

# 2018 State of the City Address

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Welcome to 2018!

As is the city's custom, and as required by Kentucky Revised Statute, I am pleased to deliver 2018's State of the City Address.

First, I would like to express my many thanks to the City Council. Together we have worked hard to responsibly move the city forward. I am excited about our continued partnership and working together in 2018 to provide Cold Spring residents with a city administration who operates as a cohesive unit in managing the city with their best interest in mind. I believe together we can accomplish many good things for the city in 2018!

## **Overview of the City:**

Currently the city employs 16 fulltime and 2 part time employees in the following departments:

- The Police Department consists of 10 fulltime and 1 part time employee
- Public Works consists of 4 fulltime employees.
- Administration which consists of 2 fulltime and 1 part time employee

The city also uses professional staff on a contractual basis. This staff consists of an Attorney, an Accountant, a City Administrator and Engineering and Planning and Zoning Professionals.

Additionally, the City relies heavily on boards and commissions. These boards are comprised of dedicated volunteers who greatly assist the city in conducting its business. On behalf of the City Council and myself, I wish to personally thank everyone on the following boards for their time and efforts:

Board of Adjustments  
Board of Ethics  
Code Enforcement Board  
Parks Recreation & Tree Commission  
Planning & Zoning Commission

## **2017 Review:**

The questions most asked of me when I am out and about is "How is the city doing?" or "Is the city really moving forward"? I would like to take a few minutes to answer both of those questions:

**Is the city still growing?**

After experiencing double-digit growth for many years, and with the final build out of the Granite Springs Subdivision complete, the city's residential growth has slowed, but it has not stopped. Over the last three years, the city has added an additional 1% to our residential growth.

*The city has also had several new businesses move into the city which has contributed not only to our overall job growth, but more amenities for the residents to utilize.*

### **What about our Financial Stability?**

There is good news on this front as well. The city continues to grow financially. Over the past three years the city's revenue from Property, Payroll, Insurance and Occupational taxes has increased 3.3%. It is important to note that this growth has come with NO increase in any taxes over the last three years; which means that it comes from GROWTH. Growth in new residents, growth in jobs, and growth in property values as Cold Spring remains a desirable place to reside and conduct business.

### **How are the City's Expenses?**

The city has maintained good control of all city expenses. Although it may be hard to believe, I am happy to share that expenses for the three main areas of the city, Administration, Police and Public Works, have actually gone **DOWN** by 3.5%.

### **How are the City's Strategic Funds?**

The city has been able to maintain our strategic funds over this period and these funds remain healthy. Although, as outlined and accounted for in the city's strategic plan, the city has had to use some of these funds in order to continue our road program. Rest assured the city remains on plan and the reserves are where they should be.

### **What about our infrastructure?**

The city continues to invest in our infrastructure. Over the past three years, we have invested \$2.4 million dollars in roadways. This includes opening the new Matinee Boulevard and rebuilding sections of Madonna, Sturbridge and Springhouse.

### **Is the city really moving forward?**

The city has faced a number of challenges and changes over the past year; however, it continues to move forward in a number of areas.

In 2017, the City Council and I have accomplished the following:

- Moved the city forward by sponsoring and/or passing appropriate changes in order to help new business development within the city to meet the needs of our residents
- Passed a \$3.6 million dollar operating budget for the 2017/2018 fiscal year that began July 1, 2017 and ends June 30, 2018, *which remains flat to prior years.*
- Approved and oversaw the construction and completion of the new Matinee Boulevard.

