

# Despite pandemic, mayor

Jeff Piorkowski *Special to Sun News*

Mayfield Mayor Brenda Bodnar delivered her state-of-the-village address during the April 19 Village Council meeting, with much of her presentation dealing with Mayfield's ability to handle the pandemic.

Bodnar said that, financially, the village handled what COVID-19 dealt out quite well.

"2020 was a surprisingly strong year for Mayfield Village," Bodnar said, stating that the village's income tax collections totaled about \$21 million in 2020, a figure approximately \$743,000 greater than 2019's collection.

"The vast majority of the village revenues comes from income tax dollars paid by those who are employed within Mayfield Village. That tells us that, even though many employees were working from home, our business base remains stable and healthy and continues to support the services and amenities enjoyed by the residents of Mayfield Village," she said.

What's more, Bodnar said that general fund revenues, at \$24.9 million, increased by nearly \$177,000 from 2019. Also on the positive side, general fund expenditures in 2020 totaled \$14.6 million, a decrease of \$1.3 million from 2019.

The village had a general fund balance, as of Dec. 31, of \$33.6 million — which represents an increase of \$8.8 million from the final day of 2019.

"We ended 2020 with total outstanding debt of \$3.4 million, down from \$16.3 million in 2010," Bodnar told council and the Zoom audience. "We currently have over \$3.7 million set aside in the debt retirement fund to pay off our remaining debt, and will do so when it is economically beneficial and permissible."

The village received \$182,855 in federal CARES Act money in 2020. It is projected that Mayfield will receive another \$654,273 from the recently passed federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Bodnar began her talk, however, by discussing possible negative looming financial news. Ohio House Bill 197, which the state Legislature passed after Gov. Mike DeWine declared a state of pandemic emergency last year, provided that municipal income tax payments, as many workers worked from home, would continue to be paid to the municipality where employees would otherwise be working.

In addition, Senate Bill 22, which was approved by the General Assembly, allows the Legislature to terminate DeWine's emergency order 30 days after SB 22 takes effect June 23.

"If HB 197 ends in just a few months," Bodnar said, "both municipalities and businesses are likely to immediately experience substantial impacts. Municipalities would lose the revenue stability that HB 197 provided as they continue to deliver necessary services to their communities."

She noted that it is not possible to know how many

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says village did well

businesses will allow employees to continue working from home and how many will again open workplaces.

More potential bad news for all municipalities is that while they were permitted to continue reaping income tax since last March from businesses in their communities, the Legislature is taking steps that would allow employees who work from home in a different community to file for income tax refunds retroactive to March 2020.

"This result could take a big chunk out of our income and be devastating for many of Ohio's larger cities," Bodnar said.



**Progressive Insurance is the largest employer in Mayfield. The village's payroll tax collections totaled about \$21 million in 2020, about \$743,000 greater than in 2019. Marvin Fong, *The Plain Dealer***

#### **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

After recapping capital projects that took place in 2020-21, such as the installation of the all-inclusive Parkview Playground, road repairs, new Beta Drive entryway signs and the extension of the Wilson Mills sidewalk, Bodnar looked ahead to projects planned for this year.

In 2020, major renovations were planned for the village's Civic Center, but those were put on hold pending a comprehensive study of the Wilson Mills-S.O.M. Center Road intersection — the Mayfield town center.

"We concluded that spending a large amount of money on construction or renovation could impede the future plans for an upgraded town center," Bodnar said. "We agreed that only minimal upgrades to serve the needs of the community would be made to the Civic Center in the short term."

Planned for this year are expansion and upgrades to the Civic Center's main restrooms, which will make them ADA compliant; replacing the building's boiler; and adding other minor ADA improvements. The budget for this work is \$500,000.

Of that amount, the village will use two \$100,000 grants, one from the state and the other a Capital Appropriations grant.

Also planned for this year is a Worton Park culvert project, in which that neighborhood, which experienced flooding in 2014 and 2015, will see two large culverts installed at a cost of \$1.3 million — on Worton Park and North Woodlane Drive.

A second phase will take place in 2022 on this comprehensive stormwater improvement project.

In addition, an Aintree Park sanitary relief sewer project will take place this year. It involves the construction of about 670 feet of sanitary relief sewer to divert excess flow from the Aintree Park Drive sanitary sewer. The budget for this project is \$455,000.

#### **OTHER NEWS**

Bodnar said the village's Fourth of July fireworks show, canceled last year, will be held June 26. The annual Cruise Night, also canceled in 2020, will be pushed back from its usual June date to September.

This year marks Mayfield's centennial, and Bodnar said, "We look forward to celebrating with residents later this summer."

No dates or events were mentioned.

## MAYFIELD VILLAGE

### **Disturbance** *Wilson Mills Road*

Officers responded April 13 to the parking lot near the stadium at Mayfield High School on a report of a disturbance between a man and a woman.

They learned that the woman, 37, was drunk and arguing with her boyfriend, who said he was trying to stop her from driving with her children. She was subsequently charged with disorderly conduct-public intoxication.

### **Civil matter** *Beta Drive*

A woman reported April 15 that a clerk at the Hilton Garden Inn was harassing her about moving her vehicle. Officers learned that the Highland Heights woman, 60, felt she could take up two parking spaces with her vehicle because she had paid for two rooms.

She said she did not want to move her vehicle because it contained several items. The staff decided it did not want her at the hotel. Officers advised her that she had to pack her belongings and leave, and if she returned, she would be charged with trespassing.

### **Disturbance** *North Commons Boulevard*

Officers checked on a possible fight in a vehicle in a parking lot April 15. A man, 18, was found to be upset and kicking his own vehicle. He was with two girls, who were subsequently released to their parents. The man was sent on his way after it was confirmed that the trio had only been arguing.

The driver, a 62-year-old Mayfield Heights woman, was arrested and charged with OVI. Lab results will determine what she was under influence of at the time of the arrest.

### **Civil matter** *Wilson Mills Road*

A woman said April 16 that the property manager for her home was possibly entering it without her permission. Officers advised her to tell her landlord to contact her when work is going to be done at the home.

### **Disturbance** *Wilson Mills Road*

Around 1 a.m. April 18, a resident reported two unknown male suspects in parked vehicle in a neighbor's driveway. She said the house was dark and she did not know if the homeowner was home.

Officers did not locate the parked vehicle and could not contact the homeowner. Special attention was given.

### **Impaired driving** *SOM Center Road*

A South Euclid man, 31, was arrested for OVI after he was found asleep at the wheel of his vehicle at the Highland Road intersection around 3:30 a.m. April 18.

### **Fraud** *Hanover Road*

A 67-year-old resident reported April 18 that he was the victim of an AT&T scam and had purchased \$500 worth of eBay gift cards. He had received a phone call from someone claiming he could lower his rates, but needed to purchase the gift cards upfront.

The value of the cards was depleted almost immediately after he provided the redemption codes. He became suspicious when he was asked to buy more cards.

### **Impaired driving** *Eastgate Drive*

At 7:53 p.m. April 19, a resident reported that a vehicle had struck trash cans in the area. Responding officers located the vehicle driving on the side of SOM Center Road in the curb lane.

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Police Blotter