

Around the City with Manager David Thayer

The City has been busy these last few months addressing deferred maintenance problems, blight issues, and making infrastructure improvements. We are currently repairing 4 miles of street surfaces, building a new storm water sewer, replacing 1,000 feet of old iron water main lines, and rebuilding 1,200 feet of aged and deteriorated sanitary sewer lines. We are also working on deferred maintenance issues in our City Parks. Hopefully by midsummer next year, you will notice remarkable improvements.

The City is planning another large item collection at the Washington Street DPW buildings on September 30, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon). At our spring collection, we received 33 tons of materials. At our mid-summer collection, we received 20 tons of debris. My travels around town thereafter have shown a noticeable impact on blighted conditions.

The Downtown Development Authority has approved 4 facade grants up to \$2,500 this summer to Main Street Café, Laughing Loon, Contrast Coffee, and Nichols Flooring and Stone. These grants leverage façade improvements by the named businesses which enhance the aesthetics of our Main Street. The DDA is working on improving signage in and around the City.

The Planning Commission began working on revising our Zoning Ordinance last February, 2016. They have completed the heavy lifting of this task and are now ready to receive additional public input. They have scheduled a Public Hearing before their next meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 5:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Copies of the Revised Zoning Ordinance draft are available for review on the City Website, at WID Library, and in the City Clerk's Office. The proposed Zoning District Map is available for review in the Council Chambers at City Hall. In addition, the Planning Commission has been busy updating

our 6 year Capital Improvement Plan. Besides being required by State Statute, this is an excellent planning tool in matching capital needs with available resources.

The City has made several public safety changes to our traffic system. We have added stop signs to intersections where two opposing flows of traffic both had the right-of-way to proceed through the intersection. We have restricted on-street parking where the street is too narrow for vehicles to pass each other safely with the lines of parked cars; not to mention pedestrians safely crossing the street and not being visually blocked from drivers due to the parked vehicles. In late September, we will convert 3rd Avenue between Adams Street and Genesee Street to a two way street. Far too many drivers do not realize that the street is a one way for that single block resulting in accidents and unnecessary confusion.

I would like to invite you to attend public meetings in the City. City Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month, the Planning Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month, and the DDA meets on the third Monday of each month. We are seeking civic minded members of our community to join and participate with various Boards, Committees, and Commissions of the City. When we all work to together as a City, we have a better City.