- Worked with the Kentucky Transportation Department to receive approval and installation of a dedicated left turn arrow for Bunning Lane.
- Continued to aid in the management of the city by their participation on the various sub committees, *of finance, personnel, public works, and safety.*

Following are a few specific department updates:

**Police Department Update:**

- Due the retirement of our incumbent Chief of Police, Brian Messer, with the assistance of community representatives, we hired a new Chief of Police, Chief Collinsworth. Chief Collinsworth brings over 20 years of experience to the force and we are thrilled to have him!
- Hired three new fulltime officers for the city to replace officers that retired or for personal reasons left the city.
- Increased its public outreach to the community through the use of social media and networking
- Traffic accidents declined by 17% going from 351 in 2016 to 299 in 2017.
- Overall traffic offenses also declined 2% from 1571 in 2016 to 1541 in 2017.
- Experienced a slight increase in in crimes from 2016 to 2017 with 7 more crimes being committed increasing year over year. This increase is strictly in non-violent crimes, such as shoplifting with no increase in violent crimes in the city.
- Is current on all mandated training for both the City and the State of Kentucky

**Public Works Update:**

- Did an outstanding job managing all of 2017's snow events. Our streets were cleared early and often.
- A new employee, Landen Webster, was hired to replace someone who left the department
- All five-city parks were routinely maintained throughout the year to include the maintenance and upkeep of the walking trails and park equipment as well as landscaping and brush control.
- Worked on clearing and preparing the new Lake Park for the upcoming construction
- Replaced various sidewalk sections throughout the city.
- Replaced various road sections throughout the city.
- Assisted our Parks and Recreation Commission in the set-up and logistics of city events.
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**Finance and Administration:**

- The city council passed a \$3.6 million dollar budget for Fiscal 2017/ 2018, which as stated before remains flat year over year.
- Through diligence and strict budget oversight, the city administration and department heads have done a very good job of managing the expense budget for their respective areas. For the first six months of the fiscal year, the city is running \$250,000 UNDER budget.
- Your city clerks, Robin and Ann, sent out city tax bills for 2017 and collected the revenues in November and December. 3,266 tax bills were sent out and only 148 bills are currently unpaid. Because of your prompt payment, the city has less than a 5% delinquency rate for tax bills –

thank you residents! Delinquent notifications are in the process of being sent for the outstanding tax bills.

- Worked with the new Stormwater Engineers in order to significantly lower the stormwater expenses for the city.
- Launched a new city website – be sure to check it out!

### **Parks Recreation & Tree Commission:**

My thanks to the volunteers on the Parks, Recreation Commission who held the following events for residents in 2017. All had great fun and we hope to see you at our 2018 events!

- Arbor Day Celebration
- 2 Trunk Sales
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Senior Dance **(an exciting new event in 2017)**
- 2 Movies in the Park
- Cruise in and Concert
- Fall Festival
- Winter Festival/Visit with Santa

In addition to these events, the city sponsored the annual Veterans Day Ceremony and the annual Light up Cold Spring Contest.

### **A few notes for 2018:**

#### **Police Department:**

With the addition of a new police recruit, we continue to maintain our high safety standard for the city and its citizens. Our new recruit will be sent to the State Police Academy in 2018. Once the new recruit graduates, the Cold Spring Police Department will return to full staffing. We will continue the support of our DARE program for the schools utilizing Officer Matt Lloyd. The Police Department, with Chief Collinsworth's guidance, continues to review our current coverage and looks for ways to provide better services to our residents.

#### **Public Works:**

The city is planning to spend approximately \$1.3 million dollars in order to replace and or improve over a dozen streets within the city. In addition, the city plans to continue work on the Lake Park in order to open it sometime in fiscal 19.

### **Parks Recreation and Tree Commission**

The Parks Recreation and Tree Commission are busy scheduling events for 2018. There are several new events being proposed for 2018. Updates on the events will be posted on the city website, in the newsletter, newspaper, and on the marquee so watch all four! The more the merrier so please be sure to come out and participate in these events!

**Administration:**

As our three-year contract with Rumpke expires in September of this year, the city will be going out to bid for new waste services in 2018.

**Business Growth:**

The city continues to field multiple inquiries from businesses seeking to review Cold Spring as a potential location.

In closing, I would like to thank City Council for its support and input. I would also like to thank all of you, our residents, for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. I continue to be available in the office, Monday thru Friday between the hours of 9 AM and 4 PM. Please feel free to stop by or call the city building at any time.

With your support, the Council, the City Administration teams, and I look forward to 2018. There are many possibilities and opportunities in front of us!

D. Angelo Penque  
Mayor  
City of Cold Spring