

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS FOR 2012

MY NAME IS DENNIS BUCKLEY AND I'M THE MAYOR OF BEECH GROVE

I WANT TO WELCOME YOU TO THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS FOR 2012

ON NOV 8TH THE CITIZENS OF BEECH GROVE SPOKE AND BY NO UNCERTAIN TERMS DESIRED A DIFFERENT DIRECTION FOR OUR CITY. IF I WASN'T A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE, I TO WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR CHANGE AS THE PAST EIGHT YEARS HAS BEEN TERRIBLE FOR THIS CITY. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS AS YOU ALREADY NO IT. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS WE HAVE WORKED DELIGENTLY TO MOVE OUR CITY FORWARD.

I UNDERSTAND HOW THE TRANSITION OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD WORK BECAUSE I WITNESSED IT IN THE PAST AND ONE OF THE REASONS I RAN FOR MAYOR WAS BECAUSE I FELT THE CONDITION OF OUR CITY WAS BAD, BUT I NEVER DREAMED THAT OUR CITY WOULD BE AS BAD AS IT IS.

IN ORDER TO FIX WHAT IS WRONG WITH OUR CITY, WE MUST FIRST EXPLAIN WHAT IS WRONG AND BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH ALL OF YOU. I WANT TO PASS ON TO YOU WHAT I HAVE FOUND WHILE DOING ASSESSMENTS OF OUR INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS; LETS START WITH :

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

NO CAPITAL ASSEST INVENTORY
ROOF LEAKS
CEILING HAS WATER DAMAGE
TRASH TRUCKS (X4) 2006, 2000, 1995, 1991
JET MACHINE
LEAF VACCUMS (X2) 1994
DUMP TRUCKS (X3) BEDS ARE RUSTED OUT

PICK UP TRUCKS FOR SNOW PLOWING
OUTSIDE LIGHTING
NO SEWER REHAB
NO INSPECTIONS
NO SEWER RATES
NO POLICIES ON TRASH TOTES
OUTDATED ORDINANCES ON TRASH (1964)
PICKING UP HAZARDOUS WASTE (2008)
PICKING UP BUSINESS TRASH FOR FREE
LETTERS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SENT OUT IN 2009, 2010, AND 2011 TO
STOP THESE PRACTICES, BUT WITH EVERYTHING ELSE, NOTHING WAS
DONE.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

2 FIREFIGHTERS SHORT
LAID OFF 6 CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND HIRED 3 NEW ONES ?
STATION 101 ROOF LEAKS
STATION 102 ROOF LEAKS
STATION 102 HVAC IS BAD
LENTELS ARE BAD AT STA. 101
2 STAFF VEHICLES ARE 9 YEARS OLD
ENGINE 103 IS 25 YEARS OLD
ENGINE 102 WRECKED AND IS 15 YEARS OLD
ENGINE 101 IS 10 YEARS OLD
MEDIC 102 WRECKED (X2)
MEDIC 101 IS 12 YEARS OLD
HEART MONITORS PURCHASED IN 1999 ARE OUTDATED
LIFEPAK 500 OBSOLETE AND CAN NO LONGER BE SERVICED
HVAC NEEDS REPLACED

PARKS DEPARTMENT:

NO CAPITAL ASSEST INVENTORY
RATED AS BELOW AVERAGE BY PARK BOARD
SKATEBOARD PARK IS OUTDATED WITH A RECOMMENDATION TO
REMOVE BY OUR LIABILITY CARRIER
CREEKSIDE SHELTERS ROOFS AND WOOD ARE WEATHERED
RESTROOM SET ON FIRE 11/16/11 – 12/20/11
MAINTENANCE BUILDING ROOF LEAKS
CREEK WALL WASHING AWAY BY THE BALL DIAMOND

DUMP TRUCK 27 YEARS OLD
OFF ROAD VEHICLE MOTOR BLOWN
NON COMPLIANT FOR ADA ON PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
NON COMPLIANT FOR ADA AT HARTMAN FIELD

CITY HALL:

NO CAPITAL ASSEST INVENTORY
WEST ROOF LEAKS ABOVE 806
FOUNDATION LEAKS
NO AC AND COIL AT 802 FIRST FLOOR
FLOOR DETERIORATED BY KITCHEN
OUTSIDE LIGHTING IS BROKE
DRAINAGE IS POOR
MCHD REPORTS ON LINE SHOW MOLD THROUGHOUT THE BLDG. UNTIL
2010

SENIOR CENTER:

NO CAPITAL ASSEST INVENTORY
THE BUS IS 9 YEARS OLD AND IS HAVING MECHANICAL PROBLEMS
THE CANOPY NEEDS ATTENTION ON THE WEST END
LACK OF PART TIME HELP MINIMIZES SERVICES

