I have done in the past, I am delivering the state of the municipality report tonight at this January’s regular business council meeting this evening.

This will be my 9th and final annual “State of the Municipality” report due to my 2nd and final full term as your mayor that ends this December 31st.

2016, overall, was a good year for you, our residents, and for our municipality.

- 1. Council, along with the administration, held the line on keeping our millage rate at the current 4.0 mills and still maintained all of the services each of us enjoy.**
- 2. Land development projects that were completed or under construction in 2016 are as follows:**
 - 1. All Floors Supplies Company**
 - 2. Good Shepherd Mausoleums**
 - 3. Guardian Storage Facility**
 - 4. Holiday Inn Express**
 - 5. Panda Express**
 - 6. Starbucks/Sleep Number Company**

- 3. Council members, along with the administration and Chief Cole, worked with D.A. Zappala and his staff to install several cameras throughout the municipality to assist our police department in deterring crime within our municipality (and it is working just fine).**

- 4. As stated in previous council meetings, our police civil service commission will be ready to hire at least 2 or more new officers during the first half of this year.**

- 5. Crime in Monroeville, due to the fine work and presence of our officers, is down overall as stated below:**
 - A. Burglary – there were 82 in 2015 – down to 32 in 2016**
 - B. Robbery – there were 24 in 2015- down to 10 in 2016**
 - C. Homicide – there were 2 in 2015 – down to 0 in 2016**
 - D. Retail thefts – there were 280 in 2015 – down to 229 in 2016 ***
Please note MPD began making physical arrests involving retail thefts instead of letting the retail shops file their own charges.
 - E. Assaults – there were 99 in 2015 – down to 90 in 2016**
 - F. Rape -- there were 2 in 2015 – down to 0 in 2016**
 - G. Vehicle thefts – there were 19 in 2015 – a slight increase to 24 in 2016**

- I. Along with council and the administration, I want to thank Chief Cole and all of our officers on their dedication and fine work in keeping Monroeville a safe place to live, work and play.**

- 6. In 2017, the municipality will see new construction and new businesses on Route 22 (Panda Express, etc.) As you can see, our municipality remains healthy.**

As in every community, Monroeville has some challenges:

- 1. Moving into 2017, the cost of providing the services to you is ever increasing and our revenue is still somewhat flat, which means, council and the administration must reinvent the municipality to become an even friendlier place for new business development to want to move within our borders. Council and the administration should open up discussion on any incentives to assist in attracting new development who want to even consider moving here. Please remember that competition for new business development remains very serious between Cranberry, South Hills, The Waterfront, North Hills as well as Downtown Pittsburgh, so we must truly look at all alternatives as well as any incentives for businesses to consider our municipality.**
- 2. Council and the administration should consider restarting the Intergovernmental Committee with the Gateway School Board Directors so we can assist them in attracting younger families with children to move into our district. Most of you already know our enrollment has been decreasing over the past several years, and if this trend continues, Monroeville overall will decline. This trend of the decreasing school population has to be reversed by both of the elected bodies, but more importantly, the quality of our schools must be maintained.**
- 3. Communications within our dispatch center as well as our police department needs to be upgraded due to the ever changing rules by the FCC. We need to upgrade our radio system throughout the entire municipality to provide our officers better communications between police vehicles and the dispatch center. The needed upgrade will also provide better communications with our 5 volunteer fire departments and also to the county dispatch center. The police in-car cameras must also be upgraded, and in**

the not too distant future, our police department may also be wearing body cameras. So in essence, our entire communication system is aging and council and the administration should start discussions on funding streams to support these needed upgrades to our entire communication system.

- 4. In 2017, as in 2016, for council and the administration, one of our biggest challenges remains the infrastructure/lack of sufficient funding to properly maintain our roads and the like throughout the municipality. As you know, council and the administration are paying as you go for any repairs/projects, but the available funding for these issues are sorely lacking. Due to very hard work by the administration and council, we are holding the line for now, but we need to start discussing new funding streams to support our aging infrastructure.**
- 5. The MS-4 mandate (pollution and flood control) from the state and federal government is another issue facing council and the administration where no funding was given to the municipalities to meet this very costly mandate. If you recall, council informally addressed this issue a few times at various council meetings, and I suggest strongly that this issue, once again, opens up first with a couple of public meetings with some experts in this area to help the residents and anyone on council or the administration to fully understand the what, where and why of this mandate and how to fund this project. I would suggest this issue to be resolved and any related ordinances be completed early in 2018.**
- 6. Our public works department at one time, not too many years ago, had 65 employees. Today we have around 35 employees counting our management personnel, and our infrastructure is much older with just about half of the staffing we had at one time. council and the administration must take a hard look at all of the**

departments and the hiring practices and only hire in the departments that are in dire need of an increase such as public works.

7. Council and the administration will have to make some tough decisions going into the 2018 budget. They may have to reduce funding levels for some departments to help support other departments that need to increase their funding and may have to consider a tax increase as well going into 2018.

We have to realize that Monroeville is changing on many levels. We cannot rest on our laurels of the past. We have always been a diverse community, but we are even becoming more diverse just like the City of Pittsburgh. It too is changing before our eyes. Only 10 years ago it would be unthinkable to hear about the population increasing in the City of Pittsburgh. Younger people are staying and moving into the Pittsburgh area and region. Monroeville has to do its part to capture some of that youth and vigor. While we still have a vibrant business district, we have to keep moving forward in thinking of different ways to attract 21st century businesses and its citizens, and not look to the past for any answers.

In closing, as I have already stated, Monroeville is doing well considering the challenges as stated but council and the administration must start working on reducing costs where possible, start looking at new funding streams, applying for funding grants from the state and federal governments and reduce any and all waste. Lastly, I hope all of you will have a safe and healthy new year and may god always bless our country and Monroeville and keep us a free nation.

Thank you,

Mayor Greg Erosenko