

CITY OF CONNEAUT
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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City Manager

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MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council Members/Department/Division Heads
FROM: Douglas L. Lewis, City Manager
SUBJECT: City Manager Update
DATE: January 16, 2007

Sewer Liners: Over the past week, United Survey installed two cured-in-place partial liners in the sanitary sewers on Harbor Street. One section was installed under the Norfolk & Southern Railroad Tracks and the other section was near Poplar Street. In videos taken by the camera truck, the thickness, or lack thereof, of the walls was visible. For this reason, Wastewater Superintendent Craig Pierce recommended that these sections be lined in order to avoid a sewer line cave-in.

Liberty Street Road Cut: On Thursday of last week, Geneva Pipeline Company was working on Liberty Street for Dominion. The company drilled a hole through our main water line on Liberty Street. The repairs to the line were completed around 7:30 p.m. The gas company has committed to restoring the road surface as soon as weather permits.

Maple Avenue Water Line: Ruhlin Company laid 70 feet of 16-inch water line on Maple Avenue this past week. All hot taps have been made and a new fire hydrant has been installed. The water line between Chamberlain Blvd and Parrish Rd. was also installed.

Police Calls/Citations: During the week of January 4th through January 11th, the Police Department received 520 calls for service. Included in those numbers were 10 parking violations, 14 disabled vehicle calls, 15 accidents, 88 registration checks, 13 suspicious activity calls, 84 traffic stops, and 6 theft calls.

Public Works Department: During the week of January 8th, the Public Works Department continued to pick up and dispose of Christmas trees, the tree crew trimmed trees, ditching continued on Underridge Road East and salting and plowing was done as needed.

Ladder Truck: Fire Chief Bim Orrenmaa spoke to representatives from Carnegie Body about the Station #4 Ladder Truck. They indicated that the testing showed no serious deterioration of the metal and noted in areas where there is surface rust. Since we are dealing only with the cleaning and protection of the surface rust, the estimate for repairs will be \$11,748.

Police Resignation: Ptl. John Wilt and his dog Congo will be departing for the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Department. We wish Ptl. Wilt the best of luck with his new position.

Planning/Zoning Manager: Initial interviews were completed with the top ten candidates. Interviews are scheduled with the three finalists. Once the interviews are completed and a candidate accepts the position, I will update Council on the decision.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Ward II Meeting: Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Church

Economic Development Committee: Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Topics include business retention and Campbell CRA.

Public Safety Committee: Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

OCMA Conference: I will be attending the Ohio City Manager Conference from Tuesday, January 23 to Thursday, January 25, 2007. The conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio

2007 Goals & Objectives: January 27, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. Site location TBD.

Ashtabula Chamber Annual Groundhog Day Breakfast: Friday, February 2, 2007 at Andrus Banquet Center at 7:00 a.m. Please let me know ASAP if you plan on attending. Information was placed in your mailbox.

Conneaut Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Dinner: Tuesday, February 6, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at Water's Catering in North Kingsville. Please let me know ASAP if you plan on attending. Information was placed in your mailbox.

CHRC Winter Sock Hop Fundraiser: Saturday, March 3, 2007. Tickets are \$8.00. Information was placed in your mailbox.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – NOT TO RELEASE:

Confidential – Interstate 90 and SR 7 Development: Mr. Vinny Pero of the U.S. Corp of Engineers has received the necessary information to confirm the delineation of the wetlands. We are expected to receive a letter by end of next week.

The developer is currently working on a layout assuming that Mr. Pero will be confirming the jurisdiction of the wetlands submitted to him by Dr. Edward Hauser and Mr. Jim Welker of the Ashtabula Soil & Water Conservation District. Much gratitude goes to Mr. Welker for his assistance on this project.

As stated earlier, ODOT District 4 will not require the developer to purchase the property in the right-of-way. Instead, they will grant an easement for the road to be installed. This includes the break in the median.

While we have overcome a number of issues, the developer must still complete the land sale agreement.

Confidential – Lake Road Property: The sale of the property on Lake Road, across from the Mini Mart is currently pending with contingencies. However, if the perspective owner closes on the property, she plans on using it for summer rentals and possibly a corporate retreat center. In order to do so, it will require a variance or special exception since it is zoned R-5. Under the prior owner, it was used for summer rentals.

Confidential – Cleveland Hotel: The developers plan to obtain necessary permits to begin demolition and construction of two commercial units located on the first floor by the middle of next week. The two commercial units sold for cash which enables them to work while completing the financing for the remainder of the building. The new occupant plans to put a fitness center.

Confidential – Gateway Plaza Grocery Store: The new owner of the Gateway Plaza plans to be in Conneaut on January 31 or February 1. Mr. Gerston is trying to schedule meetings with potential grocery stores. Staff will be working with him on this endeavor. In fact, we have recommended to the Economic Development Committee that a citizen committee be formed to assist with the recruitment of a grocery store at that location.

Confidential – Hamot Medical Center off Gateway Avenue: Staff is currently working with representatives of Woodlands Clinic (medical group) to secure financing for the purchase of the building. It may be necessary to fund a portion of the project through the City of Conneaut's RLF. They are also working with Roy Bean of the SBA and Ron Tate of the 503 Corp. We will keep you updated as we progress.

Confidential – CSP Ohio Adds Jobs: I talked with Mr. David Murtha, Plant Manager, for CSP Ohio and he informed me that they were recently awarded two major contracts from GM and Ford. CSP is producing the engine covers for the GM Savana and the Ford Econoline – both are vans.

As a result, they have called all employees on layoff back to work and anticipate adding approximately 60 jobs. They have other contracts that they are bidding on and anticipate receiving more work. Mr. Murtha stated that he was very pleased and believes there is a

good outlook for the future. He also stated that he is pleased with the quality of people that they have hired to date.