



## **MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE March 6, 2023**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GAHS GIRL'S VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM:** for winning PIAA District 3, 5-A last week defeating York Suburban at the Giant Center in Hershey. Our best wishes as you entered the state play-offs at home this coming Saturday afternoon, March 11. The district will soon announce how advanced tickets will be sold.

**FRANKLIN – CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOROUGH'S ASSN. MEETING:** Along with Council President Albert Miller and Jeremy Layman, I attended the Borough's Assn. meeting in Waynesboro last Tuesday evening. Waynesboro Police Chief Jim Sourbier presented much information on the co-responder program in Waynesboro that has now returned to Greencastle and Washington Township. This pro-active mental health program assists the most vulnerable of our citizens and visitors as these call volume numbers continue to increase.

**POLICE CHIEF'S PRESENTATION TO PUBLIC SAFETY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:** Thank you to Chief Phillippy for the informative power point presentation presented on Feb. 21 to the Public Safety Council members. A lot goes on behind the scenes as our officers keep the Greencastle community safe for our citizens and visitors.

**SCENE SAFETY TRAINING FEB. 11 AT RESCUE HOSE COMPANY:** Chief Phillippy also presented a safe response, scene safety training program to members of Rescue Hose Company and Medic 2 personnel that also included possible crime scene preservation. He was joined by representatives of the Franklin County coroner's office for this information that included power point learning tools.

**ATTENDANCE AT GREENCASTLE MS4 FOCUS GROUP MEETING FEB. 19 WITH POWER POINT PRESENTATION:** Healthy dialogue by all in attendance was experienced as the Focus Group will be engaged with individual work assignments and future reports to Council.

**ATTENDANCE AT HIDDEN KEY BREWERY AND BELLE'S KITCHEN RIBBON CUTTING FEB. 20:** I appreciate the pro-active parking approach by owners of these new downtown businesses. Before attending, I researched their Facebook page and marketing plan where they list alternative on and off street parking for their customers minutes away from the business. I parked on S. Jefferson Street for the event. My walk from the vehicle to their entrance door was less than one minute.

### **MAYOR'S STATEMENT REGARDING DOWNTOWN PARKING:**

According to DRAFT minutes from last Monday's workshop, two parking requests were reviewed. One appears on tonight's agenda, the other does not. One large storefront is currently empty on S. Carlisle Street, which has the potential of a larger commercial business downtown. That is also true for the AURA building along E. Baltimore Street. Another restaurant will soon open on E. Baltimore Street. Pending action by Council may further remove street parking from the first block of E. Madison Street. As is typical in urban settings, downtown

buildings are not required to have parking with limited building set-backs due to the make-up of downtown as a mixed-use community. I encourage the Council to review what is stated in our comprehensive plans regarding downtown parking to benefit all of our businesses. Section 7-8 of the G-A / School District Comprehensive Plan dedicates information recommending the following...“Develop a comprehensive downtown parking strategy and management plan.” It further states that “One of the most common misconceptions is that there is not enough parking available in the downtown, and that the lack of parking is prohibiting the downtown from being as vibrant and successful as it could be, if additional parking opportunities were available. In order to successfully manage parking resources, it is necessary to evaluate existing conditions, implement short term improvements, and develop a long term plan for the management of parking facilities in the downtown.”

Parking meters came to downtown Greencastle in 1953. The current meters are being scavenged for parts to keep the current meters in service. An off-street parking inventory may be warranted...even a public / private partnership for modern “smart pay parking” areas designated with proper signage where revenues may be shared with private property owners. These areas would be numbered, and you pay at centralized stations by credit card or cash. I don’t know what such a system costs, however, it’s worth exploring and seeing a smart system demonstration of the system for long range parking system planning.

#### **MAYOR’S STATEMENT REGARDING BUCHANAN FLATS DEVELOPMENT:**

Tonight, Buchanan Flats residential development appears as a “preliminary plan.” It also appears Inch and Company and their representatives have done their due diligence with the plan that is primarily located in Antrim Township. The Plan will have significant impact on the Borough of Greencastle...our infrastructure, traffic, and public safety. Though it is not Inch & Company’s decision, I continue to disagree with Antrim Township’s desire to follow an obsolete 1965 road system thoroughfare plan that connects E. Baltimore Street with Moss Spring Avenue. I stated my objection with much research and facts in my September, 2022 report to this Council, our Planning Commission, and Antrim Township’s Planning Commission and Supervisors. I appreciate the Greencastle’s Planning Commission’s response with much dialogue at their October 10, 2022, public meeting. The planners of 1965 could not have imagined the significant growth around the Borough over the past 58 years. I appreciate this Council and the developer taking a pro-active safety approach with future calming devices in the Borough. I, however, believe that Antrim Township’s decision to allow this antiquated transportation plan to move forward, is not in the best interest for the Borough or the region.

Further, I believe this Borough Council should petition the Pa. Dept. of Transportation to do a study and limit heavy trucks on all of Baltimore Street, both east and west bound, for “local deliveries only” due to high traffic volume, pedestrian safety, narrow Baltimore Street width given traffic volumes of 53’ trucks and trailers traversing our downtown (13,000 + - ADT daily), and a thriving business district.

**LION’S CLUB PANCAKE, ETC. BREAKFAST RETURNS:** This coming Saturday, starting at 7:00 A.M. in the G-A Middle School.

**MAMA MIA PRESENTED BY GAHS STUDENTS:** Support our Drama Club as they present three shows, March 24 and 25 in the High School’s Shockey Family Center for Performing Arts auditorium.

By: Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor