CITY OF DYER

**PROGRESS REPORT - 1985**

Since 1983 city fathers and citizens have been busily engaged in numerous city projects and activities to upgrade and enhance our community. The cooperative spirit of citizens has shown what people working together can accomplish for the betterment of all.

Some of these accomplishments have been:

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Perhaps the fire department has made the greatest progress for with the recent completion of the new station they now have one of the finest facilities in the state. The 40 X 60 foot all steel and masonry building will house two fire trucks and has storage, training, and office areas, as well as kitchen and rest room facilities. Funds for the building were obtained through a 100% ADIC. grant of $213,000 from the State of Arkansas. The grant provided for acquisition of land, demolition of existing building, architectural and administrative costs, and construction of the building. Also included in the grant were funds for the purchase of an all-terrain mini-pumper that will complement the department's existing 500 gallon pumper. City and Fire Department officials, all well as the many other citizens that worked so hard obtaining the grant, should be commended for their efforts.

During this period the fire department has been re-organized and their fourteen man volunteer force has received the basic fire-fighting training from the State Fire Academy.

Also, new fire fighting uniforms and additional hose has been purchased. To help offset the cost of this equipment, a $500 grant was obtained from the State Forestry Commission, and the Dyer Ladies has made donations from their fund raising activities.

The department purchased a 16 mm movie projector to enable firemen to view training films available from the State Fire Academy.

Fire phones have been re-installed in volunteers residences.

Additional insurance protection has been acquired for firemen.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public meetings have been held to receive citizen input on such matters as the city budget and expenditures, construction priorities, grant hearings, TV cable service, and a meeting for the public with representatives of various agencies explaining benefits available to low income and elderly people.

STREETS

For the past three years Dyer has participated in the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) Program. This program has provided five youths to work on city streets and property during the summer at no cost to the city. During this period workers have cleaned ditches, picked up trash, cleared brush, kept city property mowed, and completed numerous other projects.

Signs identifying all streets have been installed and several traffic signs have been erected.

Street fund assets have been frozen in order to accumulate a sizeable amount for significant street improvements in the near future. This accumulation in the street fund will greatly increase the possibility of the city obtaining a matching grant to provide for major street repair and drainage control. In order to increase the street fund balance, all expenditures are being taken from the general fund.

Five additional street lights have been installed.

In cooperation with the county, a concrete deck has been installed on bridge at River Road and trees trimmed along streets.

The city has a stockpile of culvert tile available to the public at the city's cost.

Reflectors marking highway 64 exits to Main and Washington Streets have been installed.

Two city-wide clean up programs have been conducted using volunteer labor and equipment. In 1984 these civic-minded citizens picked up thirty-nine truck-loads of trash from street right of ways and residences. At the end of the day the city hosted a hamburger and hot dog cook-out for all volunteers.

A flower garden in the triangle between Railroad, and Main has drawn lots of compliments from residents and visitors.

CITY DUMP AND TRASH PICKUP SERVICE

Trash at the city dump was leveled and covered with dirt. A sign, outlining the provisions of new ordinance on dump operation has been installed at the dump entrance and an attendant is on duty to enforce rules during the hours of operation each Saturday from 9:00 A.M. until. 3:00 P.M. A larger trash trailer was purchased to facilitate pick-up service that is scheduled the third Monday of each month.

 CITY HALL IMPROVEMENTS

Installed central heat and air conditioning.

Constructed tractor and storage shed and chain link fence around compound.

Mounted framed Arkansas and United States flags. Painted city hall inside and out.

Added conference tables and chairs.

Installed fire warning siren and night light in compound.

Installed bulletin board to post public and private notices.

Purchased filing cabinet, electric typewriter, two lawn mowers, two weed eaters, floor buffer, 12 volt water pump, and numerous hand tools for street and water departments.

Planted trees and shrubbery around city hall.

Opened city hall for citizen's use during the day and purchased a TV for their use.

CITY COUNCIL.

The city council presently consists of the Mayor and six Councilmen, two each from the city's three wards. The city has an elected Treasurer and a Recorder. Also, Fire and Police Chiefs, appointed by the Mayor. In addition, three part-time employees serve the street, dump, and water departments.

City council accomplishments during the period include:

Placing of all city funds in interest bearing accounts.

Requiring annual water department audits.

Conducted city-wide survey to determing if citizens wanted a sewer system. A majority indicated they desired the system, and the council has engaged, at no cost to the city, an engineer to make preliminary surveys and make application for grant, when funds become available.

City upgraded from an Incorporated Town to a City of Second Class.

Acquired insurance on all city property and accident insurance on fire, police, city officials, and employees.

Obtained bonding on officials and employees as required by law.

Instituted the two signature requirement for all city drawn checks.

Began quarterly commodity distribution for eligible persons.

Arranged for representative to enroll, at city hall, eligible elderly persons to receive assistance in paying heating and cooling bills.

Arranged for blood pressure check programs.

In cooperation with the Mulberry Senior Inn, began home delivery of meals to senior citizens unable to travel to Mulberry.

Contracted for installation of pressure regulating valve in main water line serving Dyer. This valve has resulted in annual savings of thousands of dollars in costly repairs to main and service line due to fluctuating pressure. The installation of this valve has been the largest contributing factor to the return of the Water Department to a sound financial basis.

Made application for loan and grant to extend water service to residents living in the city limits north of Highway 40.

Established controls to insure that all special meetings, financial reports, public hearings, and adopted ordinances are advertised or published as required by state law.

Established Neighborhood Watch Program.

Had city hall property surveyed for expansion planning.

Set up files for city records. Established city property and asset file. Instituted a time accounting system for part-time workers.

In early part of 1983 required Razorback Cable Co. to return their monthly rate to the $7.50 that was being charged before their predecessors had raised the rate to $8.50 without council approval. In November 1985, authorized an increase to $10.00 per month, provided certain improvements to the system are made.

The council passed resolutions:

 Adopting personal and real property tax rates,

 Participating in federal bridge posting program

 Equal Opportunity Housing Program

 Ratified assignment of TV cable company from Rural Antennae Associates to Razorback Cable Co.

 Accepting bid for fire truck

 Designating Arkansas Municipal League as carrier for workmen's compensation insurance.

 Selecting architect for design of fire station.

 Selecting WAPDD to administer fire station grant. As a result of public hearings selected a fire protection improvement program as most needed program.

 Entered to contract with city of Alma raising water rates from .38 to .50 per thousand gallons. Only a portion of increase was passed on to water users.

 Setting up operations and fee charges for the water department.

 Authorizing the Mayor to apply for playground equipment grant and Fire Improvements grant.

THE COUNCIL ADOPTED ORDINANCES

 Governing Trash Pick Up and Dump Operation.

 Restricting use of fireworks and certain firearms within city limits.

 Amending existing TV Cable franchise.

 Regulating distribution of handbills.

 Regulating purchasing and contracting by the city.

 Establishing three wards for aldermen to be selected from. Ordinance necessary for city to conform to second class city requirements.

 Establishing Fire and Police Departments.

 Establishing speed limits within city limits.

 Prohibiting excessive possession and sale of intoxicating beverages.

 Governing operation of motor-driven cycles.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Our police department suffered a blow this year when our long-time marshal, Rufus Land, moved away. Rufus was an out-standing citizen who was always eager to help with any city project. Dyer certainly lost a well respected friend, and we will miss him.

Ronnie Milsap took over the City Marshal's position in November of this year and I am sure he will do a good job.

A used Chevrolet police-type car has been purchased from the State to replace the old one that was damaged in an accident while pursuing a law breaker.

Dyer's crime rate remains low, and we remain a peaceful town of God-fearing citizens.

LIBRARY

Our library is expanding every day and more space is desperately needed. If you haven't visited the library lately, you will be amazed at the collection and variety of books available. Recent interesting editions include a picture collage of WWI Veterans, a WWII scrapbook including photos of Dyer's veterans, and a scrapbook of the Mother's Day Queen Contest.

Lorena Lancaster, city librarian, also heads up the city's Sesquicentennial Celebration Program. Lorena and her various committee chairpersons have already been holding meetings and making plans for the 1986 celebration in May which will include a Sesquicentennial Flag Raising Ceremony, parade, lunch, adding to the capsule that was buried in 1976, guest and local speakers singing, and other events.

**1986: MEMBERS OF TOWN COUNCIL**

Mayor: Fayette Peevy

Aldermen: William Gregory Claude Hatley

 Movle McCabe Quentin Stephens

 Tommy Thrift Hershel Whitlock

Recorder: W.N. Brasher Ex-Recorder: Joe Kincy

 COMMUNITY BUILDING AND PLAYGROUND

During the past several years our community building has had frequent usage and has become a valuable asset to our citizens. Several repairs have been made that includes new front and exit doors, a concrete ramp to exit door. The building has been painted inside and out, the entire stage area has been remodeled—drop ceiling and paneling installed and the floor refinished, windows repaired, and the parking lot has been graveled.

New installations include: additional overhead heater, kitchen and game room facilities, folding tables and additional chairs, public address system, outside lighting, trees and shrubbery, building sign, and the corner stone of old school building has been erected at the building entrance.

Utilizing a $3500.00 50% matching fund grant from the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, the city has installed swings, slide, see-saws; a combination climbing, horizontal, and vertical bars; three rocking horses, and trapeze bars. A government agency donated a merry-go-round that city fathers repaired and installed, and Commercial Bank at Alma and Arkola Company of Fort Smith both donated park benches.

In recent years the community building has been the site for numerous affairs. We have had three annual Fourth of July celebrations and the one in 1985 had a crowd in excess of 500 people. Other events include twice-monthly bingo, Mother's Day Queen contest, WWI Veterans Celebration, Halloween Carnival, numerous musicals, square dances, benefit programs, pie suppers, garage sales, Chamber of Commerce meetings and public meetings. Private citizens have utilized the building for family reunions and wedding anniversary celebrations, and showers. This year the Ladies Club sponsored an Easter Egg hunt for all children at the playground.

The community building facilities are now open for the city's youth on a regular scheduled basis and activities are supervised by members of the Women's Club.

DYER WOMEN'S CLUB

This recently founded club is one of Dyer's largest assets. Headed by Leader Naomi Hatley it has no rules or by-laws, their meetings follow no set rules of order, they pay no dues, but they have been highly successful in their endeavors.

Their aim is help with and promote city activities, provide recreation for our citizens, complete civic projects through fund raising programs, and improve the city's image wherever possible.

They operate a concession stand at the community building and donate home-made pies, cakes, and cookies for sale there. They have either sponsored or been directly involved in recreational activities listed under community building affairs. They are hard workers that can get the job done; for example, one of their fund raising activities, Dyer's Hostage Day, netted over $800.00 that was used for civic improvements.

The ladies are really enjoying themselves at their meetings and working on their projects. Also, they have made trips to Little Rock to visit with Governor Clinton, to Conway to attend a public meeting held by Senator Pryor, several functions of the Alma Area Chamber of Commerce, and went on an overnight trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to see the Ice Capades. Next spring they are planning a trip to The Grand Old Opry at Nashville, Tennessee.

Who knows what's next? Naomi tells her "girls" to THINK BIG!

A Concerned Citizen Interested in Dyer,

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