

February 6, 2024



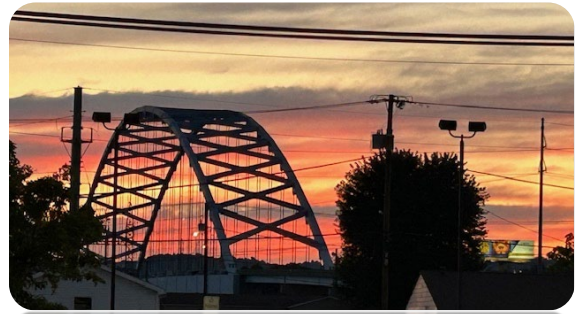
**2023**

*City of*  
**Moundsville**  
**YEAR-END**  
**REPORT**



SUBMITTED TO CITY COUNCIL  
BY CITY MANAGER RICK HEALY

Mayor Sara Wood-Shaw  
Vice-Mayor David Wood  
Councilwoman Judy Hunt  
Councilman Eugene Saunders  
Councilwoman Ginger DeWitt  
Councilman Randy Chamberlain  
Councilwoman Brianna Hickman



Copy to: City Clerk Sondra Hewitt, Finance  
Director Karen Ankrom, All Department Heads,  
Water Board Chair, Sanitary Board Chair, Other Interested Parties, File

RE: Year End Report

February 6, 2024

It is with pride that I present this 2023 year-end report, outlining accomplishments and finances, reviewing my year as City Manager, and looking ahead to 2024 and beyond. January 1, 2023, marked my fifth anniversary as your City Manager, and I still cannot wait to get to the office every day. The changes and improvements that we continue to make for our citizens and businesses will remain long after most of us have “retired.” While preparing this report, I continue to be amazed at our achievements, especially when they are compiled into one comprehensive report. While this report hopefully covers all of the major items, there are many small things that happen daily to improve Moundsville.

*"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated  
day in and day out."*

*Robert Collier, American Author*

***Small Efforts*** – Daily tasks, often hum-drum work, all contribute to success. What I and WE do throughout our careers may seem small and menial, but in the end - it equals success!

As we continue to see progress, it is evident that the changes and improvements we are making affect our citizens, businesses, and visitors both directly and indirectly. Knowing we have such a significant impact is a true responsibility. I take that responsibility (and I know you do) very seriously and personally. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this position, and I hope you enjoy reading this report as much as I did creating it!

*Note: For the first time since the 2020 report, this will not lead off discussing COVID-19. While we still see effects and people are still being tested/diagnosed, most business has returned to normal. However, you will see mention of projects from the associated American Rescue Plan in this report.*

## Financial

Total revenues for fiscal year 2023-2024 are \$15,108,106.00 with \$9,966,893.00 budgeted in new revenue, the balance being carryover. The new revenue number is ahead of Fiscal Year 2022 (\$9,490,556) or 5% and Fiscal Year 2021 (\$9,179,643) or almost 8%. So, revenue continues to trend upward. The leading source of revenue is the Business & Occupation (B&O) Tax, budgeted at \$2,750,000. This accounts for about 27.5% of the new revenue. This year the Municipal Sales Tax is budgeted at \$2,100,000. Together, they account for just over 48% of the new revenue. Any changes to the B&O or Municipal Sales Tax statutes that reduce these could seriously damage the growth and progress in the city. There continues to be legislation introduced to attack these revenues, primarily B&O. An overall elimination is highly unlikely without a mechanism to backfill. However, reducing one or the other of our prime revenue sources would be detrimental. The overall fiscal picture of the city is strong, with the Municipal Sales Tax continuing to provide the “extras” that is improving the quality of life, and that the citizens deserve – even while funding the construction of a new Municipal-Public Safety Building.

Many capital expenditures were funded under the current fiscal year. In addition to on-going leases for cruisers, work trucks, and fire trucks, other highlights included:

### Public Works

- Bucket Truck, replacing a truck that was purchased used twenty years ago.
- Crack Sealer – the addition of a smaller unit a few years ago, prompted this purchase, seeing the benefits of sealing cracks in newer paved streets. This larger machine will operate quicker and more efficiently.
- Tractor/Mower – although not yet received, this will be put into operation immediately this spring. The areas that the Street Department maintain continue to grow.

### Parks & Recreation

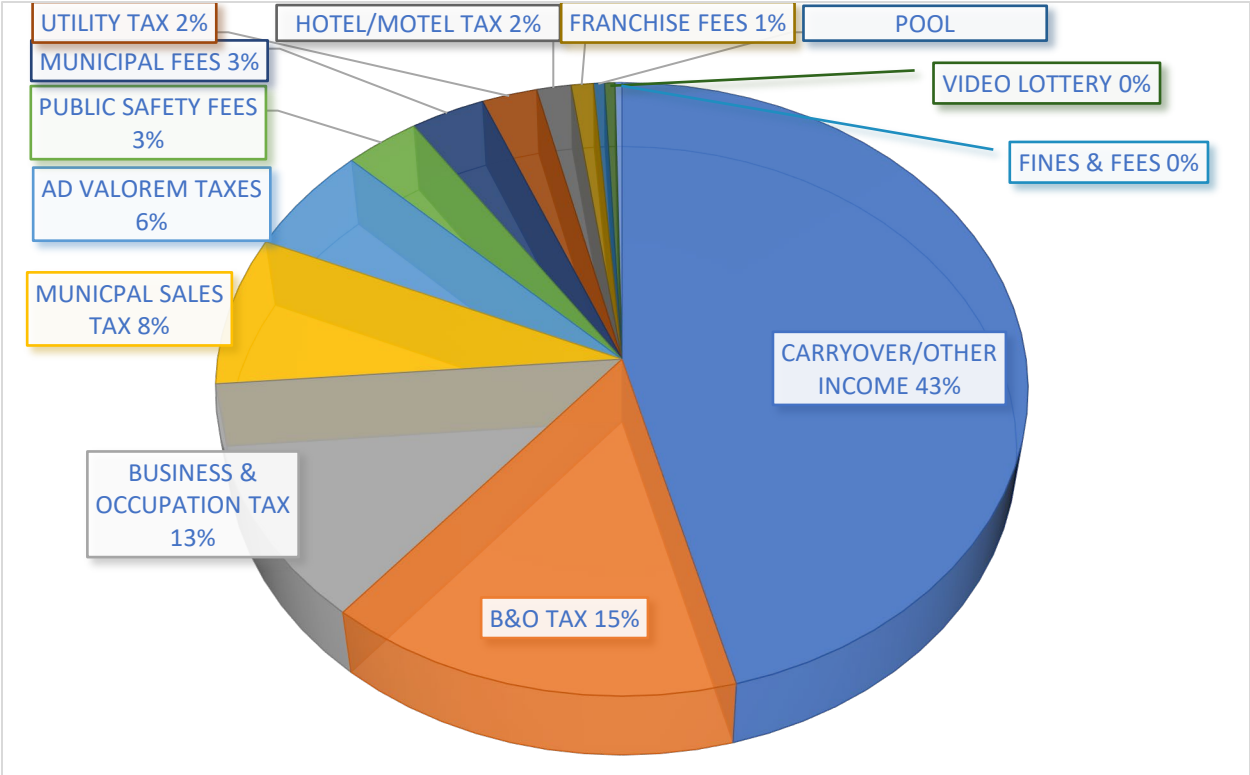
- Side-by-Side ATV – to be used mainly for maintenance at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and all ballfields. This may also be used for other city events.
- Fencing Replacement – East End Park, next to last phase of chain link replacement along Railroad Avenue.

