



MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE January 6, 2025

NEW GREENCASTLE POLICE OFFICER: I was honored to administer the oath and welcome Officer Jadan Morrow at a recent ceremony held in this room. Officer Morrow has been filling shifts as he is oriented to Greencastle.



OFFICER CHRIS McGARITY, THANK YOU FOR OVER TWO DECADES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE: I joined Chris last week for his final shift with us. When I worked with Chris, he would have a calm demeanor and was a good listener and fair police officer. Thanks Officer McGarity for your service to the citizens and visitors of Greencastle.

GRANT APPROVAL FOR REPLACEMENT BULLET RESISTANT VESTS / CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE DRONE PURCHASE: Last year, I authored a letter that was produced by Ericka requesting funding from a regional organization for new bullet resistant vests for our police officers. This organization that desires to remain anonymous has notified us that the Borough will receive \$11,000 to fund this important safety purchase to benefit our personnel.

Ericka has worked with Walmart's Fulfillment Center taking over from contacts made by the Mayor and former Police Chief Keith Russell. With Ericka's efforts, Walmart will contribute \$5,000 toward our future drone fund. The Borough has already received \$2,500 from an individual and an organization. Chief Batistig is working on new policies and procedures that will include logistics for future drone use by licensed personnel. I am requesting public safety committee and finance committee meetings to discuss in further detail along with License plate reader status.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING: Citizen Larry Pittman advises extended low idling locomotives from Christmas Eve until December 26. An engine was present and shut down on December 27.

ATTENDANCE AT WORKER'S COMP SEMINAR FOR FIRE / EMS PERSONNEL: On December 6, I attended the Franklin County Emergency Services Alliance meeting specifically for a presentation regarding future worker's compensation insurance furnished by host municipalities for fire and EMS companies. Locally, Antrim Township provides worker's compensation insurance to Rescue Hose Company that is partially financially supported by the Firefighter's Relief Assn. and the Borough of Greencastle. Municipalities have experienced a substantial increase in worker's compensation insurance premiums. Antrim's insurance company canceled the policy and is no longer writing W/C insurance. Therefore, the Township must again rely on Pennsylvania's self-insured program known as SWIF (State Worker's Insurance Fund) resulting in substantial premium increases.

COMMENTS REGARDING PROPOSED ORDINANCE (AGENDA, Public Safety #6) as previously imparted:

1. Recommend "food trailers" be added to the parking restriction as I've observed food trailers in the Borough.
2. How would this ordinance restriction align with special events such as the G-A Chamber of Commerce Sidewalk days and the Scouts using a food truck all of Old Home Week?
3. I do not believe three parking spaces need to be in the restricted parking zone on the south side of the first block of W. Baltimore Street for larger vehicle parking. The photo shows adequate visibility for east bound motorists IF the tree would be removed. Police officers have suggested this tree be dealt with so pedestrians are more visible at the south crosswalk to walk north.



January sales are in progress. Shop small and shop G-A! Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2025.

Ben Thomas, Jr. -- Mayor