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2 OFFICERS SHORT
LARGE INVESTMENT IN NEW CARS FOR 2013 AND 2014 WITH NO
PREPERATION
BEHIND ON GRANTS THAT HAVE BEEN AWARDED
DISPATCH CENTER CLOSED IN 2010
NO 24 HOUR FRONT LOBBY PERSON
MAY LOSE OUR REPORTING THROUGH THE CITY OF LAWRENCE
SHOOTING RANGE VENTILATION SYSTEM NEEDS UPDATED
MENS LOCKER ROOM NEEDS REMEDIATION

THIS IS JUST SCRATCHING THE SURFACE, OUR EMPLOYEE'S PERSONAL MANUAL, CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY POLICIES AND RECORD KEEPING ARE ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE. AS A MATTER OF FACT WE CANNOT FIND SOME RECORDS DATING BACK BEFORE 2008, AND WE ARE HAVING PROBLEMS LOCATING RECORDS PURSUANT TO THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE RDC. THIS IS QUESTIONABLE AT BEST AND WE HAVE ASKED FOR HELP. WE HAVE ALSO CAME ACROSS (71) STORAGE BOX LIDS IN OUR STORAGE AREA WITHOUT BOXES ATTACHED. YOU ARE WELCOME TO VIEW THESE ITEMS AS THEY ARE SITTING OFF TO THE SIDE. ON OUR VERY FIRST DAY, WE ASKED FOR AN AUDIT OF THE SEWAGE WORKS CORPORATION, GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT, CORPORATION ACCOUNT, RDC, MAIN STREET REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM AND THE CITY COURT.

NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS

WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS SINCE THE ELECTION WITH INDIVIDUALS, COMPANIES, AND WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS. WE HAVE MET WITH:

AMTRAK OFFICIALS	STELLAR. COMMUNITIES
CONGRESSMAN CARSON (4) TIMES	TIGER GRANT
SEN. LUGARS OFFICE (X2)	COPS GRANT
MAYOR BALLARD	SAFER ACT
MAYOR BALLARDS LIASION (X3)	DHS GRANT
CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVES	SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS
CROSSROADS ENGINEERS (X2)	COMM. BLOCK GRANT
SIMMS ENTERTAINMENT (X2)	SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL
CHOCOLA REPRESENTATIVES	OUR TOWN
FRANCISCAN ALLIANCE (X3)	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE
COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK (X2)	
ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS	
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
QUENCH	
CITY SECURITIES	
CITE	
2 DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETINGS	
2 DPW MEETINGS	
WALKER AND ASSOCIATES	
MOOREHOUSE BODY SHOP	
BG FIREARMS	

ECKSTIEN SHOES
LIFEBRIDGE
BEST EQUIPMENT
UNITED CONSULTING ENGINEERS

ALL OF THESE MEETINGS WERE TO HELP MOVE THE CITY FORWARD.

I WANT TO MENTION OUR DEPARTMENTS. WE HAVE SOME VERY DEDICATED DEPARTMENT HEADS WHO ARE ANXIOUS TO SERVE EACH ONE OF YOU. DURING OUR RECENT DEPARTMENT HEAD MTGS., WE HAVE INSTILLED INTO EACH DEPARTMENT HEAD HOW OUR JOB IS TO SERVE THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN TO THE EMPLOYEES OF OUR CITY. NO BETTER EXAMPLE OF THAT IS TO LOOK AT THE RECENT ICE AND SNOW EVENTS AND OUR CITY STREETS.

BUT THERE IS A FAR BIGGER CHANGE THAN THAT, AND THAT IS IN HOW OUR CITY CONDUCTS BUSINESS. WE NO LONGER HIRE PEOPLE, GIVE RAISES AND PROMOTIONS UNLESS THE BOARD OF WORKS APPROVES IT. WE NO LONGER PAY COPORATION CLAIMS UNTIL THE BOARD OF WORKS APPROVES THEM. OUR BOARD OF WORKS MEMBERS ASK QUESTIONS AND THAT IS HOW IT SHOULD BE.

WE HAVE BECOME VERY OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE. OUR NEW WEBSITE WWW.BEECHGROVE.COM IS VERY WELL DONE. WE NOW HAVE A MAYORSCALLCENTER THAT IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK. YOU CAN DOWNLOAD MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND REVIEW CLAIMS AS EARLY AS THE DAY AFTER THEY ARE APPROVED. YOU ONLY HAVE TO WAIT ONE DAY TO WATCH A REPLAY OF A MEETING AND WE ARE BEGINNING TO TELEVISE MORE AND MORE MEETINGS FOR YOUR VIEWING SO YOU CAN TRACK AS TO WHAT IS OCCURRING IN OUR CITY. THIS IS A FAR CRY FROM THE PREVIOUS 8 YEARS AND EVERYONE KNOW'S IT, BUT THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALL ALONG.