### Police Department

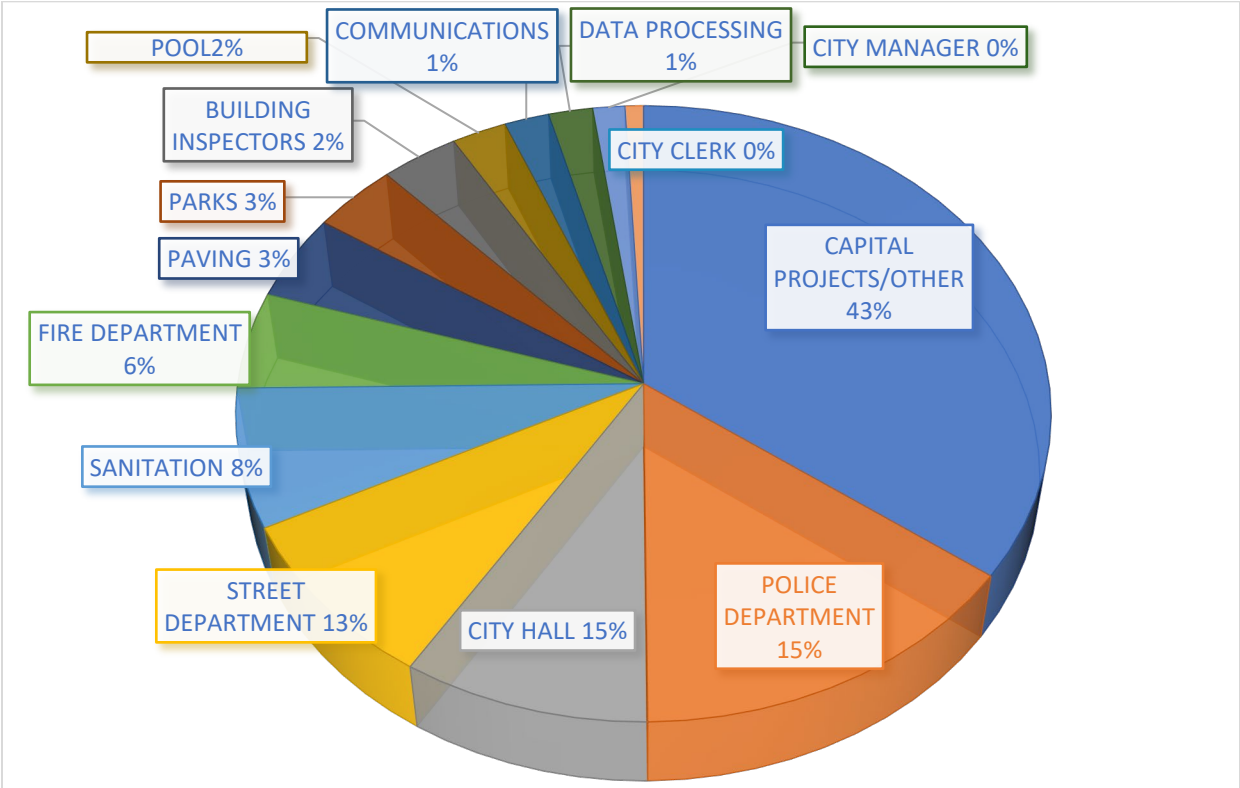
- Body Cameras
- Radar Unit

The graphs on the next page illustrate the budgeted Revenues and Expenditures for 2023-2024.

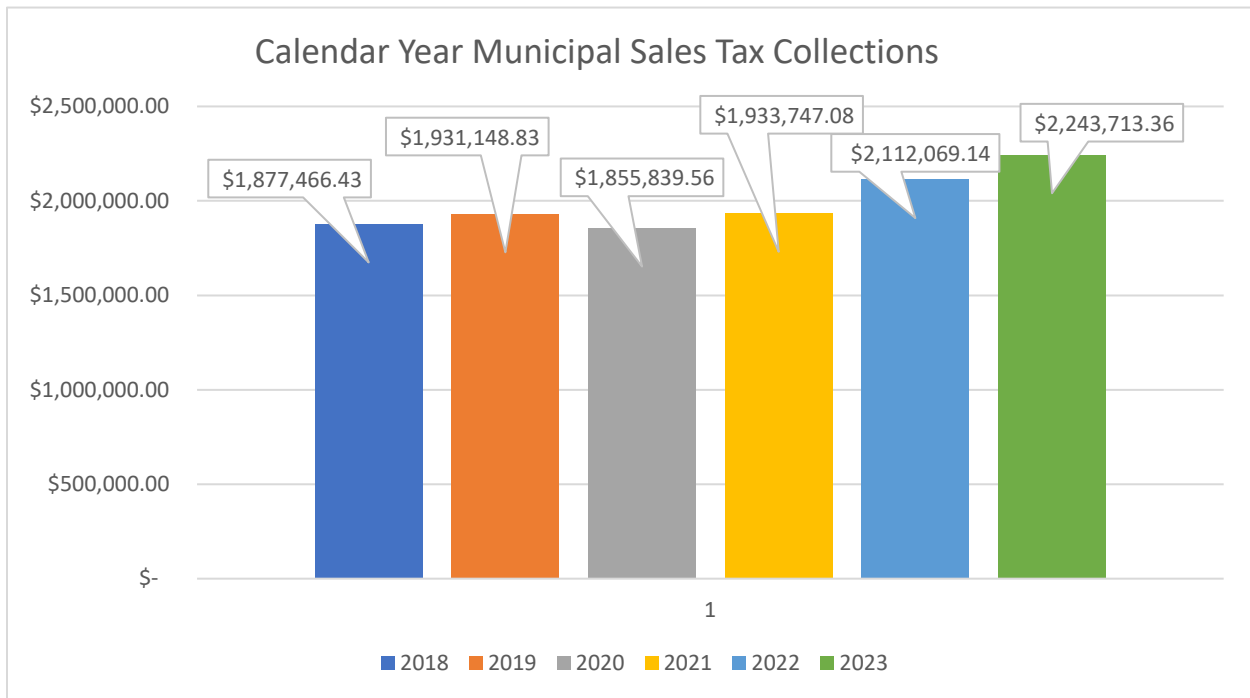
## 2023-2024 BUDGETED REVENUE SOURCE



## 2023-2024 BUDGETED EXPENSES



Municipal Sales and Use Tax receipts for calendar year 2023 were \$2,243,713.36, up from \$2,112,069.14, an increase of \$131,644.22, or 6%. A nice upward trend is seen.



The implementation of the 1% Sales Tax has totally changed the financial picture of the city, allowing much-needed improvements and replacements without affecting the day-to-day expenses. In 2023, the following larger projects/purchases were made using the 1% receipts:

- ❖ Paving - \$331,806.61 was used to pay approximately one half of the 2023 Paving Program expenses. The balance is paid by Municipal Fee fund.
- ❖ Demolition - \$38,300.00 was used for demolition activities including asbestos inspections/abatement.
- ❖ Recycling - \$3,535.66 was used for container exchanges and supplies. Note: these will be reimbursed from the grant. 2024 is a non-grant year, so all fees will be paid from this account.
- ❖ Police Department – purchased two new cruisers and a drone package expending \$93,098.00.
- ❖ Technology – Council ThinkPad’s, software, and a web pay server were purchased using \$46,0963.00.
- ❖ Recreation - \$290,772.67 was transferred to cover numerous recreations projects and capital expenditures (side-by-side, playgrounds), and \$6,800.00 was used for engineering/architectural services for research on an indoor rec center.
- ❖ Municipal Building - \$760,482.38 was transferred for future bond payments.
- ❖ Historic Landmarks - \$6,150.00 was used to purchase 100 banners and brackets.
- ❖ Buffer - \$47,850.92 was used for engineering and utility relocation costs for the Fostoria Avenue Bridge project. The new Route 2 welcome sign material was \$1,905.50 and tree removal was \$2,500.00.

The Business & Occupation Tax receipts continue to trend upward, as well, allowing things like pay raises and employee benefits. Caution must be taken, however, with the current State Legislature continuing to target this funding mechanism.

## New Municipal/Public Safety Building

Construction was a year-long construction process on the new Municipal/Public Safety Building.

What started in January with the discovery of some contaminated soil ended in December with a building and daily work of up to six subcontractors to complete the 26,000 square foot structure. Problems and delays, which plagued the project in early and mid-2023 were replaced with daily progress. At the end of the year, the building was partially “dried-in”,



temporarily heated, with plumbing, HVAC, electrical, drywall finishing, painting, finish carpentry, and exterior brick work, all working together. During the year, many choices were made regarding colors, finishes, etc., and this building that will serve our community for generations, will be genuinely nice, but not extravagant. City Hall staff has begun to make plans for the actual move, forming an intraoffice committee. This group will work to determine what will be moved, in what order, and when. There is much anticipation with employees who will relocate to this building. It will happen in 2024! The new Municipal/Public Safety Building will be completed, and staff will move in!

## American Rescue Plan

Because of this direct allocation of \$3,647,694.56 through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), city businesses, residents, and infrastructure were improved. As noted in previous reports, Council discussed at length the most appropriate ways to allocate this one-time money and stay within the United States Treasury guidelines. During 2023, the following programs/projects were completed:

### Infrastructure

#### ○ Stormwater

##### ▪ Mulberry Avenue and Jackson Street Intersection Flooding Issue

- \$177,923.83 was used to correct a long-standing problem that caused flooding in homes after large water events. This project involved installing new pipe across both parking lots at Four Seasons Pool and emptying it into the 5’ drain that runs to 4<sup>th</sup> Street. After completion, there have been at least two events that

previously would have flooded. Residents were spared that problem, making the project a success.

- 8<sup>th</sup> & Lockwood Collapse
  - Project is mostly complete except for concrete work. \$41,525.87 has been expended on this project.
- Clinton Avenue
  - To date, \$16,914.28 has been spent on this project to alleviate localized flooding during heavy rain events. Work completed so far has helped mitigate the problem.

○ **Sanitary**

▪ Grant Avenue Re-Lining

- This project will re-line the sanitary sewer between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street. \$9,205.65 has been expended to date.

