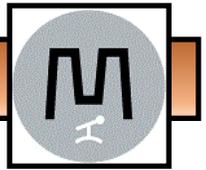


City Council Message



November 2018



Dave Nicponski

Undoubtedly, the most important role of the city council is to approve the annual budget, oversight of revenue and expenses throughout the year, and amendments during the budget cycle to consider unexpected expenses or revenue. We analyze the budget in three major categories: personnel, operations, and capital expenditures. As you may expect, to operate within a balanced budget, there are many challenges when considering the needs in the city. Our services to the citizens and businesses of Murray are our greatest priority with public safety at the top of the list.

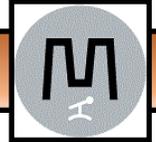
Following closely behind in priority is our responsibility to maintain roads, repair as necessary and rebuild when in failing condition. We always try to maintain with slurry seals and overlays to prevent the more expensive rebuild when roads begin to fail completely. This is a very costly endeavor. Our revenue for road projects comes from capital allocations of Murray's General Fund revenue dollars and Class C Road Funds received through the state as a result of taxes paid at the fuel pump.

Challenges in keeping up with these needs is a constant dilemma. The ongoing list of road repairs would cost in excess of \$40 million to execute. Murray was able to budget nearly \$3.2 million to roads in the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget, sidewalk repairs included. At this rate, you can expect road conditions to deteriorate much more rapidly than city leaders are able to allocate funding for repairs. Due to the very nature of our climate, which is extremely hard on our roads, this Spring we will add a few new road repairs to the bottom of our list as we continue to pick-off the worst cases.

The legislature has tried to provide a means for cities to attain additional dollars for transportation through recent election issues. As we saw in November, voters rejected Opinion Question #1 for an increased tax at the pump for schools and transportation. In 2015, there was an opportunity for voters to approve new transportation dollars to be split between counties, cities and transit. This too was rejected. Nonetheless, the city tries to prioritize the essential restorations and provide to the best of our abilities.

Budget issues aside, I am pleased to report that over the last construction period Murray City was able to make some great strides forward and rebuilt the roadway at 6600 South from 900 East to 1300 East. A major overlay project was completed at 5300 South from State Street to Vine Street. These were especially challenging due to the high traffic volume.

Roadway seal coat projects were accomplished on neighborhood streets at Ayshire, Center, Elm, Evesham, Glen Oaks, Holstein, Lincoln, Maple, Oakmont, Silvershadow, Southwood, Silver Bell, Wasatch, and Willowood. There were pavement replacements completed on Butler Circle, Wood Circle, and Hansen Circle. Other road work included slurry seal projects at Allendale Drive, Bend Way, Glencoe Drive, Loch Hawkins, Mohican Circle, Noah Circle, Ortons, Parker View Place, Potomac Drive, Pugs Place, River Park Drive, Ropcke Drive, Sagewood Drive, Sanford Drive, Trent Meadows Cove, 5818 South, 157 West and 129 West. Asphalt patching took place in various locations.



Sidewalk replacement and trip hazard repairs were completed in areas across the city using budgeted funds of \$400,000.

As winter is upon us, road funding also covers the expense for snow removal and salt. Murray has a reputation for taking care of that need better and faster than most cities surrounding us. Everyone agrees that on snowy days, you can always tell when you enter Murray City limits. Please know that these are your tax dollars at work and Murray City personnel who care deeply about providing the safest roads for our citizens.