



City of
Moundsville



February 4, 2025

2024 YEAR-END REPORT

**PRESENTED TO COUNCIL
BY
RICHARD HEALY**

Mayor David Wood
Vice-Mayor Sara Wood-Shaw
Councilman Dennis Hall
Councilman Eugene Saunders
Councilwoman Ginger DeWitt
Councilman Randy Chamberlain
Councilman Don DeWitt



Copy to: City Clerk Sondra Hewitt,
Finance Director Karen Ankrom, All
Department Heads, Water Board Chair,
Sanitary Board Chair, Former
Councilwoman Judy Hunt, Former
Councilwoman Brianna Hickman, City-
County Library, Local Media, Other Interested Parties, File

RE: Year End Report

February 4, 2025

As always, it is with pride that I present this year-end report for 2024, which outlines accomplishments and finances, reviews my year as City Manager, and looks ahead to 2025 and beyond. As I compile this information, I recall the time, effort, and care that is placed into the daily work, assistance, and special events for the citizens of Moundsville. Reporting for the previous year has its challenges because we tend to look at the present and future. But immediately, I realize how impressed I am with what has been accomplished. Not just by me, or a department head, or a councilperson, but by us, collectively. WE continue to move forward, whether it is with a new piece of equipment, a paved street, a dilapidated structure removed, or just a smile from a city employee. This makes other people's lives better. I cannot list everything that happens in a year, but hopefully this report gives a very good snapshot of Moundsville – 2024!

“We are reminded that, in the fleeting time we have on this Earth, what matters is not wealth, or status, or power, or fame, but rather how well we have loved and what small part we have played in making the lives of other people better.” - Barack Obama

Financial

Total budgeted revenues for the current fiscal year 2024-2025 are \$17,950,716 with \$10,124,426 in new revenue, the balance being carryover. The new revenue number is ahead of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (\$9,966,893.00) or 1.5%. 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. The Municipal Sales Tax is budgeted at \$2,300,000. Together, they account for just over 50% 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. Other major revenue sources include the Levy/Tax Distribution, which increased to \$1,043,776, Utility Tax revenue, steadily increasing at \$400,000, and sanitation fees constant at \$1,400,000.

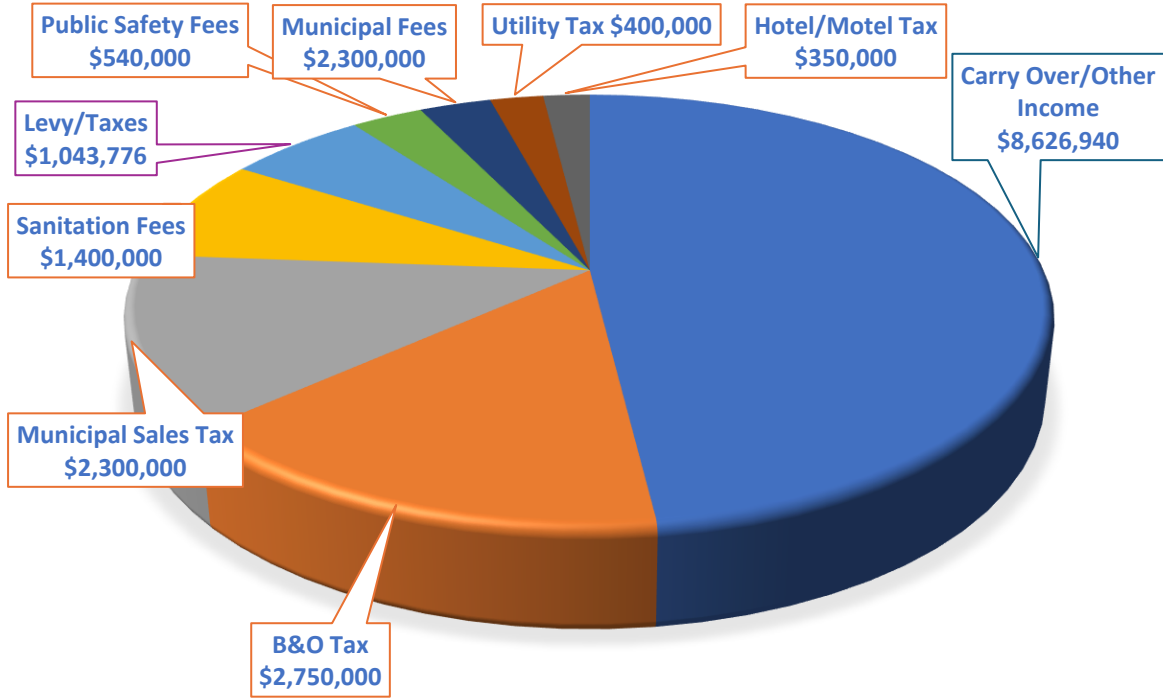
The Business & Occupation tax received from extraordinary projects is deposited into the Capital Improvement Account. That number will fluctuate depending on projects in the city. Looking at *Fiscal Year* numbers 2023 was the highest in recent years at \$536,758.51, with FY24 at \$358,546.81.

Capital expenditures for departments continues to be a priority for the administration and City Council, and the current fiscal year is no different. Several important items were funded. In addition to on-going leases for cruisers, work trucks, and fire trucks, other departmental highlights included:

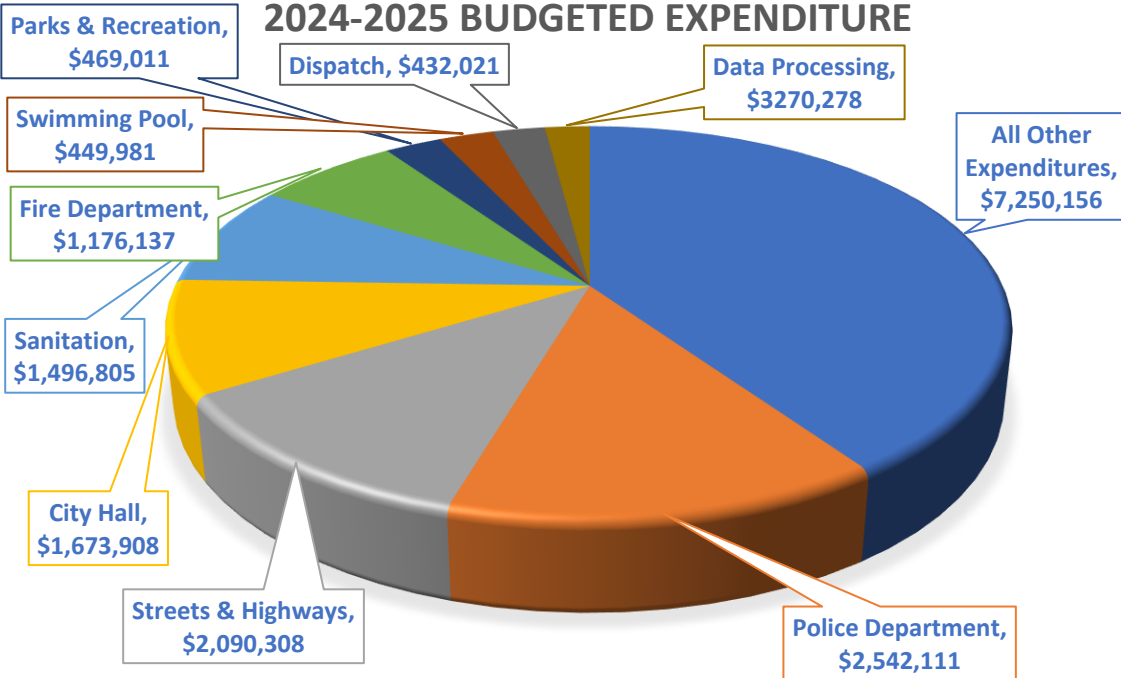
- ❖ Public Works
 - Side by Side with Plow and Salt Spreader
 - New Building – Begin property acquisition.
- ❖ Parks & Recreation
 - The Fitness Court®
 - Fencing Replacement – East End Park, the last phase of chain link replacement along 4th Street.
- ❖ Police Department
 - New Ballistic Vests
- ❖ Sanitation Department
 - New Garbage Truck

The graphs on the next page illustrate the budgeted Revenues and Expenditures for the current budget year.

