

The Council Corner

Mayor: Jim Hollenbeck

Commissioners Bob Davis, Jim Buckingham, Gary Lewey, & Bobby Kaminski

2018 was a very busy year for the Marseilles City Council, many things were accomplished. As we go into 2019, we have great optimism with many goals and objectives on the horizon. We believe that 2019 will be an even better year for our wonderful City. The following is a summary highlighting a year in review of significant accomplishments.

1.3 Million Dollar Grant obtained to build a flood wall protecting our North Side Wastewater Treatment facility.

Obtained (2) 40k Grants for the demolition of abandon/flood damaged property. The City obtained ownership of 14 properties. 13 homes were beyond repair and demolished, 1 was sold for rehabilitation. We have strived diligently to improve overall appearance of our community.

City was awarded a 16k Grant for the first phase of the planned sidewalk construction on Rutland Street to 11th Street. This is a safety concern for the residents that walk-up Rutland Street to the businesses and residents.

The City applied for and was awarded a 393K grant to assist residents with low to moderate income an opportunity to upgrade and have needed repairs done to their residences. The City was able to add another 10K to the award by obtaining pledges from NUCOR (Independence Tube), Twin Oaks Ottawa Savings Bank and Marseilles Bank, which in turn gave the City additional points towards the competitive grant point scale.

In December the City applied for a third 40K demolition grant so the city can complete the rehabilitation of the flood area.

A monthly newsletter was established called "Council Corner" to keep citizens informed of what the council is doing and activities within the community.

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Determined the City isn't receiving real estate taxes for Walbridge Subdivision and rectified.

Worked with consultant to determine City was being overcharged for electrical from the supplier and obtained approximately 23k in refunds thus far. Additional monies may be returned to the tax payers as a complaint was filed with the ICC.

Annexed property increasing the cities EAV and keeping real estate taxes low.

Marseilles Public Library was made handicap accessible for residents with a disability.

Placed a school resource officer at MES for the safety of our children and staff.

Organized the City's first ever electronics recycling with NUCOR Corporation.

Negotiating a land swap with NUCOR in order to establish and boat launch/recreation area on the North side of the river.

Will be seeking a grant from the Department of Natural Resources for the construction of the boat launch, restroom facilities, development of park area with possible concession stand.

Strived to hold the line on property taxes. The taxes for residents were able to be reduced slightly this year and we're able to still cover mandated/increased costs. Tax rate went from 1.9803 in 2017 to 1.9802 in 2018.

Created TIF 5 to renovate much needed projects and improvements on Main Street such as sidewalk replacements making all businesses handicap accessible, drainage and flood control, upgrading of street lighting along with many other much needed improvements.

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City has continued with many projects and has made substantial progress in alleviating flooding by dredging of creeks, including but not limited to installation of new larger culverts, and addressing storm sewer issues.

24/7 Micro-Food Pantry for those in need of food and hygiene products.

Flood control with culvert replacements and dredging of creeks, canal, and waterways.

Working to expand water & sewer to I-80 for development and increased EAV reducing taxes for residents.

The city has also continued with our history of snow and ice removal on the city streets. We would put our streets as the best in the county after a heavy snow for being safe, clean, and navigable.