

2020 State of City Address

1/5/2021

As required by law at the first regular council meeting of each year the mayor is required to give a state of the city address.

To say 2020 was an extremely challenging year would be a severe understatement. The city and its employees were physically challenged, mentally challenged and financially challenged by the unknown throughout this entire year.

Word started in late 2019 of a Coronavirus that started in China. Not a lot of credit or credence was given to this virus as people felt it only affected those in that area. Little did we know the profound effect it would have on the United States of America, how severely it would impact us here in Ohio and more importantly how this virus would affect the businesses and good citizens of the city of Cheviot. Each of us know several people that were severely affected by the COVID-19 and I'd be surprised if everyone didn't know at least one person that lost their life to this virus.

I do not even know how to thank Safety-Service Director, Tom Braun, enough for the courage, leadership, dedication and commitment that he has demonstrated time and time again during this very trying year. Everyone knows that a good leader is only as good as the people he/she surrounds himself with. Mr. Braun, I cannot thank you enough. I will forever be grateful for your service.

My administrative staff at City Hall has gone above and beyond the call of duty. My Administrative Assistant, Sarah, has done yeoman work throughout this entire year, stepping up in areas that no other has ever had to enter.

Patti, in the Auditor's Office, has been under a constant barrage of numbers and research requests from Tom and I, and she has performed flawlessly.

My Clerk of Courts, Nicole, has had to make so many different changes on the fly with the courts and how they are conducted or not conducted, and she is to be commended for doing a great job.

Brenda and Alison in the Tax Office have experienced a tax season like no other. I cannot begin to thank them enough for all the fill-in work they've done in other departments while maintaining a professional office of their own.

That brings us to Police Chief, Emmett Stone, Fire Chief, Bob Klein, and Public Works Superintendent, Brent Craig. When I talked earlier about a good leader surrounding themselves with great people, these three gentlemen are the epitome of what I was talking about. The leadership that each of these men have shown within their respective departments is unmatched by any and it shows by the way each of their departments and employees have performed flawlessly throughout this very difficult year. I want to thank each and every employee of these departments for going above and beyond the call of duty.

It remains to be seen as we will not know the profound effect that COVID-19 has had on our finances here in the city until sometime after the second quarter of next year and in some cases beyond that. In some ways, as strange as it might sound, with the help from the federal government, the state and the county, we were able to do a lot of things this year that typically we would not have been able to afford. Yet, our financial future remains unclear.

As we start the year 2021, we clearly are not out of the woods yet, as COVID-19 still has a strong hold on our nation. However, the promise of the future is bright as the COVID-19 vaccinations have begun and will hopefully bring some relief to us all of this, what seems to be never-ending, pandemic.

To each of the many city employees, thank you, thank you, thank you and please remain steadfast and diligent in your service. It truly is appreciated and duly noted.

A humble,

Mayor Keller