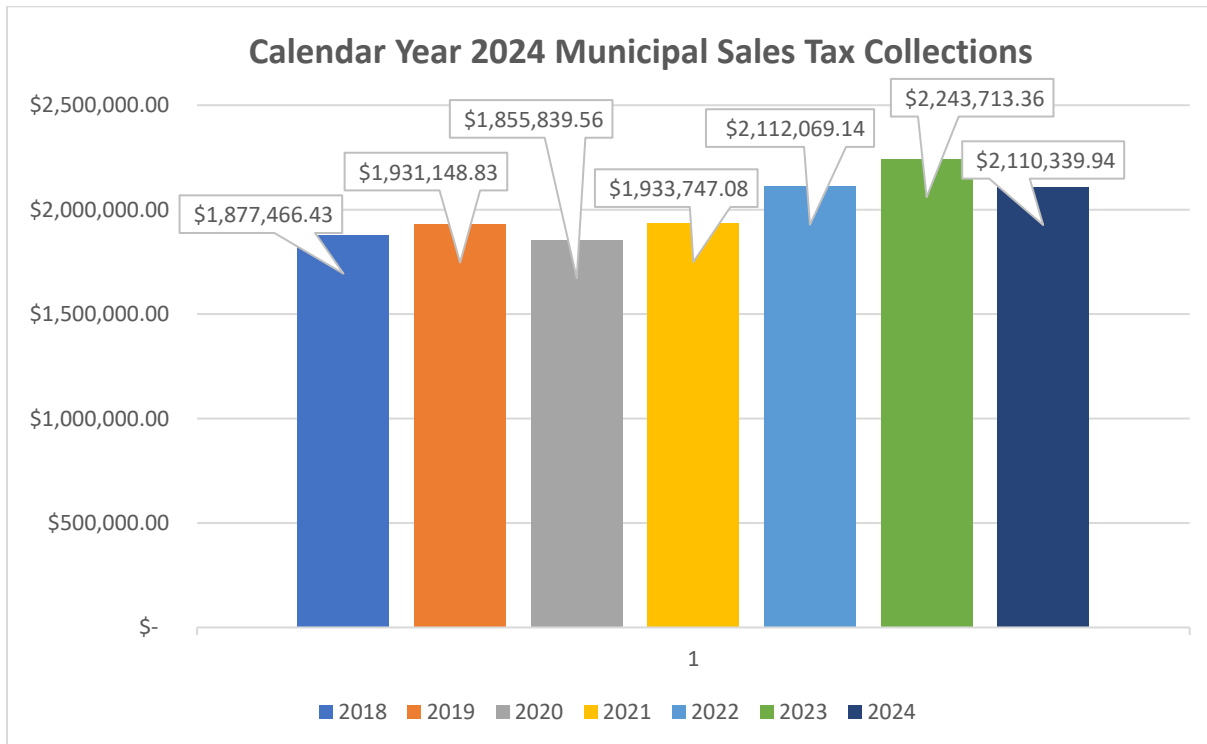
2024-2025 BUDGETED REVENUE



2024-2025 BUDGETED EXPENDITURE



Municipal Sales and Use Tax receipts for calendar year 2024 were \$2,110,339.94, down slightly from \$2,243,713.36 in 2023.



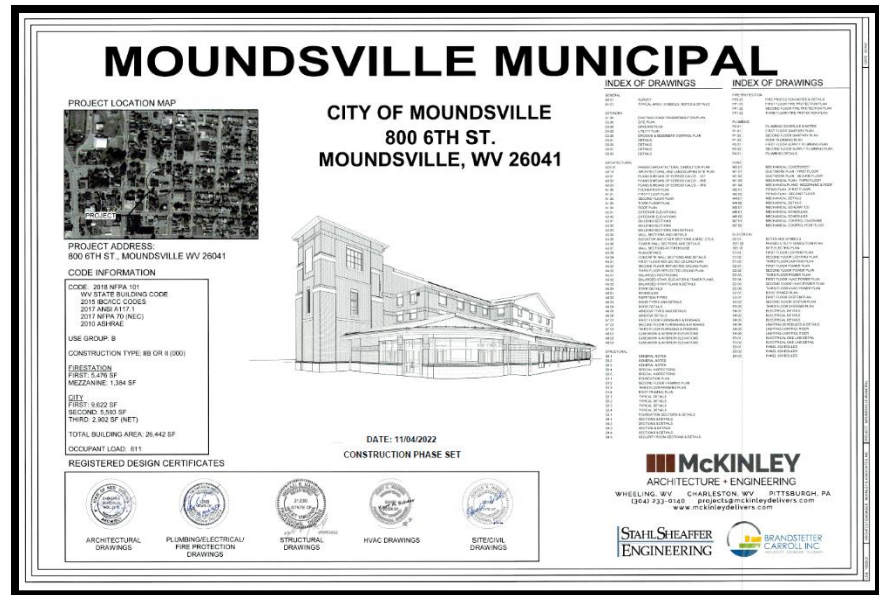
The value of the foresight of City Council to apply for Home Rule status cannot be overlooked. The approval of this and the subsequent implementation of the 1% Sales Tax has totally changed the financial picture of the city, allowing much-needed upgrades and improvements without affecting the day-to-day expenses. In 2024, the following larger projects/purchases were made using the 1% receipts:

- ❖ Paving - \$343,261.57 was used to pay approximately one half of the 2024 Paving Program expenses. The balance is paid by Municipal Fee fund.
- ❖ Recycling - \$13,267.70 was used for overall operation during 2024, an off-grant year.
- ❖ Fire Department - \$313,338.00 was used to purchase a new Squad/Pumper Truck.
- ❖ Police Department – \$19,400.00 was used to purchase a camera surveillance system, and \$16,429.99 for additional supplies.
- ❖ Technology – Three computers were updated at a cost of \$5,346.76.
- ❖ Recreation - \$70,000 was used to pay the city’s share of The Fitness Court, and \$10,751.26 was used for up-front costs on the Riverfront Park Shelter Project (50% to be reimbursed).
- ❖ Municipal Building - \$906,058.97 was used for bond payments and other soft costs related to construction.
- ❖ Exterior Repair Program - \$9,340.41 was used to fund the Jefferson Avenue Exterior Grant Program.

- ❖ Arts & Culture – a total of \$40,981.34 was used for eight different events, and meeting salaries. Additionally, \$14,272.00 was paid to the Strand Theatre for utility reimbursement, and \$2,930.34 for Community Day.
- ❖ Buffer - \$15,323.42 was used to repair private property fencing damage, vehicle repair, and promotional video.

New Municipal/Public Safety Building

Unfortunately, March 22, 2024, will remain a day that is remembered – and not fondly. That Friday morning, we learned that the construction of the new Municipal/Public Safety Building would be halted, as the contractor & build, filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection. This began a process involving specialized attorneys, consultants, and the city working with the surety (bonding) company, which took the rest of the year. In October, a Takeover Agreement was signed, naming Great Lakes Restoration as the new General Contractor. The new substantial completion date is October 31, 2025. The sub-contractors started to return in early 2025. Unfortunately, there is some damage due to water infiltration, and a certain amount of remediation must be completed. But looking ahead to 2025, workers will be returning, and construction will start again.



American Rescue Plan

The American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds were put to very good use in Moundsville, all while following the Treasury guidelines. Because of this, city businesses, residents, and infrastructure were improved. The following projects were completed using these ARPA funds:

- ❖ Employees
 - Vaccine Incentive
 - Premium Pay
- ❖ City Building Contribution
- ❖ Homeowner Repair Program
- ❖ Business Grant Program
- ❖ Non-Profit Grant Program

❖ Infrastructure

- Fostoria Bridge Project
 - Stormwater
 - Mulberry Avenue and Jackson Street Intersection Flooding Issue
 - 8th & Lockwood Collapse
 - Clinton Avenue
 - Catch Basin Replacement Project
 - Sanitary
 - Grant Avenue Re-Lining
 - Plant Security Upgrades
 - Water
 - Well Project – Drilling and Cleaning
 - 8th and 9th Street Line Replacement Project
-

Technology

Most computer workstations in City Hall were replaced in 2019. Unfortunately, with the constant change and upgrades in technology, many are due to be replaced again. Several new workstations were provided in 2024, across many departments.

Technology Services Group (TSG), located at the Highlands, continues to be a vital partner with the city. They provide hardware support in the Police, Fire, Public Works Departments, as 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 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 will also play a huge role in the technological installation in the new Municipal Building. TSG also designed and supports our website (www.cityofmoundsville.com) and accompanying app.

Communications/Social Media/Transparency

Methods to communicate with the residents and businesses continue to change. The website and Facebook pages continue to be strong methods to achieve this. Looking ahead to the new building, the ability to live stream meetings will be available, joining many municipalities that are doing this. We continue to take part in the West Virginia Open Checkbook Program, offered by the West Virginia State Auditor's Office. This program allows anyone with internet access to view the city's financial information at no cost. The process to upload information has taken more time than first thought, and the "story" feature has not yet been utilized. This will give an opportunity to highlight programs, such as the 1% Sales Tax success.

The city's website was launched in 2019 and updated in 2023. It continues to be a strong way to connect citizens, businesses, and visitors. Over 40,000 visits were made to the website in 2024. The most popular page visited was the "pay online" page, followed by the "Four Seasons Pool" page. Minutes are added to the website after they are approved, and that database reaches back

to 2007, giving complete transparency with Council decisions. 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. 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 Facebook page, administered by City Manager Healy and Administrative Secretary Jasenec, is used to announce city sponsored events, projects, employment opportunities, department highlights, Council presentations, local business announcements, share of local events, and much more. Using Facebook allows posts to be made anytime to thousands of people quickly, with no expense. Approximately eight hundred followers were added in 2024, bringing the total to over 6,800. Interesting statistics show that 75.80% of the followers are women and only 2,298 are from Moundsville, showing the reach extends to other areas. In the last quarter of 2024, there were approximately eighty posts made on the page. Of those, the post announcing the Four Seasons Christmas Pool Party received the most action, with 26,225 views! Other city entities also operate their own websites 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).

New Developments

There were eleven projects (residential, commercial, and public entities) that started new or redevelopment projects that had contract values of \$100,000 or more. The cumulative total was \$6,935,228.35 down from \$13,133,112.75 – however the number of projects increased. The projects are:

❖ EQT Warehouse (Teletech and Power Drive)	\$3,000,000.00
❖ Take 5 Oil Change in the ALDI Plaza	\$1,017,000.00
❖ Harbor Freight Retail Store	\$778,012.00
❖ Wal-Mart Renovations	\$739,973.35
❖ ACE Hardware Plaza Renovation	\$277,088.80
❖ Moundsville Housing Authority Roofing Project	\$227,000.00
❖ The Roller Derby	\$142,314.00
❖ Your CDB Store	\$134,480.00
❖ United Bank Roofing Project	\$114,610.00
❖ Duffy Batting Cage Project	\$100,000.00



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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ❖ Allied Realty | 1203 First Street |
| ❖ Sprouts Day Care | 600 Lafayette Avenue |
| ❖ Mug Shots Café | 524 Seventh Street |
| ❖ WV Adult Education | 801 Seventh Street |
| ❖ Harbor Freight | 1234 Lafayette Avenue |
| ❖ Willow's Closet | 264 Jefferson Avenue |
| ❖ R&D Designs | 1105 Twelfth Street |
| ❖ The Gypsy Rogue Barber Shop | 343 Jefferson Avenue |
| ❖ The Roller Derby | 510 Tenth Street |
| ❖ Great Clips | 202 Lafayette Avenue |
| ❖ Game Masters, Games & More | 286 Jefferson Avenue |
| ❖ The Discount Diva | 341 Jefferson Avenue |
| ❖ Uncommon Thrift | 511 Seventh Street |
| ❖ Marshall Co Republican Party | 201 Jefferson Avenue |
| ❖ Last Chance Saloon | 909 Second Street |
| ❖ Temporary Fireworks (Big Lots) | 1280 Lafayette Avenue |
| ❖ Temp Fireworks (Kroger) | 1300 Lafayette Avenue |
| ❖ Temp Fireworks (Dunkin' Donuts) | 18 Walmart Drive |

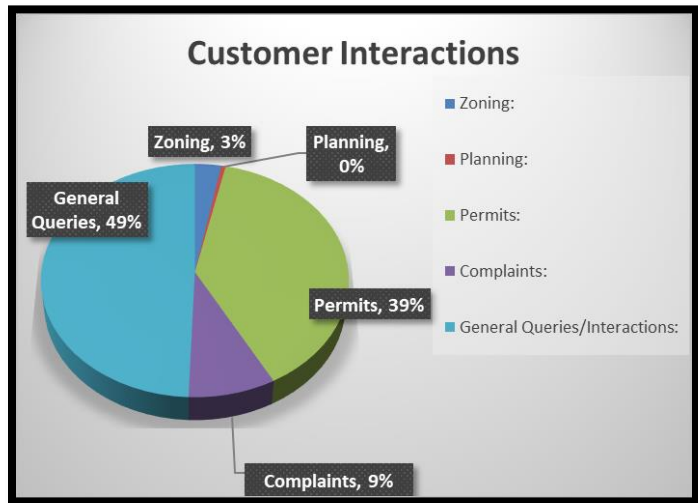
Businesses that Relocated or Had New Certificate of Occupancies in 2024

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| ❖ Marathon Gas Station | 150 Lafayette Avenue |
| ❖ Quik Lube | 113 Lafayette Avenue |
| ❖ Wendy's | 505 Lafayette Avenue |
| ❖ Corner Market Convenience Store | 200 Jefferson Avenue |
| ❖ Walters & Company | 264 Jefferson Avenue |

Building Inspection Department
Joe Richmond, Senior Building Inspector
Buddy Smith, Building Inspector
Danielle Harmon, Administrative Tech

This three-person department is still working from the Sanitation Office building but look forward to re-joining City Hall in the new building. Department responsibilities include building permits, contractor licensing, plan review, inspections, property maintenance/nuisance complaints, junk car and overgrown grass complaints, Rental Registration Program, Land Reuse Agency development, among other things. The staff requires continuous training, and logged 169 hours in 2024, more than doubling the hours in 2023.

Like other departments from City Hall, this department fields a lot of inquiries. Newly tracked in 2024 were those interactions. The total numbered 3,268, over twelve daily. This does not include over 1,300 trips to the City Building for meetings, court, and permit pick-up. The breakdown can be seen in the graph: Zoning 97, Planning 16, Permits 1,261, Complaints 280, and general inquiries 1,614.



After reaching an all-time high in 2023, building permits saw a negligible drop from 787 to 771, after a high of 693 in 2022, an increase of 13%. The highest activity month was May with eighty-six permits issued. Continued accountability on larger projects (requiring all subcontractors to obtain proper permits and licensing), and a more watchful eye on contractors working in the community without permits keep this number high. Looking back to 2018, building permits have increased from 507 to 771, a fifty-two percent increase! There were 562 residential permits, and 209 commercial permits issued.

Total inspections completed increased from 1,214 to 1,452, a nineteen percent increase! This averages almost six per workday! The largest category is Property Maintenance Inspections, numbering 753. Others are project/construction, pre-construction, and residential and commercial occupancy.

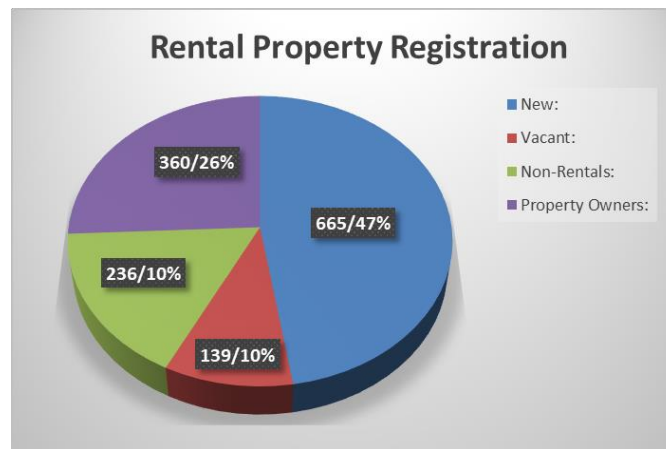
Complaints reduced to 417, down from 442 in 2023. However, 312 were closed, up from 233. The largest category of complaints filed was 101, for high grass and excess vegetation, followed by sanitation issues (88), junk vehicles (51), and dilapidated structures (46). The highest month was May with eighty-eight new complaints. Inspections continue to increase, reaching 1,450 in

2024, a fifteen percent increase. The highest category was Property Maintenance, followed by project related, and new construction.

Sixteen structures were demolished (up from fourteen), seven privately, one by the city, and the rest using grant funding. Notable demolitions included the highly visible 401 Clinton Avenue, 412 Myrtle Avenue, and 211 Olive Avenue. Demolition grants, although taking more time, are so valuable to the city because they allow demolition of dilapidated properties at no cost to the city. Since 2022, over \$482,000 has been awarded to rid the city of these properties that are unsafe, reduce property values, and destroy neighborhood stability.



Much time was spent in 2024 developing and implementing the Rental Registration Program. All owners of rental properties are now required to register their properties and submit to an inspection dealing with health and safety issues. Of the estimated 822 properties (owned by 360 entities), 665 have registered. Although inspections were decided to hold until 2025, forty-six were completed in 2024, eighteen passed and twenty-eight failed, with the eighteen receiving Certificates of Occupancy. This program will serve the tenant population that suffers from below standard living conditions. Also, this will increase property values and deliver neighborhood appeal. The 2025 report will have many more details and updated inspection numbers and details.



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

As has been the norm, there is little turnover in the City Hall Offices. The current staff of nine boasts 139 total years of service to the City of Moundsville (excluding the Building Inspectors). The amount of information, paperwork, questions, etc., that flows through this office is amazing. Every call about administration, starting services, payments, garbage collection and dumpsters, Business & Occupation Tax, building inspections, meetings, Council agenda and information, elections, payroll, finances, court and citations, billing, general information, other departments, sales calls, and much more are taken in City Hall. Occasionally, we also field complaints.

In 2024, effort was made to continue cross training all employees (to the extent possible) which allows little interruption when there are staff shortages, due to vacations or sick days. Led by City Clerk Sondra Hewitt, who also fills the role of Office Supervisor, the staff answers every call with “a smile on their face.” While there were no major capital improvements done in 2024, the office is excitedly preparing for new furniture and equipment, and a new office! TSG, our IT professional partner, continues to manage all problems timely, offering a help desk, and preventative maintenance visits. These visits recommend replacement and repairs before a problem occurs and have been very beneficial for the overall health of the computer infrastructure system.

Parks & Recreation Department

John White, Director

Heath Logsdon, Working Foreman

This department, led by Director John White, also employs one Full-Time Working Foreman, twelve certified lifeguards (three more than last year end), eight Desk Attendants (same as last year end), and four Part-Time Support Workers (three more than last year end), for a total of twenty-six people (six more than last year-end). Parks and Recreation worked throughout the year without any injuries. This is the fifth time in six years the department has worked accident free. The department continues to provide opportunities to pay for lifeguard certifications on a one-year payback obligation to increase our lifeguard staffing. Overall, the Parks and Recreation Department had another successful year in 2024. Major additions to the system included the The Fitness Court® and a new pickleball/basketball court at Riverfront Park. Many other improvements were made and are listed within this report.

The largest addition to the system in 2024 was The Fitness Court® installed at East End Park, with the ribbon cutting held on October 16, 2024. The National Fitness Campaign was founded

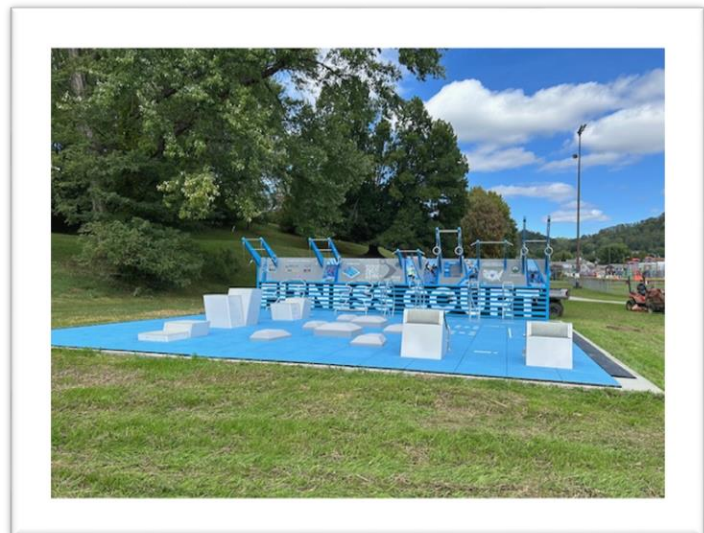
by Mitch Menaged in 1979, and is dedicated to providing access to Healthy Infrastructure to fight the rise of physical inactivity and make world class fitness free. The Fitness Court® is designed to provide a full body workout in only seven minutes, all free in the great outdoors. Rotate through all seven zones: Core, Squat, Push, Lunge, Pull, Agility and Bend on The Fitness Court® for a circuit training workout. Three major sponsors were brought on-board for this project: WVU Medicine, Evan G. Roberts Trust, and EQT Corporation. This has been a great new addition to the park providing another opportunity for patrons to enjoy a quality outdoor workout at their own pace, free of charge. Other capital projects completed in 2024 include:

- ❖ Re-paved both parking lots at the Four Seasons Pool.
- ❖ Overlaid several areas at the Sam Shaw Walking Trail, eliminating low areas.
- ❖ Installed a new concrete pad at the Riverfront playground for pickleball and basketball.
- ❖ Replaced sixteen picnic tables at Riverfront Park with composite tables purchased from local vendor Smith’s Sawdust (Bethesda, OH).
- ❖ New fencing was installed at the East End ballfields along 4th Street. The only remaining section to be replaced at East End is between the playground and colt field.
- ❖ Purchased a used truck for park maintenance.
- ❖ Installed eight new cameras at Riverfront Park and four additional at the East End Playground.
- ❖ With a grant from the FRN and assistance from Moundsville Water and Sanitary departments, a new water fountain and water hydrant were installed at the East End Playground.
- ❖ Purchased a new treadmill for the fitness room at the pool.



General Improvements and Maintenance included:

- ❖ Continued to install and repair sections of the split-rail fencing at the Valley Fork Sports complex.
- ❖ Purchased new playground wood fiber for East End, Valley Fork Baseball, and Ruby/Garfield playgrounds.
- ❖ Utilized help again from Goodwill, at no cost to the



city, to paint/stain park fencing and the Riverfront bathrooms.

- ❖ Continued with the Buy a Bench program installing benches at our parks across town.
- ❖ Lawn maintenance continued with Tammie's Lawn Care maintaining the Valley Fork Baseball/Soccer Complex and Riverfront Park while Sniegle's Lawn Care maintained the Softball Complex.
- ❖ Pool concession stand revenues for 2024 were \$18,809, compared to \$14,538 from 2023.
- ❖ Continued replacing the colt field lighting with new LED lights. To date, five of eight units have been upgraded.

It requires an interesting and versatile slate of programs and activities to be a well-rounded Recreation Department. Listed below are some of the activities sponsored by or done in conjunction with the Recreation Department.

- ❖ The City of Moundsville hosted the first ever Moundtown Showdown Softball Tournament. The event consisted of fifty-three girls' softball teams from all over the tri-state area in addition to Virginia and Kentucky. The event was a huge success and a positive influence on local businesses. The event will continue in 2025.
- ❖ ISR (Infant Swimming Resource) continued at Four Seasons Pool during the winter and fall.
- ❖ Swimming lessons are available for all ages.
- ❖ Continued mandating background checks for all youth sports coaches and helpers. The city pays this fee and considers it well worth the cost to protect our kids. JDP in Pittsburgh is utilized for this service.
- ❖ Four Seasons Pool hosted Family Fun Nights every Wednesday during the summer months from 6-8 PM. Admission was a special rate of \$1 per person and included a bottle of water and chips. This event attracts families and is very well attended.
- ❖ The Annual Easter Egg Drive-Through was held on March 16th with approximately 150 kids participating including time with the Easter Bunny. Partners are increasing for this event, and it continues to grow in size.
- ❖ Participated in the Marshall County Home & Business Expo on March 1st and 2nd.
- ❖ Volunteers held a Kickball Tournament at the Valley Fork Softball Complex on Saturday, March 30th with six teams participating.
- ❖ Provided support to the Marshall County Soccer Club following severe field flooding. The department helped with cleanup efforts expending approximately sixty-person-hours of support.
- ❖ Supported our third season of middle-school baseball. Moundsville and Sherrard utilized the East End Colt Field as their home field for the season.