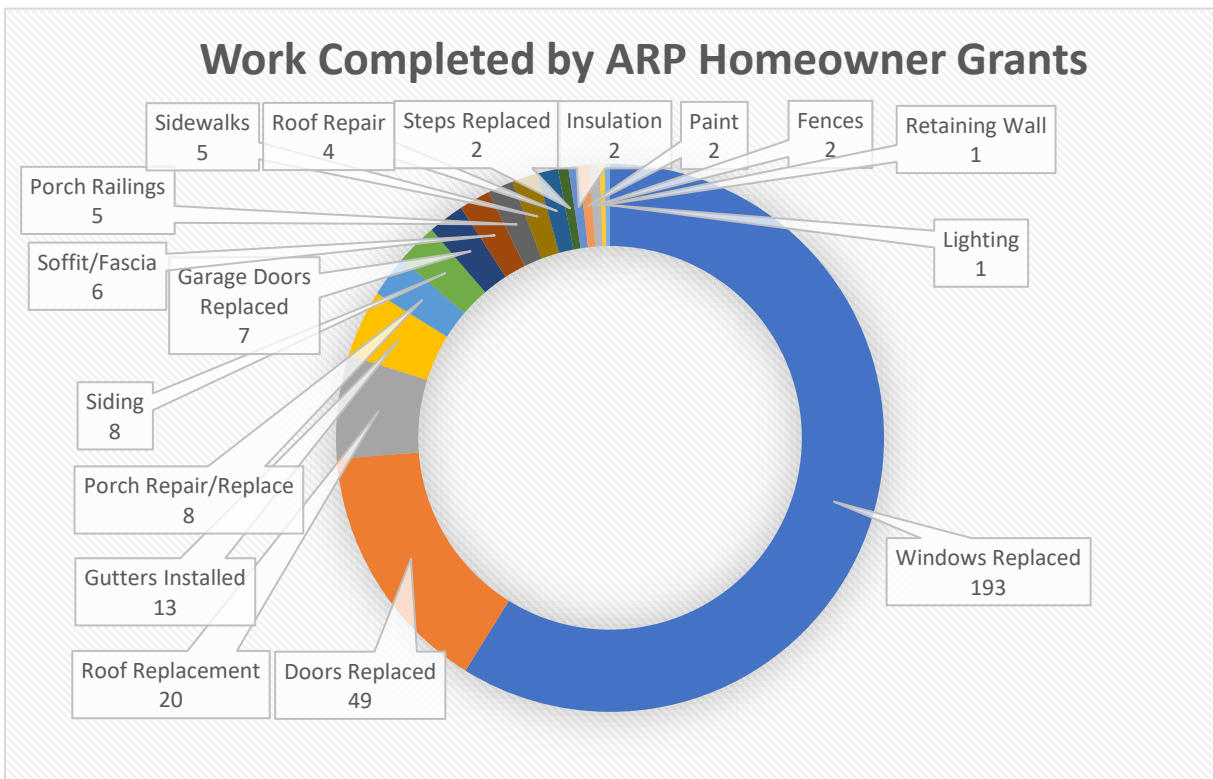
○ **Water**

▪ Well Project

- A new well was drilled to replace aging wells, and another was cleaned.

🏠 Homeowner Repair Program

- Based on ninety-eight completed projects, the total grant money awarded in the Residential Homeowner Grants was \$457,506.60. An additional \$116,867.53 resulted from private investment. This equated to \$2,081.00 in Building Permit Fees collected and \$10,262.80 in Business & Occupation tax collected (cumulative totals). The donut chart below shows the type of work that was completed.



## Technology

As technology is ever evolving, our focus turns to staying current. Several new workstations were provided in 2023, staying up to date. A new server was installed in city hall for the on-line web pay feature. While down for over a month, the use of this feature was evident, with many calls and messages asking when it would be live again.

Technology Services Group (TSG), located at the Highlands, has become a large partner with the city. They provide hardware support in the Police, Fire, Public Works Departments, and well as City Hall and the Water and Sanitary Departments. This feature provides a 24-hour help desk, and two hours of preventative maintenance monthly. TSG also suggested, supplied, and monitors a cloud-based back-up system for City Hall and the Water Department. This assures the city of a quick recovery in case of a tragedy. They have also been assisting the architect with computer and internet layout services for the new building. TSG also designed and supports our website ([www.cityofmoundsville.com](http://www.cityofmoundsville.com)) and accompanying app.

## Communications/Social Media/Transparency

As technology advances, citizens demand (and deserve) more transparency. Council took the lead in 2022 with the purchase of tablets for all members and the City Manager, City Clerk, Finance Director, City Attorney, and Administrative Secretary. Along with these tablets, Council approved purchase of a subscription to CivicClerk, a division of CivicPlus. As 2023 progressed, the process became more familiar and easier to use. Late 2023 saw the introduction of live voting. While this has had some kinks, it is a terrific addition. Using twenty-five pages as an average packet size, the city has saved printing over 10,000 sheets of paper, saving paper, printing, envelopes, travel, and also considering the environment. As the new building opens, live streaming and/or recording of meetings can begin. Council also opted to take part in the West Virginia Open Checkbook Program, offered by the West Virginia State Auditor's Office. This will be unveiled in February and will allow anyone to access financial information about the city. This program is another step to full transparency, but will also give an opportunity to highlight programs, such as the 1% Sales Tax success.

The city's website is now five years old, but had an update completed in 2023. It continues to be a strong way to connect with citizens and visitors. 27,050 visitors in 2023 spent an average of 2:24 on the site. However, page views dropped to 87,754, compared to 117,159 in 2022. The most visited page is the On-Line Bill Pay section, with 14,414 views. New pictures, and some minor format changes will occur in 2024, hoping to see the page views increase. Also, a more updated website calendar will help views. Placed on the website are the minutes for Council Meetings, dating back to 2007. Another feature of the website is the "Contact Us" section. This allows residents to send quick comments, complaints, etc. through the website. I receive all of these and distribute them to the proper personnel. I also require them to copy me on any action, so I know it is completed. This feature has had almost five hundred submissions since it went live. Many forms have been added to the site, with the goal to increase the "fill-in" forms.

The website also ties to a free app, which allows notifications to be sent immediately to alert users about things like water boil orders, road closures, emergency weather alerts, etc. The items can be cross posted to Facebook at the same time. The Water Board uses this to issue and



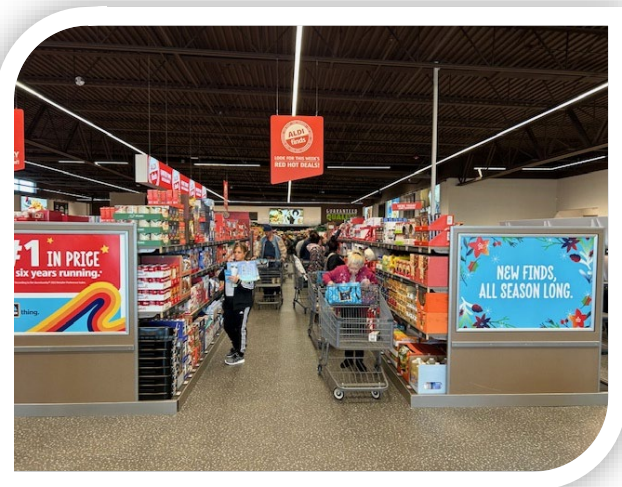
release all boil orders, and I encourage all departments to use the site for their information, as well.

The City of Moundsville's Facebook Page continues to be highly active and has grown exponentially since its creation. Over 1,000 followers were added in 2023, bringing the total to over 6,000. A diverse type of posts is seen on the Facebook page, administered by City Manager Healy and Administrative Secretary Jasenec. Posts include event announcement and follow-ups, projects, employment opportunities, department highlights, Council presentations, share of local events, and much more. Using social media allows posts to be made anytime to thousands of people, at absolutely no expense. From December 8, 2023, to January 5, 2024, Facebook posts reached 50,515 people, with over 12,000 engagements (likes, comments, shares. etc.). Other city entities also operate their own website including the Police and Fire Departments, Water Department, Arts & Culture Commission, and Friends of Park and Recreation. Additionally, we use the Facebook Messenger function to receive questions, comments, etc. (again at any time of the day or night).

A new video project, professionally created and produced by local firm Wheelhouse Creative, was completed in 2023, and will be debuted in early 2024. This video will be placed on all social media sites and will be available for anyone who requests information about Moundsville. I am excited about this project, with the initial draft video looking great. This was the idea of Councilman Randy Chamberlain, and is funded by the 1% Sales Tax (Buffer Account)

## New Developments

There were five projects (residential, commercial, and public entities) that started new or redevelopment projects that had contract values of \$100,000 or more. The cumulative total being \$13,133,112.75, up from \$10,386,035.50. This is the largest amount since 2015, with the exception of 2019, when the Holiday Inn Express & Suites was constructed. The largest project is the new Health Department at \$8,994,000, followed by the ALDI construction at \$2,100,000. Following that were the EQT and WVU Medicine remodel at the Teletech Building (\$1,179,006), a private residence at 505 Washington Avenue (\$360,039.75), Kroger Plaza Remodel (\$252,670), and additional work at Walmart (\$247,397).



