



STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
CITY OF CRESTVIEW HILLS, KENTUCKY

JANUARY 10th, 2019
MAYOR PAUL W. MEIER

We have just completed another very successful year in the City of Crestview Hills, my twentieth year as Mayor. The City accomplished several important projects during the year, while managing our resources wisely.

The following highlights significant events over the past year:

Economic Development

- A significant effort began in 2017 to craft a new zoning code in Crestview Hills for future mixed use development. A steering committee of knowledgeable residents worked tirelessly over sixteen months to develop new zoning language in conjunction with outside consultants. City staff and the consultant worked closely with property owners in the proposed new zoning districts. The resulting plan was recommended by the Kenton County Planning Commission and approved by the Crestview Hills City Council in 2018. We will work closely with the Town Center owners in preparation for a possible future redevelopment of the center.
- St. Elizabeth Health Care renovated the OHC building in 2018 and moved several new medical practices into the building. This helped to offset the loss of OHC jobs in 2017 when St. Elizabeth purchased that practice and moved the operations to the main hospital campus in Edgewood.
- In 2018, the City saw the departure of several companies from the community, including the corporate offices of St. Elizabeth Physicians, Coldwell Banker, and Seed Strategy, and the relocation of the Wealth Management Division of BB&T bank. On a positive note, Republic Bank chose Crestview Hills for the location of their Northern Kentucky Regional Office.
- The City continued the "Business Appreciation Luncheon" again this year at the Office Park. This event has proven to be extremely well attended and fosters positive relationships with our business community. Over 650 office park employees attended the event in 2018. We continually receive positive feedback from our businesses for hosting this event.
- The City held the fourth annual business manager's luncheon in November at Thomas More University. The meeting was well attended by our business community and offers a way to foster communication and provide opportunities for business to business connections in the office park.
- While the pace of new construction slowed in Crown Point in 2018, the City continued to experience significant reinvestment in existing homes. This can be attributed to our location and reputation, and the generational turnover we continue to see in older subdivisions.

- The Economic Development Committee worked on a number of zoning text changes in 2018, including updates to the City's signage regulations to bring them into compliance with recent Supreme Court rulings on content related sign regulations.
- The City continued to work with our economic development partners at Tri-Ed and REDI Cincinnati over the past year in existing business retention and new business recruitment activities.
- The City's payroll taxes dipped slightly in 2018 for the first time since 2012. However, business net profit taxes continued their growth for the fourth straight year.

Public Works

- The City took a major step in 2018 to better manage activities within the right of way by adopting the new Right of Way ordinance. This effort took nearly 18 months to complete, and included extensive engagement with local utilities that utilize the City's right of way, as well as countless hours of the Public Works Committee members. The new ordinance will ensure proper permitting for work in the right of way, and provide better accountability for the repair of streets and sidewalks. It will also improve the planning of utility replacements in the context of City street reconstruction.
- The City was successful in lobbying our State elected officials to secure funding in the State's 2018 biennium budget for engineering and utility relocation/right of way acquisition on the Turkeyfoot Road congestion project. The City Council and Public Works Committee worked diligently over the past year with KYTC to promote options that would minimize disruption to the community, and have limited impact on residential property. Securing funding in a tight State budget was a significant achievement for the City.
- The City continued our investment in infrastructure in 2018 with the reconstruction of Man-o-War Court in Lookout Farm and the reconditioning of Legends Way in Summit Lakes. The City has now invested over two million dollars in streets, sidewalks, and storm sewers since 2012. The City Council's financial commitment to maintaining our infrastructure is a critical element of our long term planning.
- Work began in 2018 to install lighting on Dixie Highway between I-275 and the south Town Center entrance. The Council had discussed this initiative for a number of years, and decided in the 2017 Goals & Objectives to make lighting a priority. Engineering for the project was completed in 2018, and we expect installation of the lights will occur during the late spring/summer of 2019 upon KYTC approval.
- The City's first speed alert sign was installed in 2018 on Thomas More Parkway, reflecting our commitment to the safety of motorist and pedestrians.

Recreation

- In 2018, the City again hosted free concerts at the Town Center. The event's popularity continues to grow, as we saw our largest crowds to-date, and hosted two national touring bands. We are excited to host three more concerts in 2019 with the help of our generous sponsors and the ongoing support of the Crestview Hills Town Center.

- 2018 was another successful year for our annual recreational events including the Christmas Dinner with Santa and Mayor's Halloween costume contest at the Town Center. Staff continues to assess other recreational opportunities for the City and would like to see more volunteers from the community get involved in our efforts and identify new events and programs.
- The City's beautifications efforts continue to be well received by citizens and visitors. Focus was placed on improving maintenance of existing islands and landscape areas in 2018. The City continues to very be diligent in keeping the right of way clean and looking good by removing signs, litter, debris, and keeping our landscaped areas nice.

Public Safety

- The City's Public Safety Committee worked closely with staff in 2018 to assess the City's fire and emergency services needs in preparation for issuing requests for proposals for fire protection and EMS response. Two proposals were received from Ft. Mitchell and Edgewood for different sectors of the City. The cost of the new four-year contract with both cities increased significantly beginning in 2018, requiring the City Council to make revenue and budget adjustments to fund the increased costs.
- The State Retirement System's unfunded liability has significantly increased costs to local governments, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. This will continue to drive our costs for Police and Fire/EMS services and put pressure on future budgets. Due to the contract nature of the City's operations, the CERS increases are felt most in our public safety contracts with the Police Authority and other City contracts for service.
- Fire responses continue to remain low but overall call volume in EMS remains strong due to our large daytime population and the major roads in the City. Both of our city partners do a terrific job in providing high quality services to the community and remain proactive in their approach to fire calls and EMS services.
- The Lakeside Park-Crestview Hills Police Authority celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2018, and continues to provide high quality services to our residents and visitors during the year.

Administration

- The City ended the year with a 3 million dollar fund balance and no debt. This was an increase (\$65,000) from FY 2017-2018. The City is currently in a strong financial position.
- Due to the increased public safety contract costs in 2018, the City Council was required to make adjustments in taxes in 2018. This included a small increase in the payroll tax to 1.15% of gross wages (from 1%) and institution of a garbage fee of \$100 per household per year. While the City continues to maintain one of the lowest overall effective tax burdens in the region, all other options were reviewed first by the City Council before imposition of the increases.
- Repairs were made to the City Building in 2018 to improve indoor air quality and address possible water penetration issues in a few locations. We plan to complete the remaining work in early 2019.

- Our new Financial Officer, TJ Holtman, joined the City in early 2018. TJ hit the ground running, and has proven to be a solid addition to the City's team. His prior accounting experience, coupled with his enthusiasm has added significantly to the capabilities of City staff.
- The City once again received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Excellence in financial reporting for our annual audit. This was the sixteenth year in a row that the City was designated as meeting the highest standards for financial reporting.
- We continued our involvement in numerous intergovernmental agencies with important roles in the Kenton County Mayors group, NKY Chamber of Commerce, Kentucky League of Cities, and various professional groups such as Northern Kentucky Administrators, City Clerks, Finance Officers, and Public Works Directors.

I am pleased to report that the City remains financially strong and well managed. Our combination of location, low taxes, and first class amenities makes Crestview Hills a top location choice for residents and businesses. The City is well regarded throughout the region as a quality community. We look forward to an exciting and productive 2019.