- ❖ Continued to utilize the East End baseball fields. Games were played by Moundsville Baseball, Girls Softball, and several travelling teams. Continued to support multiple softball leagues utilizing our fields this season including Men's and Co-Ed leagues.
- ❖ Assisted the FRN food giveaways at East End Park.
- ❖ Supported several charity events including Stephanie's All-Stars Memorial Softball Tournament.
- ❖ The Marshall County Flag Football Association celebrated their 50th season using the East End Colt field.
- ❖ Held several paddleboard yoga classes at the pool.
- ❖ The Marshall County Swim Team utilized the pool in June and July.
- ❖ The JMHS 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.
- ❖ Several area schools held parties at Four Seasons Pool including McNinch, Center McMechen, St. Mary's Middle School, and New Martinsville Elementary School.
- ❖ Supported the "Friends of Parks and Rec" annual yard sale at East End.
- ❖ Hosted one charity pickleball tournament at East End.
- ❖ The JMHS Swim Team hosted a Kickball tournament at Valley Fork Park in August. Twelve teams participated in the event.
- ❖ Supported Community Days by offering free admission to the pool along with free hot dogs, chips, and drinks.
- ❖ Continued to host pool parties Friday and Saturday evenings and all-day Sunday.
- ❖ Held a Halloween Pool Party in October, including \$1 admission and treat bags for all kids. 156 people attended.
- ❖ Offered a 15% holiday 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 eighty-six passes were sold for a revenue of \$14,335.
- ❖ The sixth annual Christmas Splash Party was held at Four Seasons Pool featuring Santa, free gift bags, pizza, and drinks. It was held on a weeknight this year, and attendance was down slightly, with approximately fifty people attended.
- ❖ Four Seasons Pool had 17,029 swimmers this year for a revenue of \$136,248, which was a huge increase to the previous year of \$116,939, which is over 16% increase, and the highest in recent years.

Other notes of interest:

- ❖ Continued the partnership with Goodwill Industries. This program supplies labor at no cost to the city and provides income and job training for those who are eligible. This is the fifth year out of the last six (COVID - no program) that this program has been utilized.
- ❖ Continued the "Buy a Bench" program, installing twenty new benches at different parks throughout the city. This brings a program total to 116 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.
- ❖ Began using Cintas for janitorial supplies including a Chemical Dispenser station that cuts expenses for regularly used chemical.

Street Paving

Paving continues to be a high priority for City Council, again allocating \$750,000 to accomplish this. This was the second year that we used some of the funding to repair concrete streets, instead of paving over them. Two large projects were completed by an outside contractor at Second Street and Elm Avenue intersection, and Annadale Avenue from Fourth Street to Seventh Street. Paving this year covered sections of ten streets and both parking lots at Four Seasons Pool. The work on the pool lots was split in cost between the paving budget and the pool budget. All paving is completed using the Municipal Fee Fund and the Municipal Sales Tax Fund. Since 2019, Council has approved over **\$3.8 million** 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, thirteen Street Laborers, six Sanitation Laborers, and one Secretary. With recent hires, the department's average age is decreasing. This is much needed, as this work is difficult and demanding.

Street Department

Cold patching, alley grading, grass cutting, snow removal, maintenance – all primary tasks that the Street Department was previously responsible for. Over the years, as the city has grown with events and daily demands, so have their responsibilities. They are referred to as the “do it all” department. Daily tasks 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.

Other “regular” duties completed in 2024 included:

- ❖ A large amount of trees were trimmed or removed (some by crews, others contracted out).
- ❖ Continued mowing, and added private locations as directed by the Building Inspectors and City Manager.
- ❖ Straightened, installed, or moved many street signs, including street name signs.
- ❖ Assisted other departments regularly with their projects.
- ❖ Operated the leaf vac during the fall and early winter season.
- ❖ Operated the new crack sealer on several streets.
- ❖ Assisted Marshall County FRN with all of the food giveaways.
- ❖ Assisted Arts & Culture with almost every project.
- ❖ Marshall County Chamber of Commerce for the Car Show and Christmas Parade.
- ❖ Exclusively hang and exchange banners along the Historic Business District.
- ❖ Maintained, installed, and removed all Christmas decorations.
- ❖ Maintained and serviced all vehicles and equipment, including some from other departments.
- ❖ Operated the Recycling Center, including working Saturday mornings drop-offs, and transfer of plastic bags/films to Kroger for the Nextrex Challenge.
- ❖ Worked during the two April flooding events, providing on and off-duty service for preparing and cleaning of affected areas.
- ❖ Assisted sanitation by supplying personnel when their staff is short.

The amount of materials needed to properly service the roads and alleys are astounding, and material prices continue to increase. The chart below shows regularly purchased products, amounts, and total cost. The total of \$66,539.95 is up from \$41,507.00 in 2023. This amount obviously fluctuates based on weather conditions.

Product	Use	Amount	Cost Per Ton	Total Cost
#57 Stone	Alleys	600 Ton	\$30.25	\$18,150.00
Cold Patch	Street Patching	80 Ton	\$106.50	\$8,520.00
Road Salt		300 Ton	\$102.00	\$30,600.00
Ice Control Cinders		209.72 Ton	\$28.75	\$6,029.45
Sealer Blocks	Crack Sealer	2 Ton	\$1,620.25	\$3,240.50
Total Expense				\$66,539.95

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. Unfortunately, one employee was off for a large part of the year due to medical issues. The Street Department supplies a worker to fill in. Although all of our employees are valuable, this crew receives many “thanks” from citizens for their great work. For the fourth year in a row, the amount of garbage collected and dumped actually reduced from the prior year, amounting to 6,590.41 tons, compared to 6,700 tons last year. Although new growth in the commercial sector would see additional tonnage, recycling has clearly helped. Tipping fees were less - \$207,598, compared to \$211,103 in 2023 and \$223,000 in 2022. A new 2024 Mack/McNeilus packer truck was delivered in 2024, and a new pressure washer was purchased for truck cleaning.

Recycling

2024 was an “off” year for the possibility of a DEP Recycling Grant, so the department is fully funded by the 1% Municipal Sales tax. An application for the 2025 grant year was submitted in July. I was notified on December 13 that the 2025 application for \$32,174.00 was funded. That grant will pay all expenses from January 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026. Additionally, the grant includes funds to construct bins, handle, and transport aluminum and steel cans. This brings our collection items to:

- ❖ Mixed Paper and Cardboard
- ❖ Glass Jars and Bottles
- ❖ Plastic Bags/Films
- ❖ Aluminum and Steel Cans (in 2025)

Tracking at the Recycling Center was done differently in 2024. Instead of reporting vehicles through, the total number based on product dropped off was recorded. Cardboard and Paper was the highest with 2,970, Plastic Bags and Films recorded 827, and Glass recorded 798. We in turn actually turned over (sent to recycler) 57,022 pounds of paper and cardboard, and over 1,000 pounds of plastic bag and film. Glass is still accumulating and hopefully will be recycled in 2025. Due to our relationship with NexTrex, the plastic returned was enough to have a free community bench delivered to the City Building at no cost, made from recycled materials. That program will continue in 2025.



Superintendent Stocklask and City Manager Healy continue to share 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. The Recycling Building was covered with new roofing and siding and had a new man door installed. Plans for 2025 include new garage doors.

Police Department
Thomas Mitchell, Chief
Steve Kosek, Lieutenant

One officer was added to the department in 2024. Mikael Rawls was hired and graduated from the 198th Basic Class at the West Virginia State Academy on November 22, 2024. Anthony White, who was hired in 2023, also graduated from the Academy in the 195th Basic Class on April 27, 2024. White and Peter Barton both completed their probation and are now Patrolmen First Class.

In the Dispatch/Support Staff, one part-time dispatcher was hired. The Department is currently advertising for another part-time position to help fill a vacancy left due to a parental leave.

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. For the eleventh consecutive year, the Moundsville Police Department received the “Community Traffic Safety Platinum Award” from AAA.

In-service training hours during 2024 increased dramatically from 779 in 2023 to 2,189. This included a wide range of trainings (come in house) such as Firearms Qualifications, Daylight and Lowlight, Taser X26P, and Use of Force. Other trainings included Active Shooter, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARide), Stop the Bleed, Advanced Criminal Investigations, Sexual Assault Investigations, Executive Leadership, Mental Health First Aid for the Public Safety Officer, Structure Operations, Vehicle Operations, Structure of Mafia and Federal Violations Involved, Basic Officer Entry Level Training, and Introduction to Phone Repair. Some staff members also attended an FBI National Academy Conference and a West Virginia Narcotics Conference.

