

MAYORS MOMENT
40 North Main St. Walton, KY 41094 859 485 4383

January 20, 2018

Dear Walton Citizens

Happy New Year, I hope it is a blessed New Year for our city and all of our citizens.

For some time, I have written that the city has been developing a new website. Well, it stalled for a time due to various reasons but last fall I asked Cassandra to take the lead on the project and get it revived and she did and has done a good job with it. I believe Mr. Wainwright recommended a particular vendor that we are using and I can definitely write that the new site will be up early this year, even next month barring the unforeseen.

Last year we completed the Code Enforcement legislation in conjunction with the city of Union. We however need two citizens to volunteer to sit on the CE Board which will meet irregularly should the board need to meet. Board members will be paid when they meet, please call City Hall if you are interested in serving in this way.

A year and a half ago I directed that the city stop using a contractor to operate the sewer system. That decision has saved approximately \$200,000 and will continue to save us money. 2-3 Years ago, we installed machinery called a rake system that has been very beneficial. It cost about \$75,000. Recently I ordered machinery that cost over \$300,000 but will save the city even more money because of a reduction in sludge hauling. I write this because even though we are spending considerable sums of money we will also be saving considerable sums of money. This will be beneficial as we continue to build the system for new development in certain areas and upgrade the system already in existence. Including the possible closing of our smaller secondary sewer plant. A lift station there could cost over 1/4 million dollars but that secondary plant is nearing its life's end and could cost a million dollars to replace. We have engineers studying these concepts now.

Last year I commissioned a first time, study of our water system to determine our needs to meet future and current demands on the system. This study took most of last year and cost over \$30,000 dollars. Though it was expensive, as is everything associated with the water/sewer system, we are gleaning very helpful information from it. Including the need for a second water connection from our supplier. This connection is expected to cost approximately 1/4 million dollars. I write this because that is only one of several expensive projects that must be completed. Others are a rework of School Rd. including a turn lane at Mary Grubbs that will also segregate the sidewalk from the street, add curbs and drainage there and allow for better marking and lighting of the crossing. The turn lane alone will cost approximately \$100,000.

We also need to spend money at the main city park and a new pocket park at the Mary Grubbs extension at High Street that I wrote about last time. This new pocket park could develop into a very nice park in the future serving residents as well as employees of our businesses. It will fit nicely with the pedestrian bridge over the RXR at High St., should that project come together. We are waiting on engineering studies from the RXR. Also, we are applying for grant money from the state for an amphitheater at the main park, something I have desired for a long time as I think it will greatly benefit all citizens.

The decisions for these projects and a way to fund them are what we wrest with at City Hall. Although all of us are against taxes to some degree they are a necessity for cities to grow and develop and to complete crucial projects such as these. To that end we are considering a new tax on payroll at the rate of 1/2 of 1 percent. This tax would have a sunset clause meaning it would go away after a prescribed period of time, probably after five years and would affect mostly people who come into the city to work as opposed to our own residents. Although there are some folks who live AND work in Walton who would be affected. It will affect nonresidents over residents at a rate of about 17-1.

Another project that is in the plans, but paid for by the school board, is a new preschool building. Mr. Krummen informed us that this 11,000 sq. ft. building is to be built on the Walton campus. Construction should begin this year. He also suggested weather protection stands at the TANK bus stops in town, we will look into this as well.

As you can see there is a lot going on and this is not a complete list. It is still my thinking and always will be that Walton needs a city administrator. This particular council disagrees for the most part. I have support for it from one person on council and tepid support for a part time administrator from another even though a myriad of professionals has all urged the creation of this position.

In closing, this is an election year. We will elect school board members, some state level political office holders as well as city councils and mayors. I will not be seeking reelection. I will have served eight years and look forward to new candidates running for council and mayor. There is always work to be done at all levels of government and we are blessed to live in a nation that allows for the smooth transition of that government, allowing for the purposes of living in peace and safety.

Sincerely,

Mayor Carnahan

Dates to Remember:

February 6 – Caucus meeting, 6:30 PM at City Hall
February 13 – Council meeting, 7:30 PM at Senior Center
February 19 – City Hall closed in observance of Presidents' Day
March 6 – Caucus meeting, 6:30 PM at City Hall
March 13 – Council meeting, 7:30 PM at Senior Center
March 11 – Daylight Saving Time begins
March 31 – Easter egg hunt, 2:00 PM at Walton City Park
April – 3 Caucus meeting, 6:30 PM at City Hall
April – 10 Council meeting, 7:30 PM at Senior Center

To pay your water/sewer bills online, you can go to www.invoicecloud.com/waltonky or you can call our toll free number at [844-242-0102](tel:844-242-0102) to pay over the phone.

Please note: To avoid any further charges on all unpaid city tax bills please send your payments by mail to: City of Walton P.O. Box 95 Walton, KY 41094 or you can drop payment off at Walton City Hall, 40 N. Main St.