

Coffee with the Mayor

Ser 26

My coffee plans over Christmas didn't turn out as expected. Could not find the carafe for the standard coffee pot, so, had to rely on the old Keurig pods for coffee! That didn't stop the daughter and I from having our morning coffee, but it did change the brand of coffee we had. The important thing is we had coffee together!

Thought this would be a good time to look ahead into next year and mention some things I feel should be the focus of attention. A few things I've mentioned along the way, but some I haven't. This is a list at this time, more I'm sure will be added:

- Pool – need to address the status

- Water infrastructure – waiting on a five-year plan to address

- Communication – address ways to better communicate to the public

- Update Comprehensive plan – existing plan completed in 2014

- Update Economic development plan – existing plan completed 2015

- Conservation Club area – open for community recreation/trails

- Update city ordinances – many are not current

- Sign for Evan Witty Memorial Park – should be ready in the Spring

- Continue water, gas, street, sewer and electric projects

The first two will not be easy. The pool will probably be the most difficult. The second will depend on the recommendations in the plan. The task was to provide a plan on dealing with our water infrastructure that can be phased in over 5 years.

We recently received approval from the City Council to hire a Human Resources Coordinator. The Clerk-Treasurer, Utilities Manager and I determined some time ago the need for this position. Filling this position will go a long way in taking care of our city employees. The intent is to have this person in place by 13 January.

Looking further down the road, I see the eventual need for a Park Manager. In addition to Humphrey's Park, the city is responsible for over 600 acres of land off Park Road. This includes the area around the Conservation Club, Sunset campground, Saddle club and areas currently utilized by the Buckcreek Muzzle Loaders Club and Boy Scouts. I feel it is important to have someone that can properly manage this area and make it available for community enjoyment. The Park Committee completed a 5-year plan allowing for grant applications. In conjunction with this position, there are several grants available to municipalities. It would also be good to have a grant writer. Having someone experienced

in successful grant writing could help assist in providing funds for the above list! As I've said before, stay tuned!

Hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable New Years!