OUR COMMISSION AND BOARDS HAVE ALSO CHANGED. POLITICAL AGENDAS ARE NO LONGER WELCOME, AND THE ONLY CRITERIA TO SERVE ON ANY COMMISSION OR BOARD IS THAT YOU DO WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR CITY. DOING WHAT IS BEST FOR THE POLITICAL PARTY IS ONE OF THE REASONS WE ARE IN THE MESS WE'RE IN. OUR COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS IN THE FUTURE WILL HAVE MORE OF A SAY. I HAVE ASKED OUR GREENSCAPE COMMISSION TO TAKE ON MORE OF A ROLE CONCERNING OUR ENVIRONMENT, CREEKS AND STREAMS, EMERSON AVENUE AND AT THE ROUNDABOUT.

OUR PARKS BOARD WILL BE ALLOWED TO PRESENT ITS OWN BUDGET. THIS HASN'T BEEN DONE IN 8 YEARS OR LONGER. OUR PARKS BOARD HAS ALREADY BEEN INVITED TO SIT IN ON DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING MEDICAL CARE CLINICS AT THE HORNET PARK COMMUNITY CENTER. THAT WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED OVER THE LAST 8 YEARS AND EVERYONE HERE KNOWS IT.

BUT PROBABLY THE BIGGEST CHANGE IS WITH THE RDC. AS ALL OF US KNOW, THE RDC WAS PROBABLY THE BIGGEST FAILURE THIS CITY HAS SEEN IN A LONG TIME. OVER 6 YEARS OF OUT OF CONTROL SPENDING, WITHOUT BUDGETS AND WITHOUT OVERSIGHT. WE HAVE 2 BOND ISSUES THAT WON'T BE PAID OFF UNTIL 2023 AND 2025. WE HAVE BORROWED 6.3 MILLION AGAINST THESE BONDS AND WHAT DO WE HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

NO MORE. THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS, WE WILL BE DISCLOSING FOR YOUR VIEWING RECEIPTS AND INVOICES THAT WE HAVE UNCOVERED CONCERNING THE RDC THAT ARE ABSOLUTELY UNBELIEVABLE.

WE ARE GOING TO ADVERTISE MEETINGS, THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT CITY HALL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND WILL BE TAPED FOR VIEWING, THEY WILL WORK OFF OF A BUDGET, THEY WILL SUBMIT MINUTES TO THE CLERK TREASURER FOR POSTING AND THEY WILL GET

BACK TO WHAT AN RDC SHOULD BE DOING AND THAT IS TO REDEVELOP NEIGHBORHOODS AND TO ATTRACT BUSINESS TO OUR CITY.

I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT FOR THE LEGISLATURE TO MAKE LAWS CONCERNING LOCAL RDC'S. THE BG RDC WILL PRESENT IDEAS TO THE CITY COUNCIL AND THAN INVOICES WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE BOARD OF WORKS FOR FURTHER REVIEW AND PAYMENT. IF AND WHEN THE STATE LEGISLATURE PASSES BILLS PURSUANT TO LOCAL RDC'S THAN WE WILL FOLLOW THE STATE STATUTES AS WRITTEN.

THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES FOR ALLOWING THIS TO HAPPEN.

OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS BEGUN COMMUNITY POLICING. WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE INCREASED POLICE PRESENCE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND AROUND OUR CITY. WE HAVE TAKEN DELIVERY OF 5 NEW POLICE CARS, AND WE WILL SOON BE ORDERING 4 MORE VEHICLES. THE VEHICLES CONSTITUTES A CHANGE IN THE TYPES OF VEHICLES THAT WILL BE SEEN IN OUR CITY. WE WILL BE UTILIZING CHEVY TAHOES, WHICH IS AN SUV. OUR CITY IS IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING A VICTIMS ADVOCATE THAT CAN HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE VICTIMS OF CRIMES, AND SOON WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE CITY OF BEECH GROVE AND THE BEECH GROVE CITY SCHOOL CORPORATION. SOON WE WILL BE UTILIZING GRANTS TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL IN CAR CAMERAS, LICENSE PLATE READERS AND POSSIBLE SECURITY CAMERAS ALONG EMERSON AVENUE AND IN THE CITY PARK.

OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL BE PATROLING ALLEYS LOOKING FOR JUNK VEHICLES, TRAILERS, AND BOATS FOR TAGGING AND REMOVAL AND OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CHECKING UP ON PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS WE BEGIN TO CLEAN UP OUR CITY THIS SPRING.

OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS, WE WILL MOVE FORWARD AND RECOMMEND TO REPLACE ENGINE 103 WHICH IS 25 YEARS OLD. WE WILL ALSO MOVE FORWARD AND RECOMMEND TO REPLACE BOTH AMBULANCES AND MAKE MUCH NEEDED REPAIRS TO BOTH OF OUR FIRE

STATIONS. SOON YOU WILL BE SEEING NEW COMMAND VEHICLES PURCHASED FOR OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMAND STAFF. OUR COMMUNITY FIREFIGHTING EFFORTS WILL BEGIN THIS SPRING AS OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT FOCUS' ON CHILDRENS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS, WE WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS TO RESTRUCTURE OUR TRASH PROGRAM. ORDINANCES WILL BE UPDATED THAT REFLECTS OUR CURRENT CONDITIONS AND WE WILL RECOMMEND TO INVEST IN 2 NEW TRASH TRUCKS. A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO TRASH COLLECTION WILL BE SET OUT AS OUR PROFESSIONAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES COME FORWARD TO EXPLAIN THERE REQUESTS. OUR MAIN DPW BUILDINGS ROOF WILL BE REPLACED AND MUCH NEEDED INVESTMENTS IN OUR DPW ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

IN 2012, WE HAVE FINALLY WENT BACK TO HAVING A PARKS DIRECTOR. WE NEED TO GET BACK TO HAVING GOOD CLEAN AND SAFE PARKS. NEW PROGRAMS SHOULD BE ADDED SO WE CAN DO AS MUCH AS WE CAN FOR CHILDREN. NEW ROOFS WILL BE INSTALLED ON THE PARKS MAINTENANCE BUILDING AND ALL OF THE SINGLED ROOF SHELTERS. WE ARE GOING TO ADDRESS THE CONTINUED DETERIORATION OF THE CREEK BANK BY RECOMMENDING TO BE INSTALLED RIFT RAFT FOR STABILITY AND LETS MAKE OUR CITY PARKS COMPATABLE FOR THE DISABLED.

WHEN THE WEATHER BREAKS, WE WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CONDUCTING PM ON OUR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM AND WE WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS OF MAKING MUCH NEEDED REPAIRS. THIS IS LONG OVERDUE AND WILL BOTH EXPENSIVE AND VERY TIME CONSUMING AT BEST. BUT IT IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO. OUR LOCAL ROADS ARE IN THE SAME CONDITION, WE WILL HAVE APPROXIMATELY 150,000.00 DOLLARS TO WORK WITH INITIALLY TO MAKE REPAIRS, BUT IT IS SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE DO SO.

WE HAVE SEVERAL ROADS THROUGHOUT OUR CITY THAT NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. HERE ARE SOME OF OUR ROADS THAT ARE IN TERRIBLE CONDITIONS:

GARSTANG
YAZOO
ANDREA
OAKMONT COURT
WOODMONT COURT
ST. JOHNS COURT NORTH AND SOUTH
WHITEWOOD COURT
ANDREA COURT
ANGELA COURT
BELLFOUNTAIN
NORTH AND SOUTH 7TH
SOUTH 8TH STREET
13TH STREET
DETROIT
BUFFALO FROM 13TH TO 17TH
CLEVELAND
ROYAL ROAD
23RD STREET

AND FINALLY WE WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS OF REDOING MAIN STREET. HOPEFULLY BY THIS FALL WE WILL BEGIN THIS MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENT TO OUR CITY. AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, A FEDERAL GRANT WAS AWARDED TO BG FOR 4.6 MILLION, LEAVING US A 1.2 MILLION DOLLAR MATCH OF WHICH AMTRAK PAID FORWARD 750,000.00 AS A SETTLEMENT FOR A STORM DRAINAGE MATTER. THAT LEAVES US 450,000.00 SHORT. I WILL ONLY ADD AN ADDITIONAL 250,000.00 TO THE MATCH AS WE WILL HAVE TO PAY ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING FEES OF 150,000.00 FOR THIS PROJECT.

OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE CHANGES TO OUR CODE OF ORDINANCES, WE WILL INTRODUCE NEW CITY POLICIES, WE WILL NEGOTIATE NEW LABOR AGREEMENTS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST IN OUR EMPLOYEES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND OUR EQUIPMENT, BUT MOST OF ALL WE WILL KEEP YOU IN THE LOOP ON WHAT IS HAPPENING ON A DAILY BASIS. I WILL REPORT BACK TO YOU AROUND THE FIRST OF MARCH AS I WILL BE DISCUSSING A VERY SERIOUS MATTER CONCERNING THE SOON TO BE CLOSED EMERGENCY ROOM AND THE POTENTIAL COST THAT IT MAY PAY FOR THE COTIZENS OF OUR CITY,

SO UNTIL THEN I THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE EACH
ONE OF YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS OUR CITY.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.