## New Business Openings (based on Occupancy Certificates issued by Building Inspection)

✚ Aldi	200 Lafayette Avenue
✚ Red Dragon Hybrid Tae Kwon Do	229 Jefferson Avenue
✚ The Future of Moundsville Youth Center	1310 2nd Street
✚ D&E Services	11 Ash Avenue
✚ Wash-Rite Car Wash	75 Teletech Drive
✚ Cherryhaze Tattoo	1012 2nd Street
✚ Up in Smoke Vape Shop	403 Jefferson Avenue
✚ Kathy's Krafts and Gifts	343 Jefferson Avenue Unit 1G, 2nd Location

## Businesses that Relocated in 2023

✚ E And K Sports Cards	244 Jefferson Avenue
✚ Re'Decorate Consignment	318 Jefferson Avenue
✚ Collins Tech LLC	505 Grant Avenue
✚ Interim Healthcare	245 Jefferson Avenue Unit 1G
✚ Joe's Pre-Owned Autos LLC	1012 Lafayette Avenue

Additional locations receiving occupancy certificates were Walmart, due to a major remodel; Rumer Loudin purchased Whipkey Heating & Cooling; and one private residence.

## Building Inspection Department

Joe Richmond, Senior Building Inspector

Buddy Smith, Building Inspector

Danielle Harmon, Administrative Tech

The make-up of this three-person staff changed in 2023, when a Building Inspector left, an Administrative Tech was hired in place. Ms. Danielle Harmon has taken a lot of duties off of the two Building Inspectors and allowed them to concentrate on more fieldwork. Ms. Harmon has increased communication and also suggested and instituted an on-line routing process for all Building Permits. This not only prevents a permit from being issued if the contractor does not have a current license or owes past B&O Tax, but also allows all departments to be aware of the upcoming project and make comments. For instance, in the past, a project may have started before the Stormwater Department even knew about it. Now, they can add their comments and talk to the contractor if needed. Also added in 2023 was mandatory Pre-Construction Meetings for demolition and larger commercial projects. This increases the communication level, but also helps alleviate problems during construction. Still working from the Sanitation Office building, the staff looks forward to re-joining City Hall in the new building. Department responsibilities include building permits, contractor licensing, inspections, property maintenance/nuisance complaints, junk car and overgrown grass complaints, among other things. The staff returned to in-person training, with 81 hours combined training for the department.

Building permits increased again to 787, after a high of 693 in 2022, an increase of 13%. The highest activity month was August with ninety-eight permits issued. A better accountability

system for larger projects (requiring all subcontractors to obtain proper permits and licensing), and a more watchful eye on contractors working in the community without permits has helped this number. But, truthfully, progress continues in Moundsville, and the numbers show it. Total inspections completed dropped to 1,252, with the biggest decrease in complaint and follow-up inspections. In keeping with the curve, construction inspections increased from 99 to 190.

Complaints reached an all-time high of 442 in 2023. 233 of those complaints were closed, at an almost 51% rate. The largest number of complaints filed was 87, for excess vegetation (mainly high grass), followed by trash, rubbish, etc. on property at 52, public nuisance at 47, and dilapidated structures at 44. Others were for junk vehicles, working without a permit, zoning, and miscellaneous. The highest month was March, most likely with high grass being the culprit. Inspections completed numbered 1,252, with almost 1,000 of these being complaint inspections. The next highest number was construction inspections at 190. The balance of the inspections were residential and commercial occupancy, pre-construction/purchase, and post-fire.

Fourteen structures were demolished (up from ten), some by the city, others privately. Notable demolitions included the former Giant Eagle grocery store (to make way for ALDIs, and the Marshall County Health Department, and the former Journal building, to make way for a new Health Department. Two long-standing problem structures on Jefferson Avenue and Locust Avenue also came down. Much success has been realized with demolition grants, unfortunately, because they are federal and state dollars, the process has been slow. A State of West Virginia Community Development Block Grant, awarded in 2021, is for an eight-house demolition project. The city will pay for two of the structures, with the grant paying for eight. In 2023, the city was awarded a RAISE Demolition Grant (\$125,600) to demolish five structures, and a DLAP Demolition Grant (\$244,500) to demolish thirteen structures. The fact that the city previously participated in the BAD Buildings Program had a bearing on the award of the DLAP grant. Although we are in the “waiting game” for bid advertisement and other approvals, I am confident all of these demolitions will happen in 2024 – at almost NO COST to the city.



## City Hall Offices

Rick Healy, City Manager

Sara Jasenec, Administrative Secretary

Sondra Hewitt, City Clerk

Karen Ankrom, Finance Director

Lacey Williams, Treasurer

Lucretia Maine, Data Processing

Stephanie Aston, Data Processing

Amber Cunningham, Revenue Collector

Julie Mitchell, Cashier

There were no personnel changes in 2023, with the current staff boasting 121 total years of service to the City of Moundsville (excluding the Building Inspectors).

Two additional modules of the Accu-Fund system that have been on hold are the Work Order and Purchase Order modules. The Work Order module will finally be purchased in early 2024, with the P.O. Module to follow. Both of these will lessen paperwork within the office and increase efficiency. Most employees are cross-trained, and staff shortages due to vacations or sick days are managed, with little interruption. TSG, our IT professional partner, continues to handle all problems timely, offering a help desk, and preventative maintenance visits. These visits recommend replacement and repairs before a problem crops up and have been very helpful to the overall health of the computer infrastructure system. Obviously, they will play a large part in 2024 with the new building networking system.

The staff is looking forward with much anticipation to the new building.

## Parks & Recreation Department

John White, Director

Heath Logsdon, Working Foreman



**“Valley Fork Baseball Complex – the nicest facility in the entire region for youth sports.”**

This department continues to expand in equipment, services, and programming. Success continued in 2023, with the vision of providing “something that others do not” continuing. New additions to the park system included two new Hillside Slides at the East End Complex and a completely new playground at Riverfront Park. Many other improvements were made and are

listed below. With the consent of City Council, starting wages for all park personnel positions were raised in an attempt to be competitive with other area parks, especially at the lifeguard position. This, along with the paid training feature, has helped acquire and maintain staff. At year end, the pool has nine certified lifeguards (three more than last year end), eight Desk Attendants (three more than last year end), one part-time support worker (one less than last year end), one full-time Director, and one full-time Working Foreman for a total of twenty people (five more than last year-end). The department continues to provide opportunities to pay for lifeguard certifications on a one-year payback obligation to increase our lifeguard staffing.

Capital projects continue to be an important part of the revitalization of the park system. In 2023. Many projects were completed:

- ✚ New light poles and LED fixtures were installed at the East End Park Bronco Field, replacing 50+ year old hardware. This was a huge improvement over the existing lighting and was utilized throughout the summer and fall.
- ✚ New fencing was installed at East End Park along Railroad Street. This leaves the 4th Street side to be replaced in 2024.
- ✚ Purchased and installed two thirty-foot hill slides for the East End Playground. The slides were installed in June and have been a fantastic addition. The slide opening was commemorated by a race between the City Manager and the Mayor. In full transparency, Mayor Wood-Shaw won twice!
- ✚ A new playground was installed and commissioned at Riverfront Park. This was the final playground that was replaced since 2019. The new playground includes multiple sliding boards, a new four swing bay, spring-loaded teeter totter, and a new Kinetics Twirl which is a latest look merry-go-round.
- ✚ Installed five new fitness stations at Park View including pull-up bars, push-up bars, chest compression station, curl bench, and a squat balance ball. This was a fantastic addition to the park. This, along with two new in-ground trash cans and the playground equipment at Park View, was part of a Land & Water Grant Project.
- ✚ Purchased and received a new Aqua-Droid for the swimming pool. This is used for cleaning the pool bottom, unassisted.
- ✚ A new Dog Park was installed at Riverfront Park. Fencing, two fire hydrants, and a common entry area were installed to help provide a place where patrons can take their pets. Further amenities will be added in 2024.
- ✚ Purchased a Polaris Ranger in July to help with park maintenance.
- ✚ Installed four cameras at the Valley Fork Baseball Complex.
- ✚ Replaced lighting in the side parking lot at Four seasons Pool.



