

Mayor Steven L. Schag

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

State of the City

February 5, 2018

Today I am very pleased to report to you that the state of the City is solid and fiscally sound. We find ourselves in this enviable condition because of our residents, our business sector, our community partners, our city workforce, and the people that sit around this table. We all are a part of that solid foundation and we actively choose to work together in an unyielding pursuit of municipal excellence.

It has been my privilege to work closely with Finance Director Steve Lifer, Law Director Gordon Eyster, Project Coordinator Joe Gies, Deputy Director of Finance Amber Cutlip, Deputy Director of Public Service John Ensmann, City Hall Staff, Police Chief Lance Combs, Fire Chief Mike Thompson and the dedicated members of Shelby City Council, namely: Councilman Charlie Roub, Councilman Derrin Roberts, Councilman Garland John Gates, Councilman Nathan Martin, and Councilman Steve McLaughlin.

This State of the City address gives me an opportunity to list some of the notable accomplishments and ongoing initiatives which began in 2017. Let me quickly add that I want to recognize and thank this Council for their important role in these success stories. Three key elements have contributed to our year of productivity - Communication, Collaboration, and Cooperation. Those elements have paved the way for celebration.

In 2017 we held ribbon-cuttings for Family Life Counseling, The Fancy Chicken, Snap Fitness, The Hidden Hog, Discovery Dentistry, Mallory's Treasures, The Valero 24 Store, The Diner 39 Restaurant, and a groundbreaking for the new Arby's restaurant which opened for business last month.

In 2017 we brought on an unpaid Intern to help us establish a current economic development data base. A Business First Roundtable Breakfast was well-attended at the Kehoe Center in the month of March. Our Shelby City Health Department in cooperation with our Service Department conducted a very successful Spring Clean Up. We were able to bring our Fire Department to full force at 12 Firefighters. The Montrose Group completed and delivered to City Council their City of Shelby Economic Development Action Plan. The Mickey Road water tower was scraped and painted. The Central Park gazebo roof was replaced. The Mansfield Avenue paving project was completed much to the delight of the citizens of Shelby. We held a successful bid opening for a major upgrade project for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Shelby Historical Preservation Commission's work was well rewarded with Shelby receiving Certified Local Government status. Our City went from an A- to an A rating with our Bonding

Company. We successfully negotiated a three-year contract with our Shelby FOP. Perhaps the biggest story of the year was that in October we broke ground for a brand new Fire Station to be gifted to the City by Mr. Grant Milliron.

Another Shelby success story that is not included under the groundbreaking category is the Lloyd Rebar company that is currently constructing a facility on Technology Parkway. This is a great example of business retention and expansion that involved communication, collaboration, and cooperation. Each party involved worked incredibly hard to allow Jared and Lindsey Mawhorr to follow their hearts desire to keep this dynamic business in Shelby. Lloyd Rebar was one of the top three finalists for the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year recognition. I would like to share a brief video clip that spotlights a truly remarkable and inspiring story of 21st century entrepreneurship.

Video clip

And the story doesn't end there. I spoke with a gentleman whom Jared hired on the management level. This young man moved his family to Shelby because he was attracted to Shelby's small-town appeal, schools, and a great park system. Also, Lloyd Rebar has committed to donating the rebar for our new Fire Station. It just doesn't get much better than that!

On top of all these accomplishments, we were informed that our general fund balance at the end of 2017 was at a level that we have not seen in years. Kudos to everyone across the board who managed their budgets carefully.

All in all, it is clear that 2017 was a blessed year for the City of Shelby.

As I close, I would like to ask for Council's continued support for some initiatives that we all agree are important for Shelby's community and economic development.

This is the year for us to bring to Shelby an Economic Development Coordinator in some form or fashion. I have been working with the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor of Plymouth, the Shelby Community Improvement Corporation, and others to establish Shelby as the "Northern Hub" of economic development in Richland County. Somehow, some way we need to pull together for a concentrated Economic Development effort here in our city.

Mr. Ensmann and I are working diligently to find ways to further stabilize and hopefully lower electric rates for our customers. This could possibly come in the form of solar generation and more peak shaving generation in 2018.

I am committed to finding ways to mitigate flood damage in the Shelby community. We have asked for the assistance of the MWCD, and they are working with local officials to formulate a scientifically sound plan that they feel provides the best solution to flooding in Shelby. It is yet to be seen what the details of that final plan may look like or what the cost of the project may be. Once the final designs are completed and the financials have been determined - we will all have some important decisions to make.

We are preparing to roll out a very bold and promising telecommunications initiative this month. This has the potential to really change the financial landscape of our Division of Electricity and Telecommunications.

Ms. Conrad of the Shelby City Health Department is working on plans to improve and expand our City Wide Spring Cleanup this year. She is endeavoring to secure a grant that would rid the city of municipal brush piles, as well as outdoor rubbish.

I am working with representatives of the Richland County Park District and others to revitalize the educational and recreational components of our Wetlands near Reservoir 3. The Wetlands area is a great natural resource that has real potential to provide both outdoor health benefits and economic development.

I am diligently working with representatives of The Drug Mart Plaza to open up the North East entrance of their parking lot. I am hoping council's resolution and my repeated communications will result in that project being completed this year.

As soon as we have a report on the structural integrity of the existing Fire Station, I will call for a meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Commission. They will be studying the report and making recommendations to council at the earliest date possible.

Henry Clay is quoted as saying, "Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees. And both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people". Let us bear in mind that we have been elected by the citizens of Shelby to conduct the business of government for their benefit and the betterment of the world around us. We can do exactly that in 2018 as we continue to communicate, collaborate, and cooperate with one another.

May God bless you, and may God bless the City of Shelby, Ohio.