



**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT  
DECEMBER 20, 2021**

**5 WEST MAIN STREET UPDATE:**

Van Buren County Board of Commissioners formally approved the funding from the ARPA funds for the stabilization of the building during a regular meeting held on November 23, 2021. The County Treasurer is working out a suitable schedule with the contractor for the start of the project. I want to thank the Commissioners and the County Treasurer for the hard work and support for the project. It would be nice to see this building brought back to productive use again.

**INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY EASEMENT REQUEST:**

The request for an Easement at the Water Plant property has been sent to the City Attorney for review and recommendation. At this point, the City Attorney and the Power Company have not agreed on acceptable language to go into the easement. They will continue to discuss it until there is acceptable language to both. I will bring back the request to you for review once we receive the acceptable language from the City Attorney. There is a tentative agreement to meet at the site sometimes in January of 2022.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT EQUITY PROJECT:**

The meeting with the Rural Development of the Department of Agriculture on December 8, 2021 created additional opportunities for the City and the Township to access additional programs for eligible projects for both public, private and nonprofit organizations. The City's location within certain census tracts in Michigan created opportunities to access funding for several projects including housing, economic development, infrastructures and broadband that could create benefits to the City. I am presently discussing a Streetscape Project along West Main Street under these programs. We are going to apply for a Rural Business Development Grant to improve West Main Street.

**SPONSORSHIP FOR MATT KUZMA FOR POLICE ACADEMY:**

I stated in my letter to the City Commission that the Police Department is facing some challenges regarding employment and retention of our officers. Therefore, I am proposing the sponsorship of Matt Kuzma, with the intention of engaging him in an agreement to work for the City for a minimum of four (4) years after certification.

The City Attorney would draft a detailed agreement to cover the conditions of the sponsorship and employment.