Equipment alone cannot truly improve the quality of life for citizens and visitors. An interesting and versatile slate of programs and activities must be initiated/maintained to do this. In 2023 the following activities were completed:

- ✚ In conjunction with the group “Friends of Park & Rec,” another “Concert in the Park” event was held at the East End Shelter on May 26th featuring Tammy Jo and Ironhorse. Approximately forty people attended.
- ✚ ISR (Infant Swimming Resource) Program continued at Four Seasons Pool during the winter and fall.
- ✚ Continued managing the mandatory background check policy for all youth coaches, utilizing JDP in Pittsburgh.
- ✚ The Four Seasons Pool hosted Family Fun Nights every Wednesday from 6-8 PM during the summer months. Admission is only \$1 per person and includes a bottle of water and chips. The event was popular, with 380 people attending.
- ✚ Held the 3rd annual Easter bag drive-through giveaway. Approximately 200 kids were presented with treat bags full of candy and surprises plus an opportunity to be greeted by the Easter Bunny. The event this year grew with partners setting up additional stations which included crafts, painting, and other handouts.
- ✚ Provided support to the Marshall County Soccer Club following some field flooding. Staff assisted with cleanup efforts expending approximately 80 man-hours of support.
- ✚ Supported our second season of Middle School Baseball. Moundsville and Sherrard utilized the East End Colt Field as their home field for the season.
- ✚ Continued to increase the usage of the East End baseball fields. Games were played by Moundsville Baseball, Girls Softball, and several travelling teams. Many youth baseball teams had the opportunity to play evening games at the Bronco Field, some under the



lights, some with music and introductions, all giving them excitement to play at “the big field.”

- ✚ Supported partner Marshall County Family Resource Network with the food giveaways at East End, providing space, assistance, and traffic control.

- ✚ Supported several charity events including the Steve Gitlin and the Stephanie’s All-Stars memorial tournaments.

- ✚ The City Arts and Culture Commission sponsored three movie nights at East End Park featuring “Puss in Boots,” “Bad Guys” and “Super Mario Bros”. All were very well attended.

- ✚ The East End Colt Baseball field was used for Marshall County Flag Football.

- ✚ Continued to support the multiple softball leagues utilizing city fields, including Men’s and Co-Ed leagues.

- ✚ Held several paddleboard yoga classes at Four Seasons Pool.
- ✚ The Marshall County Swim Team utilized the pool in June and July.
- ✚ The John Marshall High School swim team continued to utilize the pool for practices and hosted four swim meets.
- ✚ The Kayak club continued utilizing the pool during the winter months on Sunday mornings.
- ✚ St. Johns High School held their after-prom party on April 27th at Four Seasons pool.
- ✚ McNinch Primary and Center McMechen Elementary schools held their end of the year parties at Four Seasons Pool in May.
- ✚ Supported the Friends of Parks and Rec annual yard sale on July 2nd at East End.
- ✚ Hosted two charity pickleball tournaments at East End.
- ✚ Supported Community Day by offering free admission to the pool along with free hot dogs, chips, and drinks. A total of 53 people attended the event.
- ✚ Supported “Yoga in the Park” at Riverfront Park on Tuesdays from June through August.
- ✚ Continued to host pool parties Friday and Saturday evenings and all-day Sunday (three time slots).
- ✚ Commissioned the new Bicycle Rental program at Riverfront Park. Repairs were made to the Movatic bikes in order to provide rentals.
- ✚ Held a Halloween pool party on October 28 with \$1 admission. Treat bags were provided to all kids. 118 people attended.
- ✚ Offered the annual 15% discount for pool passes during the holiday season and offered a one-day Black Friday deal on passes with a 25% discount. A total of 78 passes were sold for a revenue of \$11,880.
- ✚ Held the 4th annual Christmas Splash Party at Four Seasons Pool featuring Santa and the Grinch. Free kids gift bags along with pizza and drinks were provided. The event was very well attended with approximately 200 people.
- ✚ The Four Seasons Pool had **17,333** swimmers this year for a revenue of **\$116,939**, our highest in recent years.
- ✚ The Concession Stand operated most days offering hot dogs, nachos, pepperoni rolls, ice cream, and other packaged snacks and drinks. Pool concession stand revenues for 2023 totaled \$14,538.

Many improvements and/or modifications were also made:

- ✚ The pool was drained and painted during the month of March with help from the pool staff and the Northern Regional Jail who provided 6 helpers. The interior of the building was painted as needed. Repairs were made to



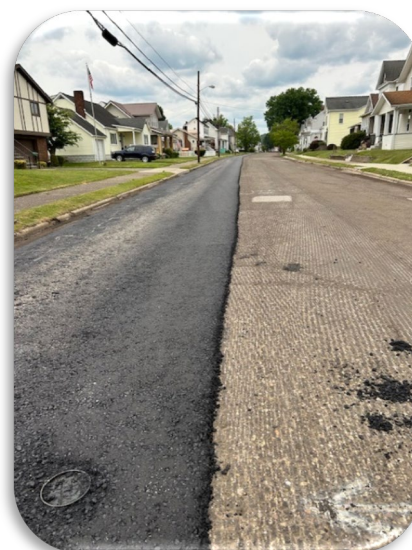
the return trough system sealing suspicious cracked areas. New floor drains were installed in both locker rooms. New carpeting was installed in the lobby area. The pool opened ahead of schedule on March 23, having only been closed for 22 days.

- ✚ The Moundsville Stormwater Board completed their work, which included installing new pipes across both of the pool parking lots.
- ✚ A new digital welcome sign was purchased and placed into use at the pool.
- ✚ The split rail fencing surrounding the fields at Valley Fork Park continued to be replaced, as needed. In 2023, twelve sections of the fencing were completed.
- ✚ Continuing the partnership with Goodwill Industries, the split rail fencing at Valley Fork was stained and the restrooms at Riverfront Park were painted. This program supplies labor at no cost to the city and provides income and job training for those who are eligible. This is the fourth year out of the last five (COVID - no program) that this program has been utilized.
- ✚ Continued the “Buy a Bench” program, installing thirty-five new benches at different parks throughout the city. This brings a program total to ninety-six benches.
- ✚ The Parks and Recreation Department lawn maintenance contracts continued for Valley Fork Baseball/Soccer Complex, Riverfront Park, and the Girls Softball Complex. In-house staff covered the other parks.

Pickleball continues to become more popular. The two courts at East End remain busy, with a third court with portable net on the second basketball court. Parks and Recreation worked safely with only one injury that occurred at the Four Seasons Pool. A lifeguard slipped on her floatation device and fell on her knees, causing a strain and bruising. An investigation and meeting were held with George Carter, John White, and the injured employee to determine root cause and action items to prevent reoccurrence.

## Street Paving

The base for this year’s paving list was the balance of previous lists. A contract was awarded for \$535,483.98, which was under budget. This was to complete one rotation street and six sections of other streets. A subsequent change order was approved for an additional \$142,365.81 to cover three more sections of streets and the Morton Avenue Parking Lot, bringing the 2023 total to \$677,849.79. After engineering costs of \$21,083.22, the overall program expense came in at \$698,933.01. Over the last few years, sections of rotation streets have been completed, allowing some breathing room in paving. This will allow more concrete replacement projects. All paving is completed using the Municipal Fee Fund and the Municipal Sales Tax Fund. The 2022 paving program paved sections of eleven streets in Moundsville, for a total commitment of \$598,306.33. Since 2019, Council has approved **\$3,096,866.63** in paving improvements.





## Public Works Department

Frank Stocklask, Director

Kevin Wallace, Working Foreman – Street Department

Terry Vessels, Working Foreman – Sanitary Department

The sub-departments that fall under Public Works are Street, Sanitation, and Recycling. Staff includes one Director, one Street Working Foreman, one Sanitation Working Foreman, twelve (one under budget) Street Laborers, six Sanitation Laborers, and one Secretary. Council approved two additional workers in the Street Department, and one slot still needs to be filled. The extra help will assist in completing everything needed, plus the extra duties that fall on this department.

### Street Department

This department is the “do-all” department for the city - once taking care of only streets and alleys, their coverage has grown over the past, especially as the city continues to grow. Many tasks are included in the “regular” duties in this department. These include cold patching, sign repair and replacement, grass cutting and trimming (over fifty properties), alley grading and graveling, building and equipment maintenance (one laborer is assigned to this position), snow and ice removal from city streets and city-owned sidewalks, and much more. Grass cutting starts in early spring and continues through fall – five days a week. Two pieces of equipment that the residents and businesses have grown to love and expect include the street sweeper and the leaf vac, both running daily on a seasonal basis.

Superintendent Stocklask often says “We are a phone call away from changing our plans!”

One major project that was accomplished in 2023 was curb painting. While an expensive project, the painting is vital for safety reasons, and really improves the look of Moundsville, especially the main business district. A substantial portion of the city was completed, with paint costs over \$18,000.00!

Fifty-seven alleys were graded, and new gravel added, down from seventy-five. Numerous sections of curb were replaced, and several trees were cut/removed. Two new welcome signs were designed and made to match the others and were installed at the entrance/exit of the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge.



As part of their capital projects for 2023, a new Bucket Truck was placed into service, along with a new crack sealer, and a large tractor/mower (not in service yet). A new 30' x 120' storage shed was constructed at the Sanitation property to house the salt trucks and spreaders at a cost of \$124,700. This will keep equipment and the spreaders off the ground and out of the weather, lengthening their service life.



