

Mayor Cannon here with another address from your Mayor's office. I will share with you my activities this past week in your City Government in my effort to be Truthful and Transparent.

So let's get started with the happenings last week. Monday I joined a call with the Governor's office, our City Hall staff, along with our friends in Ogden Dunes. We stated again, the importance of sand being placed on our Portage LakeFront Beach. I offered up a meeting with our partners, The Port of Indiana, US steel, Arcelor Mittal, and NIPSCO, to find a short-term solution and long-term plan for Beach Erosion. The governor's office is putting together a meeting in the upcoming weeks.

At last week's City Council meeting, residents expressed concerns about backyard water issues in many neighborhood. I informed the Residents that I, along with our staff, would have a plan in place in 30 days. Our Council Meetings can be found on YouTube and on the City FB page and City website.

Our Storm Water Board meeting was another chance for over 20 residents who attended to express their problems with backyard drainage. I visited each area and assessed the problems. I have asked our Storm water staff to create a solution for these problems and get started on the work in 30 days.

Now on to a topic, like beach erosion, that seems to take a lot of time and energy that I am willing to take: School Resource Officers from the Portage PD in our Portage Township Schools. I met with our County Sheriff and Superintendent of Schools. Though I wanted two full-time SRO's from our Police Department, I did compromise and offered up one full-time Portage Police Officer at no cost to the Portage Township Schools until January 1st of 2020; then the City would revisit the issue of pay for the remainder of the school year. We were close to an agreement once the meeting was over. I felt confident that we had an agreement, but the prospect of an agreement failed. Though I am disappointed, we will keep working to help keep our schools safe for our kids and teachers.

Now on to some good news,..Our new compost site on Route 12, which is now open to the public from 12pm-5pm Wednesday and Friday and 9am-4pm on Saturdays, has compost that is free to Porter County residents.

I also had very productive meeting with NICTD, the South Shore Train system. We discussed the future of transportation, along with double tracking and the future of our Portage station on Route 12, with plans for expanding parking and access with the goal in mind to make riding the train to Chicago efficient and less of a hassle. More news will be coming.

I am excited to tell you about our first City Beautification Committee meeting as we started brainstorming. Remember these are volunteers from local business, and Residents.

I was grateful to be asked to open the Relay for Life ceremonies and to cheer on cancer survivors and caregivers; more and more Survivors each day are in our prayers.

And finally, just when I find myself getting ready for another week ahead, I find some inspiration from our residents. The Portage Recovery Association, located on McCasland, just off of Willowcreek are doing great work and offering a safe place for those that have addictions. Anyone that needs somewhere to go to talk or get help, please visit this outstanding group.

As summer heats up, so will the activities going on in your City Government, so Stay Tuned until next time. Thank you for watching, and we'll see you soon.