

# The City of Lewes



## City Manager's Report February 2018

### Construction Progress

There are a number of significant construction projects underway in Lewes. City staff have participated in progress meetings on these projects.

- Mariners Retreat/Highland Acres Tax Ditch Improvements – Site preparation has begun, and during February the City, BPW and GMB staff continued to work with the developer to get the paperwork, escrow, and bonds in place to allow construction to begin. Construction is expected to begin in early March
- Beach 1 Restroom Renovations – The renovations to Beach 1 Restroom are progressing according to schedule, with completion scheduled for mid-March, with a final walk-through scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Gills Neck Road/Front Street/Savannah Road Infrastructure & BPW/Sussex Flow Diversion Projects – These two projects are progressing. The Sussex County Flow Diversion project is nearly complete and will be complete in March. The Gills Neck Road/Front Street/Savannah Road project will continue through April and then resume for completion in the fall.
- Beach 2 Parking Lot – City Council approved A-Del Construction's bid for Beach 2 Parking Lot reconstruction at their meeting on February 12, 2018. A pre-construction meeting was scheduled for March 7, 2018. Senator Lopez is providing funds through the Community Transportation Fund program to assist with this project.

### Budget Preparation

The draft budget for FY2019 was presented to Mayor and City Council on February 1, 2018. Weekly budget meetings of Mayor and Council began on February 9, 2018. Staff continued to work on changes to the draft budget based on these meetings.

### Community Transportation Fund

Mayor Becker and Ann Marie Townshend met with Senator Lopez, his assistant, and Representative Smyk to discuss possible projects that could be funding through the Community Transportation Fund. Senator Lopez is funding the reconstruction of the Beach 2 Parking Lot. Representative Smyk is funding patching and crack sealing of Fourth Street. Mayor Becker has signed the funding agreements, and both projects should move forward this spring.

### Implementation of Property Review Recommendations

On February 12, 2018, City Council approved the consolidation of the two city-owned lots on Texas Avenue. Also during February, GMB worked on the design for the extension of Tennessee Avenue, which will prepare the City's three lots on that street to be sold.

### Highland Acres Re-Assessment

Staff sent letters with statements attached to all property owners within Highland Acres, informing them of their revised assessed values, property taxes owed, property taxes received, and amount

due/refund owed. The letters were mailed on January 31, 2018, and checks were sent to those property owners receiving a refund in February and early March.

#### Five Points Working Group

The Five Points Working Group held its third meeting on February 26, 2018 at the Virden Center. The focus of this meeting was identification of needs. The needs identified will be shared at a public workshop on March 26, 2018, from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m., at Beacon Middle School.

#### Canary Creek Letter of Map Amendment

The City of Lewes submitted two Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs) to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in fall 2017. There were several requests for more information from FEMA, and submissions were made in February. Once approved, all of the lots within Canary Creek will be removed from the 100-year floodplain.

#### Savannah Road Bicycle Improvement Project

City staff, Councilman Reardon, Deputy Mayor Beaufait, DelDOT staff, and staff from Whitman Requardt and Associates met to initiate the planning of the Savannah Road Bicycle improvements. Following this meeting, design work on the project started.

#### Other Meetings and Activities

Tom West and I met with Nicole Minni to discuss how the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration can assist the City with start-up of a geographic information system (GIS) for the City. The project will begin with developing a zoning application and mapping the City's trash districts. The long-term plan is to have interactive maps that will be available for the public to use.

Mayor Becker, Tom West and I met with staff from the University of Delaware Sea Grant Program to discuss opportunities for the City and the Sea Grant Program to work together.

On February 1, 2018, I did an on-air interview with Comcast Newsmakers about things happening in Lewes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ann Marie Townshend, AICP  
City Manager