I cannot stress enough the assistance given by the Street Department to all city departments and functions. Every department that contacts them is assisted. Additionally, several community events could not happen without the Street Department. Some of those include:



- ✚ Marshall County FRN with food giveaways.
- ✚ Most Arts & Culture events.
- ✚ Marshall County Chamber of Commerce for the Car Show and Christmas Parade.
- ✚ Parks & Recreation Department on many occasions.
- ✚ Super Kids Soap Box Derby for line painting and traffic control material.
- ✚ Moundsville Historic Landmarks Commission installing brackets to extend the banner displays.
- ✚ Exclusively hang and exchange banners along the Historic Business District.
- ✚ All city Christmas decorations.

Materials to repair streets and alleys, and salt and cinders for winter continue to increase yearly. With the limited number of callouts in 2023, a strong supply of salt and cinders is in stock. Materials purchased included 400 tons of cinders, 100 tons of road salt, 300 tons of alley gravel, 80 tons of cold patch, and one ton of calcium. The cost for those items was \$41,507.00, down from \$54,706.00. The department also operates a sign shop, which saves the city time and money when adding or replacing signs and banners. Signs are also made and sold to other municipalities and the Board of Education.

## Sanitation Department

This department operates with seven employees and four garbage trucks on a six-day work week collecting all the residential and commercial garbage in the city. For the third year in a row, the amount of garbage collected and dumped actually reduced from the prior year, amounting to 6,701.69 tons, compared to 7,000+ tons last year. With business growth, this seems unusual.

Recycling definitely helps, but not to that amount. Because of that, tipping fees were less - \$211,103 in 2023 compared to \$223,000 in 2022. Regardless, Sanitation fee collections continue to be strong, proving this can be a profitable business. A new packer truck is on order, approved as part of the current year's budget.

## Recycling

The Recycling Program continued to grow in 2023, by adding plastic bags and films to its eligible collection items. The Center now collects mixed paper and cardboard, glass jars, and plastic bags/film. The program was funded with another grant of \$28,630.00 in 2023, allowing the program to operate at no cost to the city. Entities may apply every other year, so 2024 will be funded fully by the city's 1% sales tax. An application for 2025 will be filed on July 1, 2024.

Three thousand, three hundred sixty-five (3,365) vehicles came through the drop-off center in 2023, averaging over 65 per week (some vehicles brought multiple types of products). Cardboard and mixed paper was the highest at 2,618, glass at 677, and plastic (added in December) was 70. The mixed paper and cardboard roll-off dumpster was replaced 22 times, for a total of 40.80 tons of recycled paper/cardboard. There has not been a pick-up of glass to date as it accumulates in the bin. Plastic bags and film were just added in December and has not been taken to the drop off center yet. A key piece of the plastic drop off is that when a certain amount is collected in one-year, a free community bench is shipped, made from recycled products! And there is extremely minimal cost to the city.

Due to the lack of suitable candidates, Superintendent Stocklask and City Manager Healy have shared the role of Recycling Coordinator. Two Street Department employees work at the Center on Saturdays during public drop-off, with Recreation assisting during summer months.

## Public Safety

### Police Department

Thomas Mitchell, Chief

Steve Kosek, Lieutenant

Three officers joined the department in 2023, while two departed. Austin Pedelose, who left the Moundsville PD, has returned after spending time with the McMechen Police Department. Peter Barton, formerly of the Benwood PD, has been hired as a Patrolman. Anthony White has been hired and is preparing to attend the 195<sup>th</sup> Basic Class at the West Virginia State Police Academy. He is scheduled to graduate on April 27, 2024. Both departures were in the rank of Corporal. Those vacancies and one additional vacancy allowed three promotions to that level: Peyton Geary, Eric Burton, and Joe Pyles.

In the Dispatch/Support Staff, one part-time dispatcher was moved to a full-time position, but also left employment in 2023. Another former part-time dispatcher has returned. A need for additional dispatchers seems likely.

The Department utilized Highway Safety Grants, used for working DUI, Project Red, Click it or Ticket, and cell phone enforcement grants. They also received a HIDITA (Drug Task Force)

reimbursement of \$19,000. Additional funding was received from the Small Rural Tribal Body Camera Grant for \$19,000 to assist in paying for new body camera packages for the entire staff.

The Moundsville Police Department again received the “Community Traffic Safety Platinum Award” from AAA. This is the tenth consecutive year the award was received (2020 and 2021 were not awarded due to COVID).

The Department completed a total of 779 hours of in-service training, including Firearms Qualifications, Daylight and Lowlight, and Sexual Harassment. Other trainings included: Law Enforcement Administration, Management, and Supervision; CDL/CMV Enforcement for the Patrol Officer, Human Trafficking, Social Networking Site Investigations, Criminal Patrol Drug Interdiction, Patrol response to Suspicious Death and Homicide, Advanced Traffic Stops, Advanced Search and Seizure, Gatlinburg LE Conference, Retention of Personnel, FBI National Academy – WV Training Conference, Instructor Development Course, and Advanced Mobile Device Examiner Program.

Two new 2023 Dodge Chargers were purchased using 1% Sales Tax proceeds, to replace two 2012 Chargers, both with over 100,000 miles. This continues the effort to update the fleet of cruisers. These retired vehicles were the first vehicles purchased newly when Council approved the “take home” cruiser program. This program has made the fleet stronger and is the industry standard for police departments. Note: both retired vehicles were recently sold in a surplus sale, netting over \$1,000 for each.

As noted earlier, new Body Worn Cameras were purchased to replace the original cameras, that were purchased through a grant. Like all technology, the new cameras are superior to the older ones, and use cloud-based storage. Also, using 1% Sales Tax proceeds, a drone package was purchased, which is a valuable tool for many different situations, including finding, tracking, and drug control. Safety being primary, seven sets of new body armor were purchased to replace five that have exceeded their five-year life span, and two for new officers.

For the second year in a row, the department has seen a slight decline in calls for response. Calls numbered 4,794, a decrease of 357, or 7%. The daily average is just over thirteen calls per day. After dropping to 510 in 2022, citations increased to 605, a 16% increase. The largest cause for citation is First Offense Shoplifting at 64, followed by Parking/Storing Vehicle on the Street at 38.

The largest occurrence by officer was a Person/Welfare Check at 422, followed by Suspicious Person at 381. The highest arresting offense was again First Offense Shoplifting at 56, down slightly from 2022, followed by Public Intoxication at 26.

The Police Department has a secure Drug Drop-Off Box for unwanted pharmaceuticals. Collections totaled 250 pounds 7 ounces, an increase of 18%. This program, in which the Department collects these in a secure location, allows for proper disposal by the DEA. Since beginning this program in 2012 - 3,147 pounds, 5 ounces of unwanted pharmaceuticals have been disposed safely.

An increase in complaints to City Hall and at Council Meetings regarding “nuisance” issues prompted a Town Hall Style Meeting arranged by the City Manager. This was held at the Strand Theatre and allowed citizens to register their complaints dealing with these types of problems. Over forty people wrote, spoke, and/or attended the meeting. At the table were City Council, City Manager, Building Inspectors, Municipal Court Judges, City Prosecutor, and City Attorney. Common comments received were:

- Increased overnight traffic throughout the city, mainly on bicycles.
- Trash or garbage “pickers” that litter areas.
- Stop sign violations.
- Speeding violations.

After hearing and compiling these comments, an internal follow-up meeting will be held in early 2024 to discuss these issues. The goal is to determine what, if anything, can be done to halt or slow these types of problems.

## Fire Department

Gary Brandon, Chief

Steven Bailey, Firefighter

Kevin Kimple, Assistant Chief

Evan Mobley, Firefighter

Brittany DaGrava, Firefighter

The five-person Fire Department has handled having their headquarters relocated the best they possibly could but are looking forward to their new station in 2024.

In 2023, the City Fire Department again hit a new record for total calls, as they responded to 813 calls, up from 759 in 2022. This averages 3.1 calls per day. Expectedly but fortunately, the highest call total was for EMS assist calls at 543, up from 485, just over two daily. Other high number calls included 105 lift assists, 49 motor vehicle accidents, 25 fire alarms, 14 service calls, and 10 structure fires (of which three were ruled arson). Other calls included lines down, odor, investigations, call outs, DOA, smoke, illegal burning, Police Department assistance, river search, landing zone, hazmat, general fire, tree down, oven fire, brush fire, dumpster fire, lock out, water leak, and land search. The department also responded to 30 mutual aid calls (down slightly) and issued 157 burning permits. The busiest month was January with 80 calls, and the slowest month was May with 52 calls. Sixteen calls were turned over due to lack of manpower (calls received while on another call). 151 business inspections were completed, 23 inspections for the Building Enforcement Agency, and 27 pre-planning inspections were completed (all highs over last year).

As always, training took a large role in 2023, with total person-hours of training at 1,314, almost doubling last year. Noteworthy trainings included Fire School in Sissonville, WV (three staff attended 6 days, and 1 attended 3 days), Firefighter 1 (Bailey), Building Construction, Life Safety Initiatives, Wildland Firefighting, EMT, Mass Casualty Incident, Live Burn, Firefighter Skills, Pediatric Diabetic Emergency, Auto Extraction, Structure Collapse, Positive Pressure Fan trainings.

