

The Council Corner

Mayor: Jim Hollenbeck

Commissioners Nate Schaefer, Jim Buckingham, Gary Lewey, & Bobby Kaminski

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

“Dedicated in memory of Mayor Jim Trager”

Late Mayor James Trager was elected as a City of Marseilles Public Property Commissioner in 1975 and served for 24 years in this capacity. He was elected Mayor of Marseilles in 2007, serving until 2011 and elected again in 2015, serving until his passing in 2017. He put in motion many of the projects we worked on this past year and ones we will continue working on next year. He loved Marseilles and his family. Let's honor his life by looking at all that we accomplished in 2019 and our plans for 2020.

2019 was a year focused on improvements updating, and economic development. Marseilles was awarded a housing rehab grant in the amount of \$393,000 for use in updating up to 9 homes. Applications are being taken and rehabilitation of 6 homes has been approved by the board and improvements will commence as soon as the Illinois Historical Preservation Board signs off. The City also took ownership and sold several dilapidated unoccupied homes, which will continue. The city's goal is to get them refurbished and back on the tax rolls. Currently a total of 5 have been addressed and are currently occupied or soon will be.

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The City was able to complete the Fillebrowne Street project that included new water and sewer lines along with the new road. Landscaping and seeding will be done in the spring. Drainage was improved on Orange Ave and Lawrence Ave. The Young Street culvert was completed. The City is applying for the 2nd phase of the Rutland sidewalk.

As part of the economic development plan, the City's website was rebuilt, social media pages were created and current pages improved along with the

development of the transparency portal on the website. City also initiated a Business Outreach Program to assist businesses with marketing and promotion.

Lighting was placed along the river walk.

K9 Officer Tucker was added to the force. Tucker is trained for drugs and tracking.

The City was awarded and completed a 1.2 million levee improvement project. Project has been completed and now the city will not have to sandbag the North Side Wastewater Plant in the event of flood waters.

We also submitted a grant application for 200k for a boat launch and park near Nucor. **Mayor Hollenbeck was advised On January 13th that the City had been awarded the 200k grant. This is a great way to start the New Year.**

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2020 will see the continuation of some of these projects along with the start of new ones as we continue to move Marseilles in a positive direction. Census 2020 will be an important part of the new year. We cannot stress enough the importance of filling out your census form completely and honestly.

The new year will also bring the extension of water and sewer North on Milton Rd. from Broadway Street. The storm drains on Pearl Street at East Bluff will also be replaced when weather permits. Another storm drainage area issue on East Bluff between Pearl and Chicago Streets will be fixed. Bids have been awarded.

The City is working on upgrades to the billing system and water meters. The upgrades started in mid-summer and will continue into the new year.

Have someone you would like to buy a gift for or that may need some extra help from time to time? The City is offering gift certificates for payment of water bills.

So, as we welcome the new year, we also want to welcome a year of working together, working as a community, and continued progress.