

Welcome to 2019!

As is the city's custom, and as required by Kentucky Revised Statute, I am pleased to deliver 2019's State of the City Address.

First, I would like to express my many thanks to the past City Council. Together we worked hard to responsibly move the city forward. I am excited about continuing that partnership in 2019 with the newly elected council 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 2019!

### **Overview:**

I. **Staff:** The city currently employs 16 full-time and four part-time employees in the following departments:

- Police Department: 11 full-time and three part-time employees.
- Public Works: four full-time employees.
- Administration: two full-time and one part-time employee.

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

### **II. Growth:**

- Residential growth: Has slowed substantially over the last year. The primary reason is that the city no longer has large tracts of land available on which developers can build subdivisions.
- Commercial Growth: The city continues to see commercial growth with several establishments being completed or started in 2018. These commercial establishments contribute to our tax base which enabled the city to keep its property taxes unchanged for the 13<sup>th</sup> year.

III. **Financial Stability:** The city continues to grow financially. Over the past year the city's revenues from Payroll, Insurance and Occupational taxes have increased 8% allowing the city to maintain its budget. The City of Cold Spring remains one of the lowest taxing entities in Northern Kentucky. It is also important to note that this increase has come with NO increase in any residential taxes over the last year; which means that it comes from commercial growth.

IV. **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 7% for the year.

V. **City's Strategic Funds:** The city has been able to maintain our strategic funds over this period and the funds remain healthy. Although, as outlined and accounted for in the city's strategic plan, the city 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.

VI. **Infrastructure:** The city continues to invest in our infrastructure. Over the past year, the city has invested over \$900,000 in roadways. This includes rebuilding sections of Springhouse, Henry, Ripple Creek, and all of Winters Lane that lies within the city's boundaries. With these completions, the city has nearly finished its 20 year road plan doing so approximately two years ahead of schedule.

VII. **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 2018, the City Council and I have accomplished the following:

- Passed or sponsored appropriate changes to aid new business development within the city to meet our resident's needs.
- Passed a \$3.6 million operating budget for the 2018/2019 fiscal year that began July 1, 2018 and ends June 30, 2019 that remained flat to prior years.
- Approved and oversaw the reconstruction and expansion over 3 miles of city streets.
- Participated on the various sub-committees, of finance, personnel, public works, and safety.

#### VIII. Department updates:

- Police Department:
  - Last year promoted from within Patrol Officer Irvin Davis to Sargent for the department
  - Hired three new full-time officers to replace officers that retired or resigned for personal reasons.
  - Continues its public outreach to the community through the use of social media and networking.
  - Traffic accidents increased by 8% from 299 in 2017 to 324 in 2018
  - Overall traffic offenses also declined 2% from 1541 in 2017 to 1482 in 2018.
  - Issued a total of 351 Criminal Citations for 2018, while total crimes were less than 200 in the city.
  - Now employees an Investigative officer in order to properly investigate criminal activity in the city and they have already assisted in two major cases handled by the city.
  - Is current on all mandated training for both the City and the State of Kentucky
  - Currently have two new officers, one who is on his final training and will be on the street in March of this year and one at the Police Academy due to graduate in April of this year.
- Public Works:
  - Did an outstanding job managing all of 2018's snow events. Our streets were cleared early and often.
  - 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.
  - Significant work was done in the new Lake Park clearing, stabilizing the lake banks and preparing for the upcoming construction on the interior of the park.
  - 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.

- Finance and Administration:
  - Maintained a flat, year-over-year budget of \$3.6 million for Fiscal 2018/ 2019.
  - 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 \$260,000 UNDER budget.
  - Your city clerks, Robin and Ann, sent out city tax bills for 2018 and collected the revenues in November and December. 3,250 tax bills were sent out and only 167 bills remain unpaid. Because of your prompt payment, the city has only a 5% delinquency rate for tax bills – thank you residents! Delinquent notifications are in the process of being sent for the outstanding tax bills.
  - Secured a sizeable private donation for the Lake Park.
  - Secured a donation to the City Police Department from the Prosecutors’ office to support the DARE program.
  - Made multiple improvements to the city website – be sure to check it out!
  
- Parks Recreation & Tree Commission: My thanks to the volunteers on the Parks Recreation and Tree Commission who held the following events for city residents in 2018. All who attended had great fun.
  - Arbor Day Celebration
  - Two trunk sales
  - Senior dance
  - Two Movies in the Park
  - Fall festival
  - Other scheduled events:
    - The city also sponsored the annual Veterans Day Ceremony and the annual Light up Cold Spring Contest.
    - Unfortunately Mother Nature didn’t cooperate with us this year and despite the efforts of the Park Board, the Easter Egg Hunt, The Concert in the Park, and the Christmas Festival with Santa had to be canceled.
  
- Planning and Zoning: As a special note, I would like to thank the Planning and Zoning Commission for all the hard work that they put in over the past year to complete the Comprehensive Plan for the city; job well done.

**IX. A few notes for 2019:**

- Police Department: With the addition of new police recruits, we continue to maintain our high safety standard for the city and its citizens. Our new recruits will graduate from the State Police Academy in 2019. Our DARE program continues to be a great success and we will once again support the DARE program for the schools in 2019 utilizing Sargent Andy Hyett. The Police Department, with Chief Collinsworth’s guidance, diligently reviews our current coverage and looks for ways to provide better services to our residents.
  
- Finance and Administration: The city has begun a review of all processes within the city’s control in order to maintain our budgets. The city has also begun the base for building a new 20 year strategic road plan which will incorporate many roads that were not in the original 20 year plan.
  
- Public Works: The city is budgeted to spend approximately \$600,000 in order to replace and or improve several streets within the city. In addition, the city plans to continue work on the Lake Park in hopes of opening it in fiscal year 2019.

- Parks Recreation and Tree Commission: The Parks Recreation and Tree Commission is busy scheduling events for 2019. There are several new events being proposed for 2019. Updates on the events will be posted on the city website, in the newsletter, newspaper, and on the digital sign so watch all four! As always we look forward to seeing you, so please come out and participate in these events!
- Business Growth: Several new businesses located to Cold Spring in 2018 and we continue to field multiple inquiries from businesses researching Cold Spring as a potential location.

In closing, I would 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 through Friday between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm. Please feel free to stop in or call the city building at any time.

With your support, the Council, the City Administration teams, and I look forward to 2019. There are many exciting possibilities and opportunities in front of us!

D. Angelo Penque, Mayor  
City of Cold Spring