Fire Chief Brandon and his department are also responsible for the Fireworks Display area, and they also assist local business GKT with their Christmas event, by bringing Santa in by firetruck.

The Child Safety Program continued, with nine swimming vests and six bike helmets distributed at no charge. They also provided thirty-two smoke detectors to residents, seventeen of which were installed.

## Arts and Culture Commission

This nine-person, fully volunteer commission, was originally created in 2019. Since then, they have not stopped. Events sponsored in 2023:

- ✚ Create with MACC – these events showcase an artistic talent, and provide an instructor, supplies, and snacks.
  - Calligraphy
  - Photography
  - Charcuterie Boards
- ✚ Super Kids Soapbox Derby – assisted by providing supplies for participants.
- ✚ Appalachian Dinner – this dinner held at Riverfront Park highlights Appalachian foods and provides an on-site local chef to prepare, serve, and explain the meal. Music and regional drinks round out the evening. This event is the only event that charges an admission fee. In 2023, two dinners were held.
- ✚ Outdoor Movie Nights – fast becoming a favorite for kids and families, this event continues to grow in attendance. Held at East End Park, families bring blankets, chairs, snacks, and drinks and enjoy a free movie shown on a large inflatable screen. Popcorn and drinks are also served at no charge.
  - Puss in Boots
  - Bad Guys
  - Super Mario Brothers
  - Hocus Pocus
- ✚ Jefferson Fridays – this is the “premier” event for the Commission, offering live music, food trucks, and a beer garden all nestled in the middle of the Historic Business District on Jefferson Avenue. Easily attracting 1,000, this is drawing people from all over the region.
- ✚ Pumpkin Painting – another family favorite with hundreds of pumpkins, paint, snacks, and drinks available for kids to decorate.
- ✚ Christmas on the Avenue – I have described this by saying “this is as close to a Hallmark Movie that you will find.” As always, everything is free, offering train and carriage rides, homemade hot chocolate, ornament and cookie decorating, other crafts, food trucks, tree lighting, and of course – Santa Claus!





## Utilities

### Water Department

Terry Roberts, Superintendent

Paul Hewitt, Foreman

The Moundsville Water Department, overseen by a three-member board, controls the entire water system in the City of Moundsville. This includes operation of a state-of-the-art treatment plant and large distribution system, which serves approximately 4500 customers in Moundsville. The Water Department includes a staff of fifteen, including: Superintendent Terry Roberts, five Water Operators, five Laborers on the Maintenance/Distribution Crew, and four Office Staff. one at the Water Treatment Plant and three in the Billing Office. A new Laborer was hired for the Maintenance/Distribution crew in 2023. He replaced a Maintenance Crew employee who left to go to District #4. Willis Howard retired as a Class II Water Operator after 15 years of service. He was replaced by Benjamin Gilbert, who started out as a Class I Operator, but with his accumulated time he was able to obtain his Class II license and step into the vacant Water Operator position.

Beyond the routine responsibilities such as the operation of the plant and the maintenance of the distribution system, the department also completed the following projects in 2023:

- ✚ New well installation. This project, which was paid for by American Rescue Plan funds, is 85% complete. The pump and plumbing are yet to be installed.
- ✚ Planning for a waterline replacement on Eighth Street and Ninth Street, using ARP funds. Both projects will eliminate old infrastructure and increase fire protection. Both projects will be completed in early 2024.
  - The Eighth Street replacement is from Henrietta Avenue to Juniper Avenue, calls for replacement of an existing 2” waterline with 6” waterline, and adding an additional fire hydrant.
  - The Ninth Street replacement is from Ash Avenue to Henrietta Avenue calls for replacement of an existing 2” waterline with 6” waterline.
- ✚ Installed two insertion valves on Seventh Street in preparation for the Eighth & Ninth Streets Waterline Replacement Project.
- ✚ Installed 65’ of 2” waterline on Eastern Ninth Street to complete a loop by connecting to the 8” waterline on Juniper Avenue.
- ✚ Installed a 2” waterline on Henrietta Avenue from Ninth Street to Seventh Street to complete a second loop ensuring available water service for the customers in that area.
- ✚ Expanded the scope of the state-mandated Backflow/Cross Connection Prevention program within the City of Moundsville.
- ✚ Repaired twenty-five main water line breaks ranging from 2” to 8” waterlines.
- ✚ Repaired or replaced eighteen water service lines.
- ✚ Flushed fire hydrants and made any necessary repairs to the 195 hydrants in our system. A new fire hydrant was installed at Cherokee Drive and Leatherwood Drive.
- ✚ Assisted with the Phase I testing portion of the Marshall County Commission's Fire Hydrant Project.



- ✚ Performed routine maintenance and needed repairs to water meters and meter pits, as well as replacement of any defective meters.
- ✚ Mowed and trimmed many acres of grass in the well field, around the Water Plant, and at the Reservoir throughout the spring/summer/fall growing season.
- ✚ Filled in areas that have been repaired with blacktop or concrete.
- ✚ Completed all maintenance and upkeep required on vehicles and equipment.
- ✚ Continued the EPA's mandated Lead Service Line Inventory, by completing physical inspection and documentation of over 3,844 of the 4,500 services in our system, with the immediate replacement of any lead lines that have been located.
- ✚ Cleaned the filter beds and cleaned and replaced the filters in the nanofiltration system.
- ✚ Aided the City of Bethlehem Water Department in an emergency situation by installing an 8" insertion valve on a main waterline.

## Sanitary/Stormwater Department

Brock Castilow, Superintendent

Tim Minor, Assistant Superintendent

The Moundsville Sanitary/Stormwater Utility Board is maintained by a staff of thirteen (13). The staff includes a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Laboratory Technician, three (3) plant operators, one (1) mechanic/electrician, one (1) sanitary/stormwater foreman, two (2) sanitary system maintenance workers, two (2) stormwater system maintenance workers and one (1) Administrative Assistant. The treatment plant is staffed seven days a week with at least one operator working day shift and afternoon shift.

The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Lab Technicians, Plant Operators and Maintenance /Electrician all must hold a Wastewater Certification with the State of West Virginia. All Sanitary and Stormwater employees must hold a Collection System Certification with the State of West Virginia. All Certification must be renewed every two years. Certification renewal can only occur by obtaining continuing educational credits.

In addition to the continuing education credits, employees also attend onsite training covering diverse topics. In 2023, the employee training hours totaled 255 hours, up from 167.5 the previous year.

The laboratory must be certified yearly by West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). To remain a WVDEP Certified Laboratory, the Lab Technician must pass an on-sight inspection and two sets of unknown samples. The Laboratory Technician performs analysis on the influent, plant effluent and sludge cake that is sent to landfill and various process control tests to monitor the plants efficiency. These test results are reported to WVDEP to assure compliance with our discharge permit. In addition to the testing performed in house, we utilize outside labs monthly for additional required testing.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant processed 673.3 million gallons of treated discharge for the calendar year. That number is actually down from 736.3 million gallons. Based on the filed West Virginia Public Service Commission (PSC) report, 55.97 % of the treated discharge is

inflow and infiltration (I & I) which we do not receive revenues to treat. Obviously, this number should continue to decrease as sewers are separated, and problem areas are addressed. In 2023, that number did decrease by 3%.

Treatment of the wastewater includes flow through bar screens, a grit tank, primary clarifiers, aeration tanks, final clarifiers, and passage through an ultraviolet (UV) system before entering the Ohio River at mile point 102.5. The treatment process averaged a daily removal of 96.1% of CBOD and 97.0% of the suspended solids.

Digested sludge is processed by two Ashbrook Belt Presses to remove water and create a sludge cake averaging 24.2% solids. Operators processed 1,229 wet tons of sludge cake for the year. Sludge cake is then disposed at Short Creek Landfill.

The collection system received 277 sewer complaints from residents, up from 189. Other work performed included smoke testing, televising, and cleaning sewer main and service laterals.

Recorded rainfall for 2023 was 41.91". There were 9 rain events at 1.0" or more, 2 of which were greater than 1.5".

The Sanitary Department has been developing a major project that is currently in the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council (IJDC) clearinghouse. Bonds will be needed to pay for this vital project, which will replace a 15" main trunk line from 12<sup>th</sup> Street to the plant and includes major plant upgrades. A rate increase will be needed for this project, which will not take effect until the project is substantially complete (mid-2025). The Board hopes Infrastructure Act funding may provide some grants for the project.

Below is a list of the larger projects and expenses for 2023:

❖ Plant Projects

- Replaced a grinder, two screens, two augers and a motor at headworks of plant.
- Replaced bulbs to LED.
- Repaired the roof of the Boiler Building.
- Replaced the motor for recirculation pump for the digester.
- Replaced scum baffle on final clarifier and rebuilt final clarifier skimmer arm.
- Replaced brush and screen on Septage Receiving Station.
- Rebuilt waste pump for thickeners.
- Replaced the boiler lines to the garage.
- Replaced UV bulbs and sleeves on UV system.
- Replaced storm drain at septage receiving station.
- Repaired diffusers in activated sludge tank.

❖ Collection Projects

- Performed a discharge study on Glen Dale's flow compared to what was reported.
- Replaced 45' of 15" sanitary sewer on 4th street.
- Renewed approximately 80' of sewer service to 35 Locust Ave Rear.
- Installed manhole and replaced 100' on 15" interceptor for upcoming project.
- Installed 44 cleanouts on service line.
- Replaced a collapsed manhole on Virginia Street.

#### ❖ Stormwater Projects

- Completed the 36” Storm Sewer Project at Jackson & Mulberry (ARP Funded).
- Cleaned 500 feet of storm sewer on Clinton Avenue - removed 10+ tons of gravel (ARP Funded).
- Replaced two catch basins on Clinton Avenue (ARP Funded).
- Replaced storm sewer and manhole at 7th – 8th Streets on Lockwood Avenue (ARP Funded).

## City Manager Overview

As I look back on the previous year, I am again amazed at our progress. There are multiple reasons that the city has seen much success over the last few years, and I am glad to be a part of that success. The implementation of the 1% Sales Tax, a Council that considers all allocations of those proceeds carefully, partners joining in, an administration with a vision, employees that want to see success, and all of us working together to that end goal – this is what it takes. Parks & Recreation Director White purchased a small plaque for me that now sits on my desk that says, “Teamwork Makes the Dream Work.” How true that is.

As noted above, partnerships continue to be an important part of my administration. Success breeds success, and people/groups/agencies will jump to be a part of something good. That is evident in the continued participation of other parties. Let us look at grant opportunities first. The amount of grant funding received in 2023 was the highest during my tenure at **\$463,315.00!** Highlights of the grants received include: DLAP Demolition Grant (\$244,500), RAISE Demolition Grant (\$25,600), DEP Recycling Grant (\$28,630), and two Evan G. Roberts Grants of \$20,000 each – one for Riverfront Playground and one for the outdoor fitness court. This brings the total of grants received since January 1, 2019, to over **\$914,000.00**. When the CARES Funding and American Rescue Plan grants are included, the City of Moundsville has been the recipient of **\$5,962,134.32**. This number does not include additional upcoming grants for the replacement of the Elm Avenue and Ash Avenue bridges – both fully funded, and likely to cost \$1.5 million each.

The city also continued their partnership with the Marshall County FRN hosting the food giveaways, expanding to the department level. Every department sent at least one person to at least one event in 2023, showing community participation from employees. The FRN also had their Giving Tree at the City Building on two separate occasions, which offers hygiene items, wintry weather gear, and more – for free. Four food “Blessing Boxes” around the city continue to be filled by citizens and groups, including the Moundsville Rotary Club, Simpson and Calvary United Methodist Churches, and the Ladies League of Marshall County. Wesbanco continued their support of our parks with an annual donation for a specific cause in 2023, as did the Marshall County Commission, through their Community Funding Program. Former Delegate Charlie Reynolds made several donations through the House of Delegates funding; Mounds of Nutrition once again donated their proceeds from a 5K race to the city parks system. United Bank regularly supplies bags used for the Easter Drive-Thru event, and the summer and Christmas pool parties. The Arts & Culture Commission has fostered excellent partnerships,

who support their events regularly. This is not a complete list, but the point is made – people want to be a part of our success!

A significant improvement occurred in the Historic Business District with the first upgrade since the Streetscape project in the late 1990s. New benches, trash receptacles, and light globes are now in place on Jefferson Avenue. This project was well received by the small businesses, as well as citizens.



This year, I asked all the departments to participate in the Christmas Parade. I was so pleased when all but one department joined us. It shows the love for the community that our employees have. I also encouraged all departments to be a part of the Marshall County Business Expo, and again, all but one responded. My hope is to have 100% participation this year.



Continuing my goal of being a visible City Manager, I participated in every Ribbon Cutting, Grand Opening, Chamber of Commerce, and community event that I could, including the following:

- ✚ TCL Specialties Marshall County Location Announcement
- ✚ Marshall County Chamber Business Expo
- ✚ Parks & Recreation Easter Drive-thru Event
- ✚ The Tiffany Dlesk Spay & Neuter Clinic Ribbon Cutting
- ✚ Walmart Ribbon Cutting
- ✚ Marshall County Chamber Business After Hours (x2)
- ✚ Marshall County Health Department Groundbreaking
- ✚ Future of Moundsville Youth Center Speaker
- ✚ Presentation to the Marshall County Senior Center
- ✚ Presentation to the Moundsville Rotary Club
- ✚ Marshall County Day of Prayer Speaker
- ✚ Community Day
- ✚ Marshall County Chamber Car Show
- ✚ Marshall County Chamber State of Marshall County Breakfast
- ✚ Read to Central Elementary School Third Grade Class
- ✚ Apple Pie Judge at Moundsville Baptist Church
- ✚ Living My Best Cigar Life Ribbon Cutting
- ✚ RED Partnership Economic Outlook Conference
- ✚ Re'Decorate Consignment Ribbon Cutting
- ✚ Marshall County EMS Grand Opening
- ✚ Marshall County Chamber Tree Gala
- ✚ Marshall County Chamber Tree Auction
- ✚ Red Dragon Tae Kwon Do Ribbon Cutting
- ✚ Toys for Tots Ribbon Cutting
- ✚ Aldis Ribbon Cutting
- ✚ Marshall County Chamber Toy Drive
- ✚ Christmas Parade
- ✚ Small Business Saturday
- ✚ Four Seasons Pool Christmas Party
- ✚ Four Seasons Pool Employee Gift Exchange
- ✚ Two West Virginia Municipal League Conferences



I applied to the West Virginia Municipal League for another “All Star Community Award,” this time for the Arts & Culture Commission success. With high hopes of receiving this award at the Annual Conference in Oglebay, there was disappointment when the awards were completed, and Moundsville was not mentioned. That didn’t last long, however, as the next award was the “Thrasher Vision of Tomorrow Award”, which was awarded to the City of Moundsville. No longer on the back burner, Moundsville is now being recognized statewide. People are noticing what we are doing, and that can only bring respect and additional partnerships.



A substantial portion of my time in 2023 was spent managing the construction of the new Municipal Building. JD&E, the team assembled to assist with oversight has been of great assistance. Any project of this size will have problems develop, and this was no different. All questions and comments are answered as timely as possible. Selecting colors and finishes has proven to be an arduous task, but in the end, we will have a building to be proud of. It will be worth the time spent when it is completed. And how exciting for all of us to be a part of it. The movement of Fire, Police, and Dispatchers into the new building will make employee management better and continue the all-important task of accountability.

The implementation of a committee to listen to the department heads, and devise methods to recruit new employees and maintain the existing staff was valuable, and I hope to see that continue. Council continues to think of our employees and their compensation packages in a fair and equitable manner.

As one of the city’s representatives, I attend all the quarterly Belomar meetings and serve on their Brownfields Task Force, and the Executive and Audit Committees. I also serve on the Marshall County Senior Center Board of Directors, the Marshall County Schools Pride & Progress Committee, and the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade Committee.

I am now beginning my sixth year as City Manager. Theodore Roosevelt quoted **“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”** This is certainly work worth doing. We are changing people’s lives for the better – residents, businesses, and employees. As I continue down the path as City Manager, Moundsville is better today than yesterday, better this year than last year, and still progressing forward. I have the “prize”, and am blessed to be in this position as a part of the progress!

The enjoyable part of compiling this report is seeing what has been accomplished in the previous year. With so many people doing so many things, often things are forgotten. This brings all of these things together into one comprehensive report. Although it does take considerable time, it amazes me when I “look back” and see and report on all of the remarkable things happening in Moundsville. Employees working together, departments working together, Council and City Administration working together, improvements to facilities and equipment, new and continued partnerships – all of these things for one reason. To make Moundsville a better place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

The completion of this report would not be possible without the assistance of all of my Department Heads, who provide valuable information to me monthly and at year-end, and my staff, who assist me daily, especially my secretary Sara Jasenec. The city employees do their jobs daily and work hard to see our vision through. Thank you to them! Mayor Wood-Shaw, Vice-Mayor Wood, and all of City Council work with and support me regularly. Thank you! And lastly, my family, especially my wife Beth, who always has been, and always will be my biggest supporter. Having someone to bounce ideas and thoughts off of is vital, especially in this position. Thank you all!

2024 is starting to be another strong year. Construction is occurring all over the city, businesses are opening, and the financial numbers are strong. Looking ahead, the completion of an outdoor fitness center (only the second in West Virginia), a completed municipal building, continued efforts to equip and staff our departments, and the possibility of an indoor recreation center – all in our view! This makes the future exciting. Let’s keep the success going and watch Moundsville keep moving forward!

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Richard P. Healy, City Manager

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Date