

## **Mayor's Report February 12, 2026**

I have been working with Mike Lucarelli, his representatives and our legal counsel on the terms of our easement for a pedestrian bridge over Northern Ave and the process of working with the building office, the planning commission and council to get a site plan approved by the planning commission. It is a very ambitious project that will transform our downtown area and as it is with any project this size, it does come with challenges that we are working to overcome. We are meeting with Sean Strube from the Monroe Business Alliance to seek all economic development assistance they can provide. Parking space is an issue and I have been researching what neighboring downtown areas do to address these challenges. Mike's engineers are drafting a site plan to submit to the building office for review before going to the planning commission.

High Profile will be opening soon and they have asked if they can have their paving contractor do some cold patch work on Evans Drive which they will pay for. Since we are not equipped to do that work under current weather conditions, I did approve the work as Street Administrator. We are also working towards a more permanent solution when conditions improve.

I am getting estimates for engineering services to oversee the repaving of Gaynier Road from the I-75 overpass approach to the intersection at Harold Dr. I have two estimates but they don't include the same scope of work. I expect to see an amended version this week so we can make a fair comparison when choosing a company.

I would like to schedule an all committee/commission meeting this spring, council and the public included, for the purpose of communicating our current projects, our challenges, listening to ideas and encourage involvement in making our city better. A Thursday between Council meetings may be a good time or any other evening if it works best for most people. It would be posted as a workshop and open to everyone. This was suggested by a number of people and I am in full support. Let's set a date and put it on the calendar.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mayor Gardner