The life of a police cruiser is a tough one, and the Chief, City Manager, and Council, have worked together to keep them updated. Generally, when a cruiser reaches 100,000 miles, or ten years of age, it is replaced. There were none scheduled during 2024, but two are scheduled and budgeted to be replaced in the spring of 2025.

Three different major equipment purchases were made in 2024. The department made a major upgrade to the sidearms carrier by the officers. Previously carrying a Glock 22, .40 caliber pistol, weapons were upgraded to a Glock 17, 9mm pistol. These are a Generation 5 weapon and are the most current offering from Glock. They include mounted lights and are in new secure



holsters. Body armor, which has a five-year life span is replaced, as needed. Five sets were replaced in 2024, along with a new set for the newest hire. A valuable tool for investigations and officer safety was also purchased. A Valorence Mobile Surveillance System is used to monitor locations. This is also used by the Drug Task Force and will aide in many operations in the coming years.

In 2024, the department saw a minimal decline in calls for service. This is the third year in a row with declining numbers, dropping from 4,794 in 2023 to 4,751, remaining at just over thirteen calls per day. Citations, however, increased from 605 to 752, an almost 25% increase. The largest cause for citation is again First Offense Shoplifting at 64, an increase 34, followed by Stop Sign Violation at 44. The largest occurrence by officer was a Person/Welfare Check at 505, followed by Suspicious Person at 363. The highest arresting offense was again First Offense Shoplifting at 96, followed by Domestic Battery (First Offense) at 32.

The Police Department has a secure Drug Drop-Off Box for unwanted pharmaceuticals. This program, in which the Department collects these in a secure location, allows for proper disposal by the DEA. Collections totaled 209 pounds 1 ounce, an approximate decrease of 17%. Since beginning of this program in 2012 - 3,356 pounds, 7 ounces of unwanted pharmaceuticals have been disposed of safely. In 2024, the department participated in two “Drug Take Back Days”, organized by the DEA. Kroger Pharmacy was added as a partner, joining Moundsville Pharmacy. That makes two sites for collection events in Moundsville.

Complaints regarding cyclists with backpacks continue in the city, this seeming to be a major issue. After a Town Hall Meeting in late 2023, the City Manager had a follow-up meeting with the Building Inspectors, Municipal Court Judges, City Prosecutor, and City Attorney. This follow-up did not produce any solutions, as Police, Judges, and Prosecutors were concerned about the public rights and due process of these overnight travelers. The department has begun to stop them more frequently, hoping to dissuade this type of travel and activity. It is still ongoing, worse in certain areas of the city.

Fire Department

Gary Brandon, Chief

Kevin Kimple, Assistant Chief

In 2024, the City Fire Department again hit a new record for total calls, as they responded to 921 calls, up from 813 in 2023, an increase of almost thirteen percent. This averages 2.5 calls per day. First Responder (EMS assist calls) remains the highest call volume, with 610, an increase of 67 calls. Other high number calls included 112 lift assists, 76 motor vehicle accidents (increase of 27 from 2023), 19 fire alarms, and 11 call-outs. There were seven structure fires in 2024, three that were ruled arson and one with a fatality. Other calls included DOA, fire investigations, lock outs, pumping basements, odor, smoke, HAZMAT, good intent, kitchen fires, carbon monoxide alarms, service, lines down, Police Department assist, stand by, water rescue, flooding, brush fire, illegal burning, landing zone, elevator rescue, dog rescue, trash fire, and Building Inspector assistance. The department also responded to 31 mutual aid calls (up

slightly) and issued 149 burning permits. The busiest month was July with 102 calls, and the slowest month was December with 63 calls. Fourteen calls were turned over due to lack of workforce (calls received while on another call). 125 business inspections were completed, and 13 Fire/Safety Prevention Presentations were completed.

The department completed 1,264 training hours, with total man hours of 1,924. Noteworthy training included Fire School in Sissonville, WV (three staff attended 6 days), Marshall County Fire School (two staff two days), and Rope rescue and Training (three staff). Other trainings included Firefighter I and II, Paramedic Review, Incident Command, Investigation, Building Construction, Fire Chemistry, Commercial Kitchen Fires, and many more areas. Fifteen smoke detectors were provided for residents, four of which were installed.

In addition to the “day-to-day” activities like keeping vehicles and equipment cleaned and prepared, the department also participated in the following:

- ❖ Fireworks Detail
- ❖ GKT Light Up Night – Santa Delivery
- ❖ Inspection of all rides and food trucks for the Marshall County Fair.
- ❖ Obstacle Course for Community Day
- ❖ Car Seat Installation
- ❖ Christmas and Homecoming Parade and Trunk or Treat
- ❖ Flood Detail
 - Delivered door-to-door notices in flood prone areas.
 - Monitored the waterways.
 - Clean up.
- ❖ Civil Service Testing
- ❖ Project Lifesaver

A new Rescue Squad was delivered in 2024, to replace Squad 1. The truck is still waiting to be completely lettered but will be in service in early 2025. This truck was paid in full by funds from the 1% Municipal Sales Tax proceeds.

The Fire Department Union, is active, putting over \$10,000 back into the community in 2024:

- ❖ \$9,571.00 of the \$13,498.00 goal for the purchase of Sparky the Fire Truck.
- ❖ \$39.00 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.
- ❖ Thirty-nine teddy bears for Santa to deliver to hospitals.
- ❖ \$600.00 worth of supplies for the Future of Moundsville Youth Center.
- ❖ \$120.00 for Marshall County Childhood Cancer, and the Union added \$30.00.
- ❖ \$175.00 for Marshall County Autism Program.
- ❖ Added twenty pairs of knee and elbow pads to the Keep Kids Safe Program.

Arts and Culture Commission

This nine-person, fully volunteer commission was originally created in 2019 as a five-member committee. Early success necessitated two more members, and then another two, and the switch to a commission. They are very active, with the goal of bringing arts programs to the city, concentrating on children and families, and providing as many of the events at no cost to the participants. This Commission is funded with a small percentage of the Municipal Sales Tax and has also developed many valuable partners who sponsor these events. These are their activities/programs from 2024:

- ❖ Create with MACC – this is a hands-on instructor led series where attendees learn a new artistic or cultural skill. Sign-ups first come, first served and spaces fill very fast!
 - Calligraphy
 - Ballroom Dancing
 - Gardening
 - Stained Glass
 - Welding

- ❖ Jefferson Fridays – this is a community block party featuring food trucks, live music, and a beer garden. Each event has an opening and main act. Several local businesses remain open late and offer special sales for event attendees. This has become a premier event in the area, regularly drawing 800 – 1,000 guests.



- June - Opener: B.E.N. The Band, Main: Taylor Jo & the Copper Creek Band
 - July - Opener: Andy Timko, Main: Tongue n' Cheek
 - August - Opener: The Muddle, Main: Trailer Park Ninjas.
- ❖ Movie Nights – this is a free family night, providing a free movie, snacks, and drinks. Two were held in 2024, unfortunately both were forced to be moved to the Strand Theatre due to inclement weather. The community votes on options for the movies. In 2024, Elemental and Wonka were shown.
- ❖ Gardening with Grandparents – this is a partnership with local nonprofit organizations. Marshall County has many grandparents raising grandchildren, and the goal is to provide community resources and fun artistic activities for the families. Arts & Culture members ran the flower planting station where families painted a flowerpot and planted a flower. It is not only open to grandparents raising grandchildren (this is the target population), but it is open to any grandparents wanting to spend an afternoon with their grandchild(ren).

- ❖ Appalachian Dinner – this is our annual farm to table five-course dinner featuring local and regional foods that represent Appalachian Culture. This is a paid, ticketed event and the Chef is Matt Welsch. Live themed music is also provided.



- ❖ Pumpkin Painting - this is another family favorite with hundreds of pumpkins, paint, snacks, and drinks available for kids to decorate, all at no cost.
- ❖ Christmas on the Avenue – this is a favorite of many and rivals any good Hallmark Christmas movie. Features include many hands-on activity stations, tree lighting, visits with Santa, horse and carriage rides, and train rides through the Historic Business District. Stations include cookie decorating, ornament decorating, homemade hot chocolate, snow globe creations, reindeer food, Christmas crafts, and more.

Safety & Risk Management

George Carter, Safety & Risk Director

Mr. George Carter oversees the Safety & Risk Management Program. The goal of the program is to reduce and/or eliminate accidents and injuries due to unsafe working conditions/practices. Mr. Carter does this in many ways starting with orientation to new employees, auditing any injuries/accidents, overseeing the Employee Safety Committee, and developing and performing monthly safety meetings for each department.



The following was accomplished:

- ❖ 16 New Employee Orientations
- ❖ 4 Meetings of the Safety Committee **
- ❖ 29 Safety Meetings covering:
 - Working in Hot Weather
 - Working in Cold Weather
 - Defensive Driving
 - Who is Responsible for Safety?
 - Illicit Discharge and Protection
 - Handling Hazardous Materials

- General Work Safety
- Hand and Finger Safety
- First Aid
 - CPR – Street Department
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Disgruntled Employee and/or Aggressive Behavior
- Ladder Safety
- Slips, Trips, and Falls
- Back Safety
- Hazard Assessment

**The Employee Safety & Health Committee meets quarterly and contains a representative of each department. Discussed in 2023 and implemented in 2024 was mandatory head protection (see more later on this). Additional topics discussed included implementing a safety award program.

Two safety certification classes were also held through the West Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program (WVLTAP). Those classes were Trenching and Shoring and Working in Confined Spaces.

In calendar year 2024, there were eight incident reports filed (down from ten in 2023): two each from Street, Sanitation, and Police; and one each from Fire and Sanitary. Only one involved lost work time.

- ❖ Street – One medical claim (finger injury), and one near miss (ladder fall).
- ❖ Sanitation – One vehicular accident, and one medical (head/face injury with lost time).
- ❖ Police – One hit by vehicle, and one hand injury (needle).
- ❖ Fire – One medical (side injury).
- ❖ Sanitary – One near miss (dirt fell into repair trench). This near miss is what led to the mandated head protection.

Any accident or incident is followed by a report, which is reviewed by Mr. Carter, and then discussed directly with the employee and/or the department. The report requires the employee to list what could have been done differently to eliminate the accident. If multiple incidents of the same type are reported, this is discussed at safety meetings.

Mr. Carter also assists with the DEP Wastewater Permit for the Street Department garage, which requires groundwater testing twice a year. He also participates in the yearly Workers Compensation Review and utilizes their library to obtain safety literature (signs, posters, stickers, etc.) for distribution to departments. In accordance with the Safety Program, random inspections were made in all departments, and no issues were observed in 2024.

As noted earlier, an important change was made regarding head protection. All employees must wear head protection when working below (as in a trench) or if work is being done above. A “Circle for Safety” walk must be done on all vehicles at least once per week. Also implemented was the wearing of high-visibility uniforms for the parking meter attendants.

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, six Water Operators, six Laborers on the Maintenance/Distribution Crew, and four Office Staff (one at the plant and three in the billing office). The Maintenance/Distribution Crew work throughout the day (sometimes through the night), regardless of the weather conditions, to fix leaks and maintain the entire water system. The Water Operators keep the plant running smoothly, while the Office Staff work behind the scenes to keep the department within the government regulations and compliance, and to keep the financial and account books balanced and handle all aspects of billing. Together our dedicated team is able to ensure that our customers are receiving the highest quality of water and customer service possible.

The Water Board experienced several personnel changes in 2024 as retired Water Board Class II Operator Willis Howard returned as a full-time Operator to fill Operator Woods' position. A Class III Water Operator resigned to take a position at another water department, two Class II Water Operators were hired on a fill-in basis, and three new employees were hired for the Maintenance/Distribution Crew to fill openings after two Laborers left for better paying jobs. The department also grieved the passing of Water Board Operator and former Water Board Superintendent James Woods. At the time of his passing, Jim had been a dedicated employee of the Water Board for 54 years.

Beyond the routine responsibilities such as the operation and maintenance of the plant and the distribution system, the department also completed the following projects in 2024:

- ❖ The Eighth and Ninth Streets Waterline Replacement Project – funded by ARPA.
 - On Eighth Street, the old 2” main waterline from Henrietta Avenue to Juniper Avenue was replaced with new 6” waterline. During this project, two new fire hydrants were installed on Eighth Street midway between Henrietta Avenue and Juniper Avenue, and on Henrietta Avenue by Eighth Street.
 - On Ninth Street, the old 2” main waterline from Henrietta Avenue to Ash Avenue was replaced with a new 6” waterline. An additional 8” waterline was installed on Henrietta Avenue from Ninth Street to Seventh Street creating a loop in the waterlines which offers additional service and better fire protection for that area.
- ❖ The Maintenance/Distribution Crew repaired forty-five waterline leaks in 2024 which is almost double the normal annual amount. They completed:
 - 15 – ¾” service line replacements
 - 3 – 1” service line replacements
 - 13 – 2-2½” main waterline repairs
 - 2 – 4” main waterline repairs
 - 6 – 6” main waterline repairs

- 3 – 8”main waterline repairs
- 2 – Valve replacements
- 2 – Fire Hydrants installed
- ❖ The Maintenance/Distribution Crew installed insertion valves at 3 new locations:
 - 4” valve at Ninth Street and Parriott Avenue
 - 4” valve at Fourteenth Street and Water Street
 - 4” valve at Second Street and Elm Avenue
- ❖ New Well #8A was installed and put into service. Three wells were pulled for cleaning/refurbishing. All paid by ARPA.
- ❖ Completed a thorough cleaning of the Nanofiltration softening system.
- ❖ Completed an inventory of all the service lines in the water system for the Lead Service Line Inventory, with the Maintenance/Distribution Crew immediately replacing any lead service lines that were encountered.
- ❖ Replaced the fire hydrant on Water Street.
- ❖ Flushed fire hydrants to cleanse the system and complete routine maintenance on the hydrants.

Sanitary/Stormwater Department

Brock Castilow, Superintendent

Tim Minor, Assistant Superintendent

The Moundsville Sanitary/Stormwater Utility Board is maintained by a staff of thirteen (14). The staff includes a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Laboratory Technician, three (3) Plant Operators, one (1) Mechanic/Electrician, one (1) Sanitary/Stormwater Foreman, three (3) 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 the day turn and afternoon shifts.

The level of plant requires many certifications. The Superintendent, Assistance 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 Certifications must be renewed every two years. Certification renewal can only occur by obtaining continuing educational credits. Additionally, the employees also attend onsite training covering various topics. The City’s Safety Director George Carter provides monthly safety classes. Additionally (as noted in the Safety Section) the Sanitary Board also hired Lancaster Safety for Trench Safety/Competent Person Training and hosted Confined Space Training offered by WVLTAP. Total hours of training by the staff were 197.5.

The plant laboratory must also be certified yearly by 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 efficiency of the plant.

These test results are reported to WVDEP to ensure compliance with our discharge permit. In addition to the testing performed in house, we utilize outside labs monthly for additional required testing. In 2024 the lab changed to a newer method for fecal coliform testing.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant has processed 670.8 million gallons of treated discharge for calendar year 2024, down from 673.3 in 2023. Based on the filed WV PSC report, 58.49 % of the treated discharge is inflow and infiltration which we do not receive revenues to treat.

Treatment of the wastewater includes flow through bar screens, grit tank, primary clarifiers, aeration tanks, final clarifiers and through a UV system before entering the Ohio River at mile point 102.5. The treatment process averaged a daily removal of 96.7% of CBOD and 98.2% of the suspended solids. Two Ashbrook Belt Presses process digested sludge to remove water and create a sludge cake averaging 24.7% solids. Operators processed 1,109 wet tons of sludge cake for the year, down from 1,229 tons. Sludge cake is disposed of at Short Creek Landfill.

The department also handles complaints and problems from the residents, concerning the collection system. Complaints received in 2024 totaled 242, down from 277. Other routine but important work included smoke testing and televising and cleaning of sewer main and service laterals.

Rainfall is also recorded at the plant. In 2024, the amount of rainfall was 41.92". There were seven rain events at 1.0" or more, nineteen of which were greater than 1.5."

Below is a list of the larger projects and expenses for 2024.

- ❖ Plant Projects
 - Replaced grit pump for aerated grit tank.
 - Replaced motor on main sewage pump and switched to variable frequency drive (VFD) and upgraded the outdated VFD on lead pump.
 - Replaced grinder, two screens, two augers and a motor at headworks of plant.
 - Upgraded outside lights to LED.
 - Installed new roof on garage.
 - Replaced roof on secondary pump room.
 - Removed skylights in workshop area.
- ❖ Collection Projects
 - Installed twenty-nine cleanouts on service lines.
 - Replaced 100' of six-inch sewer on N. Highland Avenue.
 - Repaired/Replaced eleven manholes.
 - Smoke tested Cherokee Hills.
 - Located buried manhole on interceptor (behind the Street Department).
- ❖ Stormwater Projects
 - Repaired 21" line at 8th and Henrietta for CIPP work.
 - Repaired 30" line in the rear of Fostoria for CIPP work.
 - Replaced 100' of 30" storm sewer on Pine Avenue.
 - Replaced 130' of 18" storm sewer on Filbert Avenue.

Many projects were completed using ARPA funds. The Board also spent considerable time preparing for the upcoming large project involving main line replacement in the 12th Street area to the plant, and work inside the plant on the digester. Rates for sewage rank the 28th lowest in the State of West Virginia, out of 309 utilities. Even with the upcoming rate increase, it would still rank at number 55.

City Manager Overview

Every year as I compile information and prepare this report, I think the year I am reporting on is the best yet! 2024 was no different. I continue to be amazed at what we accomplish together. Partnerships continue to grow with entities like the Marshall County FRN, assisting with monthly food giveaways. Every department has assisted with these events, making them a huge success for the FRN. 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 in 2024, this one to assist beautification at East End Park. 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!

Visibility and community involvement are an important part of my administration, I strive to participate in every Ribbon Cutting, Grand Opening, Chamber of Commerce, and community event that I could, including the following:

- ❖ Enviroscope Educational Presentation to Central Elementary Third Grade Classes (along with Joe Smith, Stormwater Coordinator.)
- ❖ Central Elementary Social Studies Fair Judge
- ❖ Presentation to Rotary Club
- ❖ Regular Appearances on the Howard Monroe Morning Show (Often with Mayor Wood-Shaw)
- ❖ Municipal League Winter and Summer Conferences



- ❖ Marshall County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo
- ❖ On Trac Presentation in Charleston
- ❖ Black Balloon Day (along with entire City Hall office)
- ❖ Reader at Northern Panhandle Head Start for Dr. Seuss Week
- ❖ Ribbon Cutting for WVU Medicine
- ❖ Wesbanco Economic Speaker Series Breakfast
- ❖ Roller Derby Ribbon Cutting
- ❖ Marshall County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Pitch Contest Judge
- ❖ Presentation to Lion's Club
- ❖ Community Day
- ❖ K-Love Radio Interview
- ❖ Speaker at State of Marshall County Breakfast (Cancelled due to Illness)
- ❖ Marshall County Courthouse Re-opening Ribbon Cutting
- ❖ Reader at Central Elementary for Mountain Readers Week
- ❖ Fitness Court Ribbon Cutting
- ❖ Reader at McNinch Primary for Kindness Week
- ❖ Central Elementary Career Fair
- ❖ Christmas Parade
- ❖ Mugshots Ribbon Cutting
- ❖ Four Seasons Halloween and Christmas Pool Parties and Easter Event



In 2024, the City of Moundsville had a great showing in the Marshall County Chamber Home & Business Expo, with all departments participating but one. The ability to meet our residents and visitors and “show off our city” is important. In late November, we had 100% department participation in the Annual Christmas parade. Along with fire trucks and police cars, we had vehicles representing the entire city! I felt an immense amount of pride that day.

Other events that I, along with Council, take part in each year, are the West Virginia Municipal League Conferences. The winter conference aligns with the legislative session and offers a visit to the Capitol and an

opportunity to meet with legislators. The other conference is held in late summer and offers more training and vendor participation. I am proud to say that I have not missed a conference during my tenure.

Unfortunately, we did not cut a ribbon for the new city building in 2024, as previously planned. But I do look forward to planning that event for 2025.

I think we all will sleep a little better when the new building is open. I also have to believe that my schedule will open up after that time. This project has taken a substantial portion of my time. It will be worth the time spent when it is completed. A building to last numerous generations – and we were all a part of it! All of the employees that will move in are excited and waiting patiently.



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 make regular appearances on local radio shows, especially the Howard Monroe Morning Show, giving updates and talking about new and exciting things happening in Moundsville. In fact, Mayor Wood-Shaw and I were “regulars” on Mr. Monroe’s show called “The Mayor and Manager.” I also take part in almost every Arts & Culture Events.

In January 2025, I implemented the employee service award program, a requirement of the City Code. All employees were presented with a certificate and pin, recognizing their years of service to the city. Every January, that will be repeated as employees reach certain levels. In May, I recognized all employees who were veterans, as part of Military Appreciation Month.



The approval of the On Trac Program for Moundsville was also achieved in 2024, finalizing a dream since 2019. This is the precursor to the Main Street Program. The designated area is the Historic Business District from Second Street to Fifth Street and the Strand Theatre. Different training courses were completed in 2024, and committees were developed, with a full Board to come in 2025. This will be a huge benefit for our Business District, offering ideas, programs, and design assistance.

The city dealt with two flooding events in April of 2024. This happened less than a week apart. Fortunately, there were no deaths or injuries, and minor property damage. The event did cause a lot of equipment usage and employee overtime, mainly for the Fire Department for monitoring and coverage, and the Street Department for clean-up. Because the area was considered a disaster declaration, the city was eligible for FEMA assistance. Working with Belomar throughout late 2024, we will see many of our employee and equipment costs reimbursed 75% from federal and 25% from the state. Most of the city damage occurred at Riverfront Park, the girls' softball complex, and the soccer fields at Valley Fork. FEMA covered damage at these locations, as well.



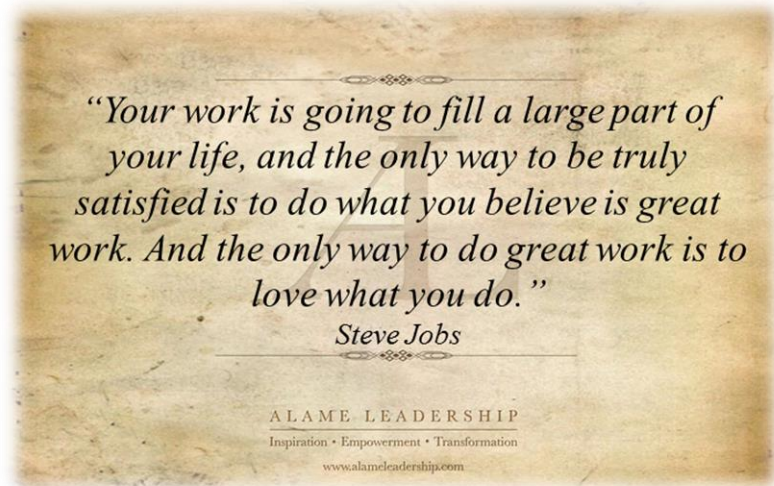
As I sit and compile this report, I feel blessed to be a part of all of this success. As a young adult, I would have never dreamed that I would have this opportunity. And that opportunity has turned into a job that I absolutely love. If Steve Job's quote is correct, I am doing great work, and that is the path to satisfaction. What we all do every day is so important. Every person that gets in their car in the morning drives down street that we

decided to pave. Every resident that places their garbage out knows we will pick it up. Everyone that turns on their water knows they are getting a high-quality product, and when everyone flushes their toilet, they know it will be processed and be discharged safely. And that is just the beginning of what we do every day.

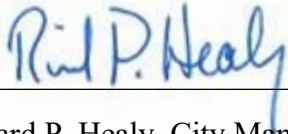
I am now in my seventh year as City Manager. We are doing good work. We are making lives better. Is every day a breeze? Do we have our challenges? Yes and yes. But I would not live anywhere else in this world than Moundsville! As I continue this final stop in my life's work, I challenge myself to continue to push all of us forward to improve!

The most enjoyable part of compiling this report is seeing what has been accomplished in the previous year. With so many people doing so many things, things are often forgotten. This brings all of these great things together into one comprehensive report. Although it does take a considerable amount of my time, it amazes me when I "look back," then report on all of the remarkable things happening in Moundsville. It also regenerates me, with the hope of making each upcoming year better than the previous. 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 complete their assigned duties daily and work hard to see our vision through. Thank you to all of them! Calendar year 2024 Mayor Wood-Shaw, Vice-Mayor Wood, and all of City Council work with and support me regularly, helping achieve our goals. 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. Even when I do not like her responses! Thank you all for your assistance year round.



We continue to see new developments and progress in the city and 2024 was no different. Based on January of 2025, I think this current year will be even better. Let us keep success going, and together, watch Moundsville keep moving forward!



Richard P. Healy, City Manager

February 4, 2025

Date