

WAUKESHA

# Reilly delivers State of the City Message

Cites advancements  
in safety initiatives,  
housing study,  
water project

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WAUKESHA — Mayor Shawn Reilly presented the State of the City Message at the virtual Common Council meeting Tuesday night, where he discussed achievements in the city during 2019.

“Obviously, this is a different year for us all,” Reilly said. “The state of the city has historically been our opportunity to reflect and celebrate the many accomplishments of Waukesha. This year, however,



Reilly

is not like other years. Our businesses and our residents are concerned about themselves and their community, from both a health perspective and a financial perspective.”

Reilly discussed concerns that have arisen from COVID-19, with prayers for quick and easy recovery.

“I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the good that we have accomplished over the last year,” he said.

Reilly began with education, first discussing how the city has worked to keep schools safe with the expansion of the School Resource Officer program.

In 2019, the city added two new middle school SROs, which brings the total of SROs in local schools to six.

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# Reilly

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"We all know that this program is a benefit to our community, especially with the tragic incident occurring in December [an officer-involved shooting at Waukesha South High School], which really highlighted the importance of the SRO program," he said.

The city has also eliminated fines on children's library materials at the Waukesha Public Library in order to encourage child literacy.

Speaking more on community safety, Reilly discussed the expansion of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), through the purchase of additional AEDs in all fire department vehicles and in many public buildings. They also offered staff training on how to utilize the AEDs.

AEDs increase the chances of survival for those in cardiac arrest.

Reilly also discussed the comprehensive housing study conducted in 2019.

"The goal was to better understand the existing housing needs in the city of Waukesha," he said. "What we found was that the Waukesha population is expected to grow but household size would be shrinking. We found that there was an immediate need for over 500 housing units and thousands more units needed by 2038."

Reilly said this has allowed them to focus on development projects needed in the city.

He continued with construction projects, starting with the new City Hall building.

"This will result in significant safety, maintenance and operation efficiencies," Reilly said. "This matters to residents as they will have a more centralized location to interact with the city."

Reilly said the new park projects were beneficial as well, including new playground sites for children. An achievement listed was receiving funding for the new Buchner Park Pool and Community Building project.

"This will be a gem of a facility," he said.

Reilly ended his presentation by discussing the Lake Michigan water supply project and a few other projects. He said he expects construction for the project to begin this year, hopefully in late summer.

Reilly highlighted the work that went into the project, receiving authorization from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and more.

To read the State of the City Message or watch the Common Council meeting, you can visit: [waukesha.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx](http://waukesha.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx) and view the Common Council meeting online.