



*The Mayor's Special Report
Presented September 8, 2020*

EXTENSIVE POLICE INVESTIGATION: I commend Greencastle Police, Franklin County Drug Task Force, and other investigative agencies for the recent arrests of five citizens following a January, 2020 drug related death in Greencastle. Those suffering from addiction are challenged to be able to seek help. Shame on those who sell narcotics and other poison to those struggling with addiction and cause significant hurt to the victims and their families. Three year old Logan Starliper's death 3 ½ years ago is a prime example. Now, our Governor wants to legalize "recreational marijuana," a gateway drug that leads to a path of addiction and more powerful illegal, controlled substances causing more hurt and great expense to the taxpayers, far beyond the taxable income that would be generated from legalizing "recreational marijuana."

MEETING WITH GREENCASTLE-ANTRIM SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT DR. LURA HANKS: I recently met with Dr. Hanks and it was a pleasure to hear from mission and strategic plan for the educational opportunities of our students. She is excited to partner with us for various projects; one being the possibility of art students rehabbing the veterans' emblems in front of the memorial here at Borough Hall. Also, the possibility of rehabbing the railroad bridge murals on West Baltimore Street. This, however, will possibly take the cooperation of Norfolk Southern.

ROUTE 11 BRIDGE CLOSURE: I've kept in touch with the PennDot bridge project construction manager. Route 11 is to re-open this coming Friday as long as there are no weather and construction delays. Significant back-ups have been occurring on Baltimore Street to Interstate-81 with the additional 13,000 vehicles per day having to detour. Several weeks ago, I-81 was also closed due to a serious crash at Milepost 3 in Antrim Township. A special thanks to our fire police and fire police from other jurisdictions for assisting Greencastle PD re-routing traffic onto Williamsport Pike.



LILIAN S. BESORE MEMORIAL LIBRARY STORM WATER MANAGEMENT: I look forward to Committee updates regarding a resolution to the Library's storm water management system for their recent land development plan improvements.

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS WITH ANTRIM TOWNSHIP AND GASD: Unfortunately, our Committee meetings have not been held for an extended period of time including before the pandemic began. I encourage Council to re-institute these informative sessions as we are one community with the Borough potentially being significantly impacted by regional growth.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: I'm pleased to see progress on the former Hick's Chevrolet-Volvo building on N. Antrim Way. This facility will provide an economic boost to our economy along with several other new businesses that have opened or may soon open in Greencastle. I was pleased to attend a recent Greencastle Zoning Hearing Board meeting and testified on behalf of several supportive citizens. The hearing was conducted for Premier HVAC who plans on opening the existing business in the former Antique Mall building that has been used for 105 years as industrial and commercial in the 300 block of S. Washington Street which was granted with reasonable conditions. Welcome to the neighborhood.

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS' LETTERS (Albert Miller and Pat Fridgen): I appreciate letters received last month by citizens and their concerns imparted regarding a Council Resolution and the storm water budget and future fees. I encourage Council to review our citizens' information, concerns, and recommendations.

RESPONSE TO COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2020-06: On July 6, 2020 Council adopted a Resolution "establishing guidelines for interaction between Elected Officials, Appointed Commission, Board or Authority members and Borough Management and Staff." Those minutes state "The solicitor was involved and drafted the Resolution; and is similar to what other municipalities have in place." I question those statements. I found that Waynesboro has a 2016 Resolution, however, Greencastle's goes far beyond Waynesboro Council action. Greencastle's specifically mentions "the Mayor." Waynesboro's does not. Nowhere in the Borough Code or the Pa. Municipalities Planning Code does it state that Councils' has authority over the Mayor regarding communications; Nor do the same Statutes provide authority to the Managers (plural) authority over the Mayors of Pennsylvania (plural) regarding communications. I request Council re-visit and edit this Resolution removing authority over the Mayor regarding communication. Furthermore, I would like to know what Borough Solicitor wrote Greencastle's Resolution so I may discuss my concerns directly with him or her.

Other than Waynesboro's limited Resolution that I've attached, I am unaware of such a Resolution for the other 2,500 municipalities in Pennsylvania. So we're not permitted to stop in, visit staff, and say hello? Can we not thank them for what they do? The Resolutions says we "shall not" call or visit without prior written approval. I encourage members of Council to compare Greencastle and Waynesboro's resolutions and read the significant differences for yourselves.

Finally, this Friday is September 11 (Patriot's Day). I encourage all Greencastle citizens who are able to fly the Flag of the United States of America in honor and memory of those men and women who have sacrificed in so many ways for our freedom.

Submitted by: Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor