

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS



Mayor Daniel F. Aussem

March 16, 2021

STATE OF THE CITY

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My first State of the City should have been in 2020 but COVID-19 disrupted the plans for everyone and hopefully we are moving toward the end of this pandemic.

This is the 2021 annual report to the city council concerning the affairs of the city along with projected goals and resources.

The City of Ottawa continues to pursue an aggressive approach to finding grants to help businesses who were affected by the pandemic. In addition, the City has four general areas for potential development as follows:

The Ottawa Industrial Park and the areas set aside for industrial and distribution growth on the north side of Ottawa. Crystal Metals has closed, and its property has been sold. Motorcycle Tour Conversion is downsizing, and their building is also up for sale.

Retail and hospitality growth on the north side with special focus on the Interstate 80 and Norris Drive corridors. We have a Starbucks going up near Culvers along with a new carwash. Jeremiah Joe has a second location at the former Triple J's. Ottawa Warehouse Bargains went into the old Wal-Mart site. The pedestrian bridge was completed last year giving safe access across Interstate 80.

Downtown Ottawa and the Riverfront - The New YMCA project will be gaining momentum in the coming months and should spur additional development in the waterfront area. Larry and Karen Kiest are moving forward on the Ottawa Boat Club renovations investing a substantial amount of money in the downtown. We continue to discuss downtown renovations with C.L. Enterprises who have acquired all of the storefronts on the East side of the 800 block of LaSalle Street and hope to begin construction this summer.

IL Route 71 Corridor from the intersection of Rt. 71 and U.S. Route 6 north through the Interstate 80. This area has sanitary sewer and a new T.I.F. District, water plans are moving forward and should be under construction this year. There is at least one hotel operator looking at the Rt 71 & I-80 area.

The City has contracted with TESKA and associates to renew the Comprehensive Plan with emphasis on the Waterfront, Rt. 6 & Rt. 23 intersection and the Rt. 71 & I-80 area. They are in early stages now.

Hopefully this year we will install new entryway signs welcoming visitors to the City of Ottawa. The sign will resemble the traditional design of state and national park monument signs. The main sign will be at Rt 23 & 80 and have an L.E.D. message board incorporated into the design. We will have additional signs at Rt 71 & 80, Rt 6 West of town and on Rt 23 on the Southside. We will also be replacing the "Way Finding Signs" throughout the city.

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Downtown Ottawa

The City will continue efforts to preserve its historic commercial buildings and beautify the downtown. We are planning a long-range commitment to resurface the alleys downtown, and in some areas, relocate utilities underground. We have instituted new snow removal activities downtown to actually remove the snow and eliminate the unsightly snowbanks along the parking lanes. We will also be purchasing decorative handrail in order to block off parking lanes for use as outdoor dining. The permit for sidewalk and/or parking lane use will be similar to the Sidewalk Café permit for liquor license holders.

New Construction

Several new construction projects are in process throughout town. Financial Plus Credit Union, UAW Region 4 Headquarters, Herman's Liquors and Starbucks are some of the \$31,031,000 in commercial construction. There were also \$9,094,347 in residential building projects. Heritage Harbor is also looking at a very robust construction season as they begin two new neighborhoods with estimated construction of \$25,000,000 each. They will also be installing the Great Loop Road that will connect both ends of the resort.

Festivals

In addition to providing entertainment for Ottawa residents and people throughout the Illinois Valley, one of the most effective means of marketing Ottawa, especially downtown Ottawa, has been the festivals which attract and introduce new visitors to Ottawa. Last year we asked others to take over as festival producers and the pandemic cancelled all but Chris Kringle Market which was a huge success.

Starved Rock Ale Fest– Tangled Roots brewing had planned a one-day festival set for the Jordan Block last year that was cancelled due to COVID-19. They are not planning one this year but hope to get back on schedule in 2022.

The Two Rivers Wine Fest - the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintner's Association will be managing the wine fest held at the Jordan Block this summer tentatively planned for June 5th and 6th.

Independence Day - July 4th falls on a Sunday and Ottawa First and the City will be planning another spectacular show.

Riverfest - will be making a comeback July 28th through August 1st under the guidance of Commissioners Eichelkraut and Rodriguez with Special Events coordinator Heidi Eisert, Larry Johnson and Jim Reilly. We will not have the Beer Gardens and will instead encourage visitors to dine at the local restaurants and bars.

The Chamber is contemplating something similar to Welcome Burger, and we will have the craft market, book sales, children events and a parade on August 1st.

Festival of the Arts - is being planned now for Labor Day weekend for downtown Ottawa.

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Oktoberfest - is also being managed by Tangled Roots Brewing in the Jordan Block with details to come later.

Chris Kringle Markets - Floret Events will once again manage the market and will be held in downtown Ottawa from Washington Park to Jordan Block for four weekends beginning with Thanksgiving weekend.

Special Events Committee

The Special Events committee will be sponsoring the Music in the Park on nine Saturdays throughout the summer. They will also have funding to support ten family friendly events throughout the summer and are exploring additional music throughout downtown on a number of Saturdays.

Ottawa Riverfront Development

Perhaps the most exciting major project underway is the Environmental Cleanup of the City owned property along the Illinois River, formerly the site of the Central School should be completed this year. The Plan Commission and TESKA and Associates are updating the Comprehensive Plan for Riverfront Development.

New Ottawa YMCA

Another very exciting project is the proposed New Ottawa YMCA which will be a new state of the art facility at the former Central School Track. The new facility will provide Ottawa area residents a many recreational and healthy living opportunities. The YMCA team has presented its plans to the City and it is breathtaking. Not only will the new YMCA strengthen Ottawa's quality of life, its planned location on the Illinois riverfront area will drive economic development throughout the City.

I&M Canal Re-Watering

Construction is near complete on the canal project along with installing the pump station and piping to provide water from the Fox River. A ribbon cutting event will be planned in the Spring.

Reddick Mansion Restoration

Known as the Crown Jewel of Ottawa for its beauty and historical significance, the Reddick Mansion has completed its major restoration including the exterior renovation. The Reddick Mansion Association purchased the Mansion from the City of Ottawa and began an aggressive restoration project. The \$1,452,068 spent so far included the removal and restoration of every window, complete restoration of all three balconies, renovating and repairing the cornices, repairing or replacing exterior doors, along with asbestos and lead paint abatement. The Reddick Mansion has finally been restored to its former glory.

America In Bloom

The City of Ottawa hopes to once again participate in the national America In Bloom competition this summer. Volunteers affiliated with the Ottawa Is Blooming Committee have worked on many different projects to improve Ottawa. We have also begun the groundwork for hosting the America In Bloom annual national conference in Ottawa in the fall of 2023.

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Vietnam Veteran's Memorial

Last year we were able to install lighting to illuminate the Vietnam Memorial. Additional improvements to the Memorial will continue this year with proposed landscaping, sitting areas and historical timelines of the various Campaigns.

CITY SERVICES

North Central Area Transit (NCAT)

NCAT provides demand-response, door-to-door public bus transportation for the County of LaSalle, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Twice a month a bus travels to Peoria for individuals needing to meet medical or personal needs out of the area. All of NCAT's vehicles are lift-equipped, making the fleet of 34 buses and vans ADA accessible. NCAT can also connect individuals to inter-city bus transportation services travelling to Chicago, Rockford, Bloomington, and Champaign, via the Heart of Illinois Greyhound route.

NCAT has been at their new facility (1784 Chessie Lane) and will construct a parking lot this spring/summer to bring the entire City of Ottawa operation to one place.

Last year, NCAT was on trend to have a record-breaking year; the ridership was steadily increasing each month with January 2020 being their busiest at just over 5,000 rides. February was still a strong month for NCAT, but once COVID-19 began to impact our area, their numbers quickly fell, providing less than 1,800 rides in April 2020, a 64% decrease in ridership.

By the end of fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) NCAT had provided 46,757 rides (down from 51,948 FY2019). Of those 46,757 rides a majority were for medical (38%) or employment (27%) purposes.

Halfway through fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) NCAT has provided 16,283 rides with medical trips at 47% and employment at 29%. (sidenote: medical is up due to OSF St. Elizabeth dissolving their transit program and medical appointments were essential.)

Fire Department

The Ottawa Fire Department is composed of 30 highly trained professionals, responding from two locations. Each shift is composed of nine members and led by a captain and two lieutenants. The deputy chief oversees day to day operations, while the chief and records clerk concentrate on the administrative functions of the department.

The year 2020 marked a particular challenging year for the Ottawa Fire Department. In addition to responding to 4,327 emergency calls, the Ottawa Fire Department completed 4,592 hours of training. The City of Ottawa was struck with an F-2 tornado in August which resulted in 96 calls in a 24-hour period. Assistance was received from Grand Ridge, Naplate and Wallace during the storm. To complicate matters, during the F-2 tornado communications with Central Dispatch were temporarily disrupted.

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In 2020 the Ottawa Fire Department continued its technological upgrades. With the support of the Mayor's Office, Stations #1 and #2 received a new computer system. Ottawa Fire Department email accounts were absorbed by the City of Ottawa to create an improved network of communications within our City. New ESO software was also purchased and is in the process of being installed. This new technology will allow Ottawa Fire Fighters and Paramedics the ability to generate reports more efficiently and significantly reduces downtime writing reports. The ESO software is in the process of being integrated with Ottawa Central Dispatch's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System. This feature will eventually allow the administration of the Ottawa Fire Department to track call volume and responses, preparing for the future needs of the City of Ottawa.

Police Department

The Ottawa Police Department has continued to maintain its long time standing as one of the most professional and progressive law enforcement agencies in the area. This is done, among other things, through the continued support of established, successful programs such as the Peer Jury, aimed at keeping young, first time offenders out of the juvenile court system, and programs such as the Ottawa Police Department's Child Abduction Response (CART) Team, intended to create quick, structured investigative and search process meant to bring endangered children home safely. The Ottawa Police Department continues to be progressive in current training practices such as CIT (crisis intervention) which better equips officers in dealing with the mentally ill. The department continues to offer private businesses within the City of Ottawa the A.L.I.C.E. training which is an active shooter response training and continues its strong DARE program which is intended to educate students on the dangers of drugs. The Ottawa Police Department recently partnered with the C5 Rural Network which is a collaborative complementary, conventional and community - based care program. This partnership is a community opioid response program which can help those in need battling addiction and those who are at risk.

Ottawa Central Dispatch completed the 911 system upgrade. This upgrade allows us to continue the course in providing the communities we serve the best public safety service available. At the conclusion of 2020 Ottawa Central Dispatch welcomed two new communities to which they now serve. Earlville and Leland signed on to have Ottawa Central Dispatch take over and handle their dispatching needs while continuing to serve the City of Marseilles, the Marseilles Fire Protection District, Wallace Fire Protection MABAS division 25, as well as River Rescue and the City of Ottawa.

Public Works Administration

- Streets and Parks Departments combined into Public Property Department
- Water and Wastewater Departments combined into Public Utilities Department
- Tornado/Derecho cleanup from August to November 2020

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- Vehicle and Equipment
 - Current Value \$3.75 Million, Current Replacement Cost \$4.5 Million
 - Purchased 60' Forestry Truck for future tree maintenance

<u>Streets</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>
Resurfaced 53 blocks including entire length of Boyce Memorial	\$1,692,100
Resurfaced 19 alleys	\$276,500
Reconstructed 1 block with concrete pavement (200 Block of East Lafayette Street)	\$149,000

City Totals

Total length = 30,350 feet (5.75 miles) (53 blocks and 19 alleys)
 Total curb replacement = 5,190 feet in 41 blocks (including 3 full block replacements)
 with 50 sidewalk ramps

IDOT's Route 6 Resurfacing Project (from Boyce Mem. to Fox River Bridge)

City Portion for 25 sidewalks ramps
 \$35,000

<u>Water</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>
• SCADA System Upgrade	\$350,000
• Replace Manual Water Meters to Radio Read (In Progress) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approx. 400 to change by scheduled appointment 	\$65,000
• Generator – Central Water Plant (Design Phase)	\$475,000
• Rt. 71/I-80 Corridor Water System (Design Phase Completed)	\$5,000,000
• 2020 Watermain Replacement Program (Eliminated LaSalle Street Booster Station)	\$1,100,000
• Downtown Valve Replacements (6)	\$40,000

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- Well 10 High Service Pumps Replaced \$100,000
- Well 10 Pump and Column Replacement \$150,000
- Well 14 Pump Replacement \$100,000

Wastewater/CSO

Approximate Cost

- Long Term Control Plan Element 8.1 & 8.10 (Design Complete) \$7,600,000
Sanitary Sewer Lining (Engineer Estimate)
- Long Term Control Plan Element 8.2 CSSA 3 \$494,159
(Sewer Separation at First and Second Avenue)
- Long Term Control Plan Element 8.2 \$150,233.50
(Sewer Separation Joliet Street and Clinton Street)
- Hank's Farm Sanitary Sewer Extension \$36,560
- Oak Lane Sanitary Sewer Extension \$323,455
- SCADA System Upgrade (Design Phase) \$250,000
- Illinois River Crossing Pump Station (Design Phase) \$3,500,000
- WWTP Various Upgrades \$300,000

Parks

Approximate Cost

- East Side Park Equipment Replacement \$80,000
- Washington Park Fountain Painting \$80,000
- Recondition Fox River Docks \$5,000
- Thornton Park Splash Pad and Upgrades (Design Phase) \$610,000
- All Inclusive PIP Park Completion \$30,000
- Dayton Bluffs Preserve Improvements \$35,000

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CITY FINANCES – FY 2020 and 2021

- The City of Ottawa prudently deploys collected revenues and grant funding when operating pursuant to its annual budgeting process.
- The City's General Corporate Fund (the City's main operating account) for budget year ending April 30, 2021 operated with a balanced budget, and did not project the utilization of reserve funds, although those funds are in fact available for appropriation to supplement revenues
 - Tax revenues for the current budget ending April 30, 2021 are projected to comprise 71.3% of total General Fund Revenues (the City's main operating account) as contrasted to 75.7% of the total in FY 2020 ending April 30, 2020.
 - Approximately 17.3% of General Fund tax revenues are Property Taxes
 - Approximately 46.8% of General Fund tax revenues are Sales Taxes
 - Total budgeted General Fund Revenues for FY 2021 is \$18.1 million up from \$17.1 million in FY 2020
- Sales Tax Revenues are accounting for a slightly decreasing proportion of the City's General Fund tax revenues for FY 2021 as contrasted to FY 2020
- When considering all City Funds, Property Taxes account for a larger portion of overall revenues
- The Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) which forms the basis of Property Tax revenues is projected to increase this coming year for the seventh year in a row after the four prior years of successive modest declines
- The City has effectively utilized Tax Increment Financing Districts and Enterprise Zones incentives to encourage new business development
- The City has consistently funded each of its employee pension fund obligations by the actuarially recommend amounts, including both the normal cost as well as the amortization of the underfunded portion of the Police and Firefighter Pension Funds
- The City generally operates its business-type activities, primarily its water and wastewater treatment operations at a modest profit
- The City's outstanding debt is below the State imposed limit and all obligations have been paid as agreed
- The City has prudently managed the resources available to it, proactively sought grant funding, and effectively utilized debt for financing necessary projects

FUTURE PLANS

Over the years our comprehensive plan was updated, and in 2014 a detailed plan for the development of the downtown waterfront was adopted which detailed development on the property North of the "Central School property". Unfortunately, there is a deed restriction requiring that property to be used for "Public Purpose". We have contacted our local legislators and Senator Rezin is introducing a bill in the Senate to remove all restrictions on the former canal properties that were purchased by the City of Ottawa in 1970. State Representative Yednock is also introducing a similar bill in the House and hopefully we will be able to put this issue behind us.

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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The city's parklands and open space acreage has increased to 438 acres. The city has a long-term lease with The Conservation Foundation for the 253-acre Dayton Bluffs nature preserve along the Fox River. We have a good relationship with the "Friends of Dayton Bluffs" a group of volunteers who meet regularly at the Park and perform much needed conservation and maintenance work.

The city continues to work with Nells Woodlands Foundation on transforming the former Ferracuti property into a 56-acre nature preserve and learning center.

The Foundation will start with three initiatives.

Nature Stewardship will encourage people to explore the preserve and connect with the outdoors and embrace stewardship of the environment.

Arts will focus on provoking curiosity and generate new perspectives by convening artists and practitioners as mentors across disciplines. Workshop contributors would be poets, sculptors, cinematographers, philosophers, dancers, composers and musicians.

Education, Health and Wellness will provide opportunities to acquire the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary for making health-promoting decisions. They hope to promote the health and wellness both physical and mental of all people of all ages.

IVCC OTTAWA CENTER

Since 2009, the City of Ottawa and Illinois Valley Community College have partnered in the operation of the IVCC Ottawa Center, the college's satellite campus. Ottawa purchased the former Centruie Bank building on West Main Street, demolished the interior and then rebuilt the interior to the educational specifications of the college and has since leased the building to IVCC.

The IVCC Ottawa Center is an asset to the community because of its versatility such as being:

- A full-service center where a student can meet with a counselor to select classes, plan for careers or develop a transfer plan, visit with a financial aid representative, enroll in classes, pick up textbooks or library books, and pay tuition;
- An adult education delivery site at no cost for ESL, HSE (GED) and Bridge students;
- A location for adults who wish to take courses for fun, interest and employment through the continuing education program;
- A destination for ROE high school students needing to complete course pattern requirements to earn their high school diploma;

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- Delivery site for students enrolled in online and blended classes who may not have reliable access to high-speed internet;
- A destination for quiet study, tutoring, high speed internet access;
- A location for City of Ottawa testing including police, fire, wastewater, clerical, electrician and related meeting space; and
- An extension site for the launching of our Prior Learning Assessment initiative – incentivizing nontraditional adult students to return for continuing education and an expedited pathway to a credential.

Ottawa is proud of its association with IVCC and very satisfied with the extra educational opportunities the Ottawa Center provides to our citizens and surrounding students; thus, we're pleased to have entered into an extension of the agreement for another three years.

RADIUM CLEAN UP

We continue to partner with US EPA and IEMA on the cleanup of radium sites. The last site out by Route 6 and Route 71 is being cleaned up now and then we can be removed from the "Superfund Cleanup Sites".

IFIBER

Surf Broadband Solutions has a signed expression of interest letter with the City of Ottawa to evaluate the building of fiber optic internet in the City. Surf is in discussion with City leadership and working on next steps to establish a plan for fiber optic broadband to connect to the homes and businesses.

"This will be a fantastic opportunity to our citizens as everyone will eventually have access to dependable high-speed internet. As more people choose to work remotely, this will make our City a preferred location to live and work. We are excited to begin this partnership with Surf Broadband Solutions," said Mayor Dan Aussem.

Surf Broadband is breaking down the barriers to switch from old outdated traditional internet services direct to fiber internet to the home connection.

GOALS FOR OTTAWA

Extension of water, sewer and Alexis Avenue Grant for Nell's Woodlands	\$350,000
New Entrance Signs and wayfinding signs	\$100,000
Thornton Park Grant match	\$300,000
Improvements to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial	\$200,000
Revise plans to build East Side regional lift station	\$8,000,000
Partner with YMCA on waterfront property	\$4,000,000

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North Central Area Transit (NCAT)

After years of mentoring from other transit agencies, NCAT leadership was ready to take full control of the transportation program. So in May 2018, NCAT leased office space on W. Etna Rd., established a toll-free number (833-433-NCAT), and opened its own reservation center. A previously awarded capital grant was used to purchase and renovate a building on Chessie Lane. Office staff relocated to the new location on February 11, 2019. While the building has enough property to fit the NCAT fleet of buses, a parking lot needs to be constructed; anticipating spring 2019.

City of Ottawa partners with IVCH to efficiently provide NCAT services on the west side of the County.

In FY2018 NCAT provided 49,786 rides and FY2019 to date (July 1 to March 1), NCAT has provided 32,689.

NCAT provides demand-response service for all of LaSalle County Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm. You can schedule your ride by calling 833-433-NCAT by 10:00am the day before your trip. Check out our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter, or visit www.ridencat.com.

We're here to get you there

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Ottawa Fire Department

The Ottawa Fire Department is composed of 30 highly trained professionals, responding from two locations. Each shift is composed of nine members and led by a captain and two lieutenants. The deputy chief oversees day to day operations, while the chief and records clerk concentrate on the administrative functions of the department.

The year 2020 marked a particular challenging year for the Ottawa Fire Department. In addition to responding to 4,327 emergency calls, the Ottawa Fire Department completed 4,592 hours of training. The City of Ottawa was struck with an F-2 tornado in August which resulted in 96 calls in a 24-hour period. Assistance was received from Grand Ridge, Naplate and Wallace during the storm. To complicate matters, during the F-2 tornado communications with Central Dispatch were temporarily disrupted.

Despite the increased call volume and response area, the Ottawa Fire Department was up to the challenge. Ottawa Fire Fighters were on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic. Enhanced cleaning procedures for all vehicles and buildings were adopted, in accordance with CDC and IDPH Guidelines. Despite the pandemic's impact, the Ottawa Fire Department was able to maintain minimum staffing throughout 2020.

In 2020 the Ottawa Fire Department continued its technological upgrades. With the support of the Mayor's Office, Stations #1 and #2 received a new computer system. Ottawa Fire Department email accounts were absorbed by the City of Ottawa to create an improved network of communications within our City. New ESO software was also purchased and is in the process of being installed. This new technology will allow Ottawa Fire Fighters and Paramedics the ability to generate reports more efficiently and significantly reduces downtime writing reports. The ESO software is in the process of being integrated with Ottawa Central Dispatch's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System. This feature will eventually allow the administration of the Ottawa Fire Department to track call volume and responses, preparing for the future needs of the City of Ottawa.

Despite the challenges faced in 2020, the Ottawa Fire Department remained resilient. As we enter 2021, the Ottawa Fire Department is poised to continue the battle against COVID-19 while maintaining the same level of dedicated service our residents have come to expect.

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Police Department

The Ottawa Police Department, has continued to maintain its long time standing as one of the most professional and progressive law enforcement agencies in the area. This is done, among other things, through the continued support of established, successful programs such as the Peer Jury, aimed at keeping young, first time offenders out of the juvenile court system, and programs such as the Ottawa Police Department's Child Abduction Response (CART) Team, intended to create quick, structured investigative and search process meant to bring endangered children home safely. The Ottawa Police Department has trained each member in CIT (crisis intervention) which better equips officers in dealing with the mentally ill. Most recently the department has been offering private businesses the A.L.I.C.E. training which is an active shooter response training.

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Public Works Administration

- Public Works Evaluation – Northern Illinois University (In Progress)
- PW Safety, Tree Trimming Manuals (Proposed) –
- Wastewater Pretreatment and Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Ordinances (Proposed)
- Urban Landscape Guidelines (In Planning w/Stephanie Stacy)
 - Tree and Planting Standards
 - Lighting and Furniture Standards
 - Special Conditions (Alleys, Curb and Sidewalk)
- Vehicle and Equipment
 - Current Value \$3.75 Million, Current Replacement Cost \$4.5 Million
 - Last 3 Years Purchases Increased Average Age of Fleet From 1998 to 2010
 - Replaced twelve (12) 1990-2000 units with 2016/2019 units

Streets

Street Improvements North of River Approximate Cost

Resurfaced 7 streets & 3 alleys \$ 907,000

Street Improvements South of River

Resurfaced 8 streets & 1 alley \$ 546,825

Total length = 6,900 feet (16 blocks)

Curb Replacement - 1,400 feet in 14 blocks with 30 sidewalk ramps

DCEO Tornado Recovery Grant portion = \$531,625

Reconstruction - 4H Road from Adams

St. to City Limits \$1,200,000

Total length = 2,670 feet (6 blocks)

Constructed 5,170 feet of curb & gutter and sidewalk along the south side of the street with 6 sidewalk ramps

Federal Funded portion approximately \$828,00

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Water

- Fixed Base Meter System (Future Planning)
- Replace Manual Water Meters to Radio Read (In Progress)
 - 4 Districts total approx. 600 to change by scheduled appointment
 - District 1 in Progress (10% Complete)
- Electrical Generator – South Standpipe (Complete)
- Rt. 71/I-80 Corridor Water System Expansion (In Engineering Phase)
- Rt. 71/I-80 Corridor Sewer System Expansion (Complete)
- Oak Lane Water Extension (Completed)
- Damaged 14" Main Crossing Under Fox River (In Engineering Phase)
- White Lane Water Main Extension (Completed)
- Dual Isolation Valves for Both Water Mains under Canal (Completed)

Sewer Collection/CSO

- Sanitary Sewer Collapse Repairs (Completed)
- Sanitary Sewer Lining Repairs (Completed)
- Oak Lane Sanitary Sewer Extension (Completed)

Wastewater

- Lift Station Rehabilitation
 - East Center Lift Station Replacement (Engineering Design)
 - Illinois Avenue Lift Station Replacement Pumps (Completed)
 - River Crossing Lift Station Replacement (Engineering Design)
 - SCADA Control Panels Control Systems Upgrade to prepare for Fiber Optic Telemetry
- Added Updated SCADA Control Cabinets to Three (3) Lift Stations – 4 Remaining
 - Wal-Mart Lift Station Valve and Piping Rehabilitation (Completed)
 - YMCA Lift Station Pump Rebuilds (Completed)
- White Lane Sanitary Sewer Extension (Completed)
- Treatment Plant Rehabilitation (Completed)
 - Aeration Blower Rebuilds (3)
 - Sludge Pump Rebuilds (2)
 - Grit System Rehabilitation (2)

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Parks

- Recondition 200' of shoreline west of trestle at Allen Park
 - Rip Rap, Two (2) Mooring Blocks, New Asphalt Landing Pad, Landscaping under trestle, Repair Lighting
 - Welcome American Duchess and American Queen to Ottawa
 - Provide Potable Water Service
- Recondition all River Docks. Two (2) damaged again during Spring Floods (Planning)
- Corporate Clean-Up Sponsor – Nucor Tubular Products, Marseilles
 - Thornton Park
 - Riverwalk
- Trees/Sod – Bike Trail, Columbus Street (West)
- Thornton Park
 - Ice Skating Rink
 - Eagle Scout Project Rehabilitated Park Facilities for Local Use
 - Painting Bike Racks, basketball poles, backboard, rim, and striping the court
 - Painting of 4-square areas to replace middle tennis court
 - Recondition West benches by placing wooden planks on concrete structures
 - Reinstall benches that jut out of wall structure -- 4x4 beams through the wall's openings and fastening planks

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City Finances – FY 2018 and 2019

- The City of Ottawa does not have excessive surpluses, but operates in adherence to its budget, effectively deploying collected revenues and grant funding
- The City's General Corporate Fund (the City's main operating account) is operating with a balanced budget
- Tax revenues for the current budget ending April 30, 2019 are projected to comprise 73.3% of total General Fund Revenues (the City's main operating account). This is consistent with prior years.
 - Approximately 12% are from Property Taxes
 - Approximately 38% are from Sales Taxes
 - Total budgeted General Fund Revenues for FY 2019 is \$16.4 million up from \$15.8 million in FY 2018
- Sales Tax Revenues are accounting for an increasing portion of the City's General Fund tax revenues
- When considering all City Funds, Property Taxes account for a larger portion of overall revenues
- The Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) which forms the basis of Property Tax revenues is projected to increase this coming year for the fifth year in a row after the 4 prior years of successive modest declines
- The City has effectively utilized Tax Increment Financing Districts and Enterprise Zones incentives to encourage new business development
- The City has consistently funded each of its employee pension fund obligations the actuarially recommend amounts
- The City consistently operates its business-type activities, primarily its water and wastewater treatment operations at a modest profit
- The City's outstanding debt is significantly below the State imposed limit and all obligations have been paid as agreed
- The City has prudently managed the resources available to it, stayed within its budgetary projections, proactively sought grant funding, and effectively utilized debt for financing necessary projects

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IVCC Ottawa Center

Since 2009, the City of Ottawa and Illinois Valley Community College have partnered in the operation of the IVCC Ottawa Center, the college's satellite campus. Ottawa purchased the former Centrue Bank building on West Main Street, demolished the interior and then rebuilt the interior to the educational specifications of the college and has since leased the building to IVCC.

