



*The Mayor's Report presented to members of Council and our citizens
December 7, 2020*

QUICK READS:

LET US REMEMBER THIS DATE, DECEMBER 7, AS IN 1941 THE NATION WAS AT WAR (79 YEARS AGO). Many G-A citizens would serve their Community and Country locally and around the world in military and civilian service.

GREENCASTLE POLICE FIRST FOOD DRIVE: Ten Most Wanted Food Items! A special thanks to our wonderful citizens for your generous donations by the hundreds of pounds to the Greencastle Food Bank at the Presbyterian Church.

SHOP SMALL SATURDAY: Held on November 28 with lots of activity downtown. Free parking continues this month. Residential tenants...please use off street parking that may be available.

EMPLOYEES PAYING FOR DENTAL INSURANCES COSTS IN 2021: I conducted a thorough review of all Greencastle preliminary budgets and Council's action and must advocate for all municipal employees and recommend this new policy be rescinded based on the following facts:

1. This policy will affect our most sensitive employees, those with families, who will see \$70 per month taken from their pay checks. If an employee with a family is making \$30,000 their 1.3% raise will be \$390. Their dental premium cost for a family will be \$840 for the year.
2. At the November 2, 2020 Council meeting you were advised this would save \$15,793.
3. The actual General Fund savings would be approximately \$7,055 (4/100 of 1 % of the General Fund budget) for Administration, Police, and Public Works employees.
4. Council's decision effects Water Authority employees. The Water Authority budget for 2020 lists dental premium costs at \$4,882 with estimated year-end 2020 expenses at \$3,660. The Authority's budget is approved by members of the Authority appointed by Council.
5. Sewer Authority's budget (08) for dental costs totals \$2,065.42. The 2021 budget is balanced with a surplus.
6. Storm water budget (09) for dental costs is \$716. The 2021 budget has a surplus.

7. All the above dental costs are divided within four budgets totaling \$14,718.42.
8. Each employee performs public services to support our citizens with some work-related duties requiring seven day a week work including holidays.
9. Over the past two years, I have been pro-active working with the Administration & Finance Committee assisting in ways to reduce DRAFT General Fund budgets resulting in no real-estate tax increase even when staff was requesting a tax increase and creating a pathway with the Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection for an ultimate waiver to the 2016 MS4 requirements.

Please consider rescinding this policy as there is little impact on the General Fund with all other funds showing a 2021 year end budget surplus. The action would have no impact on how the 2021 General Fund was advertised as the expenditure difference would be a fraction of one percent.

OTHER 2021 GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVIEW NOTES:

The 2021 "Fire Department" funding debit line items 411 are slightly reduced from 2020 even with the additional \$22,500 contribution for staffing (\$81,900 compared to \$82,200) due to what I believe is reduced Worker's Compensation formulas.

AGENDA ITEM 1. 1. A. "Police capital expense of \$10,000 for new police reporting software:" As I reported at the Nov. 12, 2020 Public Safety Committee meeting, I am actively seeking outside funding (grant) for this expense. I ask Council to allow me two months (the end of Feb. 2021) to seek grant funding. Chief Phillippy is analyzing upgrades that may occur with the current C-Net (Commonwealth Network). I requested the Chief author a Cost / Benefits Analysis for new software compared to the existing system along with future legacy costs.

Merry Christmas!

Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor