

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 1/2/2020

"City of Sylvania Ready for 2020"

The City of Sylvania is ready for 2020! Equipped with a balanced budget, 25% lower water rates, two new City Councilmembers and a new City logo, the City is looking forward to the promises and challenges of the coming year.

Sylvania City Council unanimously approved the 2020 Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets during their November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting after several weeks of Finance Committee review and meetings. The Operating Budget is balanced with current revenues. The books for 2019 were closed without any additional allocations in the major funds.

City operations continue to be more efficient with fewer employees than ten years ago. Overtime has been reduced, equipment life extended and budgets lowered. City services have not been curtailed and tax rates have not been raised. Income tax revenue has grown slowly, but steadily, in the last several years as businesses continue to invest in Sylvania.

Effective with the new year, water rates have been reduced 25% for City of Sylvania customers. After decades of negotiations, particularly during the last three years, a Regional Water Commission has been established with the City of Toledo and its eight customer communities.

Toledo water surcharges have been removed and water rates are being equalized over the next eight years. This new water system cooperation ends the need to consider and fund alternate water sources, and is a great step forward for regional growth and cooperation.

Sylvania City Council's every other year Organizational Meeting was held January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting is required by the City Charter to be held no later than January 5<sup>th</sup> following each City Council election. Sylvania Municipal Court Judge Michael Bonfiglio swore in re-elected City Council members Mark Frye and Douglas Haynam and newly elected members Brian McCann and Lyndsey Stough.

The new City Council then declared itself duly constituted of seven elected and duly qualified members. Mary Westphal was re-elected as City Council President. Committee chairmanship and assignments were distributed by President Westphal and confirmed by vote of City Council.

The City also begins the New Year with a new city logo. The new logo is a burr oak leaf representing the many oak trees of our oak savannah natural habitat. Our community heritage tree in the front yard of City Hall is a burr oak estimated to be 370 years old. After working with Dani Fuller of the Fuller Art House for nearly a year, City Council voted to replace the decades old three maple leaf logo with this new logo for our City of Trees.



2020 Sylvania City Council: Front Row Katie Cappellini, Mary Westphal, Lyndsey Stough; Back Row Doug Haynam, Patrick Richardson, Mark Frye, Brian McCann