The IVCC Ottawa Center is an asset to the community because of its versatility such as being:

- A full service center where a student can meet with a counselor to select classes, plan for careers or develop a transfer plan, visit with a financial aid representative, enroll in classes, pick up text books or library books, and pay tuition;
- An adult education delivery site at no cost for ESL, HSE (GED) and Bridge students;
- A location for adults who wish to take courses for fun, interest and employment through the continuing education program;
- A destination for ROE high school students needing to complete course pattern requirements to earn their high school diploma;
- Delivery site for students enrolled in online and blended classes who may not have reliable access to high-speed internet;
- A destination for quiet study, tutoring, high speed internet access;
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Departmental Information

Summary of Permits Issued by Building Department:

Residential Building Permit:

- 130 Permits Issued
- Construction Value of \$9,094,347.00
- \$28,628 permit fees collected

Commercial Building Permit:

- 15 Permits Issued
- Construction Value of 31,031,000
- \$22,402 permit fees collected

Sign Permits:

- 42 Permits Issued
- \$1,028 Permit Fees Collected

Fence Permits:

- 137 Permits Issued
- \$6,425 Permit Fees Collected

Demolition Permits:

- 17 Permits Issued
- \$1,300 Permit Fees Collected

Business Registration Program:

- 38 Permits Issued
- \$3,800 Permit Fees Collected

Floodplain Permits Issued:

- 4 Permits Issued

2021 State of the City Address
Departmental Information

Code Enforcement Annual Report

Jan 2020 thru Dec 2020

Inspections:

• Nuisance Inspections	809	
• Sewer, Water, Street, Other Utility	56	
• Street Permits	0	
• Subdivision and Jobsite	0	
• Street and Right of Way	131	
• Sidewalk program	2	
• Misc. Building and Zoning Inspections	166	
• Tree Inspections	484	
• Total Inspections	1648	
• Nuisance Notices posted or sent	291	
• Door Hanger Notices	237	
• Nuisance Citations	5	
• Nuisance files opened	391	
• Nuisance files closed	268	
• Building, Zoning, Misc. notices Sent	4	
• Tree Removal Permits Issued	76	
• Abatement Action	41	
• Tree Planting Permits issued	3	
• Feather Banner Permits	2	
Feather Banner Fees	2	\$50.00 Fees Collected
• Waste Hauler Licenses Issued	10	
Waste Vehicles Registered	63	\$3750.00 = Fees Collected

Surf Broadband Solutions Press Release
March, 2021



March 8, 2021

SURF BROADBAND SOLUTIONS

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EMAIL: lizburnham@surfbroadband.com

Surf Broadband Solutions has a signed expression of interest letter with the City of Ottawa to evaluate the building of fiber optic internet in the City. Surf is in discussion with City leadership and working on next steps to establish a plan for fiber optic broadband to connect to the homes and businesses. To help us gauge interest go to: iwantfiber.today to sign up if you want fiber internet.

“This will be a fantastic opportunity to our citizens as everyone will eventually have access to dependable high-speed internet. As more people choose to work remotely, this will make our City a preferred location to live and work. We are excited to begin this partnership with Surf Broadband Solutions,” said Mayor Dan Aussem.

Surf Broadband is breaking down the barriers to switch from old outdated traditional internet services direct to fiber internet to the home connection.

Here is how Surf Broadband Solutions is different than traditional cable and telephone providers:

- No Data Caps or Overages fees - with the need for remote work and school your household is likely to use more data. Other providers have become stricter and are charging for overages.
- No Contracts - we are confident that you will love your fiber internet service and therefore we will work hard to keep you as a valuable customer and will not lock you into a contract like other providers do.
- Same upload and download speed – E-Learning and video conferencing has changed the way we use all the internet. Surf provides symmetrical upload and download to eliminate glitchy video conferencing.
- Whole-Home Wi-Fi - We provide a fully supported state of the art whole home Wi-Fi option that is capable of handling the bandwidth a fiber optic broadband connection delivers meaning you can do E-Learning, remote work, stream video, play games anywhere in your house.

Surf Broadband Solutions

Surf Broadband Solutions is the premier broadband provider in Northern Illinois, Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan since 2010. Our mission is to provide the greatest number of people with the best possible access to the internet. We serve these areas with offices in LaPorte, IN, Coal City, IL, Elkhart, IN, and Byron Center, MI and Rock Falls, IL. The Surf Broadband Solutions network uses the latest technology available, so our customers experience fast, reliable internet to enhance their daily lives. Connect Further. Faster. www.surfbroadband.com

Surf Broadband Solutions is The Future Of Home Internet