

CITY OF CLARKSVILLE, ARKANSAS
STATE OF THE CITY REPORT
YEAR ENDING 2009

Clarksville is a great city. I am extremely proud of our city and I feel so fortunate to have been able to serve the citizens of Clarksville in 2009 and I look forward to 2010. This past year was a difficult year for many with the struggling economy and the loss of jobs. We are confident that with all of us working together we can survive the economic downturn and we are certain 2010 will find us back on the road to recovery. Even during these difficult times we have so many things to be thankful for. We live in a wonderful, caring community rich with community pride and kind and loving people.

The City of Clarksville has a total of 36 full time employees. Many cities our size have a much larger work force. With extreme planning, hard work and the dedication of our employees, we continue to provide exemplary city services while keeping the cost of these services to a minimum. City employees worked extremely hard in 2009 to provide the citizens of Clarksville with the services we have all come to expect and enjoy. I sincerely appreciate their hard work and dedication to the city and its citizens. The city's most important assets are our employees and the many volunteers who serve the citizens of Clarksville.

Clarksville's City Council Members work extremely hard to be good stewards of public funds while planning and promoting the orderly growth of our city. The Council is also charged with creating and updating city codes to help protect our citizens and their property. City Council Members are Dutch Houston, Reg Johnson, John Pledger, Danna Schneider, Mark Simpson, and Freeman Wish.

I would also like to recognize the members of the city's Boards and Commissions. These individuals donate countless hours and take time away from their families and businesses to serve the citizens of Clarksville. They receive no compensation for their efforts. Their only reward is our sincere appreciation.

ADMINISTRATION

The City of Clarksville received the "Volunteer Community of the Year" award at the Arkansas Municipal League winter conference. This award represents the many hours of voluntary service provided to our community by citizens of our community.

The City Administration Office consists of one employee, the Mayor, and the City Clerk/Treasurer. The Administration Office is responsible for providing all human resource functions, accounting, record keeping, supervision, and all other necessary services for all departments within the city.

In order to preserve our city's history we completed scanning and archiving ordinances, council minutes, and resolutions in 2009. The challenge now is to continue scanning current records to maintain an up to date searchable program data base.

The City Administration Office continues our commitment to the city's employees and the citizens of Clarksville.

AIRPORT

The Clarksville Airport continues to work with the State of Arkansas Department of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration to improve airport facilities.

The current Airport Commissioners are– Chairman Bryan Burnett, Roy Johnson, Andrew Nelson, Robert Charlton, Steve Fisher, Bob Laster, and Keith Brown.

ANIMAL CONTROL

The City contracted animal control services through the Johns on County Humane Society in 2009. The Humane Society was responsible for enforcing the city's leash law and for the removal of dead animals from city streets. The total cost of this yearly contract in 2009 was \$64,500.00. To report a dog running at large or a dead animal that needs to be removed please call the Clarksville Police Department at 479-754-8100. If you would like to check on a missing pet or are interested in adopting a pet you may call the Humane Society at 479-754-4200.

CITY INSPECTOR

Total construction cost in the city of Clarksville was down by seventy three percent (73%) in 2009. 2009 construction costs totaled \$3,997,000.00 which is \$10,810,908.00 less than overall construction in 2008.

Residential Single Family New Construction cost for 2009 was \$700,000.00. Residential Single Family Additions cost for 2009 was \$297,000.00. Total Residential construction cost was \$997,000.00 in 2009 which is \$7,079,910.00 less than 2008. Commercial/Industrial construction totaled \$1,600,000.00 which is \$896,570.00 less than 2008 construction. Multi-family residential construction in 2009 totaled \$1,400,000.00 which is \$2,834,428.00 less than 2008.

DISTRICT COURT

Revenue from the District Court submitted to the city's general fund in 2009 totaled \$190,055.99 which is an increase of \$26,583.89 over 2008. Expenditures for 2009 totaled 47,898.70.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In January of 2009 the City Council approved the recommendation of the Economic Development Committee to expend \$93,250.00, to contract with the firm of Boyette Levy to provide an Economic Development Blueprint and Labor Study for the city of Clarksville. The year long process has been completed and Boyette Levy presented their plan to the city. Some of the highlights of the plan are to:

- ✍ Establish Clarksville/Johnson County Economic Development Commission
 - ✍ Public and Private Sector Funding
 - ✍ Separate Board and Joint Executive Committee
 - ✍ Create position of CEO/Chief Economic Development Officer
 - ✍ Restructure the existing Chamber of Commerce

Economic Development is critical for the growth of our community and the ability of our community to survive and prosper during the economic challenges we currently face. It is vital to secure and support the companies that we currently depend on to provide jobs for our citizens as well as aggressively pursuing new industries. The City Council has the daunting task of figuring out the City's role as it pertains to the recommendations made. Regardless of any differences we may have I believe we should all work toward the common goal of providing a job for every person who wishes to make Clarksville their home. I would like to thank the committee as well as everyone else who has taken an interest in the economic development of our community.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City of Clarksville added four new positions to the Fire Department bringing the total number of volunteer firemen to 26. These firemen do receive \$25.00 per call and the city provides medical insurance for those who meet the criteria established by the Municipal Health Benefit Fund and the city of Clarksville.

There were a total of 22 false alarms as compared to 28 in 2008. The remaining 34 calls ranged from steam mistaken for smoke to power lines down to flammable liquid spills. No civilian or firefighter lives were lost.

All firefighters on the Clarksville Fire Department meet the current state minimum standards and all are at least Firefighter I rated and seven are Firefighter II rated.

The Clarksville Fire Department continues to inspect, on a yearly basis, all daycare facilities and buildings used by state agencies for fire hazards and code compliance as required by state law.

All new commercial construction and residential development goes through a plan review and site inspections for code enforcement. This continuing effort is to improve the fire safety of all new buildings and subdivisions along with requiring code compliance for new businesses occupying existing buildings.

A new 2010 Brush Truck was added in 2009 to replace the 1970 Boardman Truck which was sold.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

The annual plan and 2009 Capital Fund Program were approved in March with the majority of the funds being utilized for kitchen renovations as per the Five Year Agency plan. Funds received totaled \$243,650.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provided funding in the amount of \$309,064 which allowed the renovation of kitchens originally built in the 1960's in 46 elderly efficiency and one bedroom units and replacement of kitchen lighting and bathroom heaters with energy efficient heat/vent/lights. The project was concluded in November. The receipt of the ARRA funds required the revision of the CHA's Procurement Policy which also included a "buy America" clause.

A study on tenant's utility allowances was conducted and revisions made to the utility allowance schedule effective July 1.

Approximately \$5,500.00 was written off in bad debts at year end closing in June. However, all accounts are pursued by state tax set aside or in small claims court whenever possible.

The tenant food bank was given state-wide recognition by the Arkansas Hunger Alliance in a featured article. The University of the Ozarks, First Baptist Church of Clarksville, First Baptist Church of Knoxville, Knoxville Extension Homemakers Club, Clarksville High School EAST Lab, Johnson County Community Foundation, Tyson Foods, Wal-Mart, and private entities continue to provide food and labor donations to the food bank. Johnson County Extension Agency Susan Pickle presented food nutrition classes free of charge to tenants and members of the community at the Foy Howard Community Center.

A pavilion on Poplar Circle was screened at the tenants' request to enhance its use during the summertime and a chain link fence installed on the west side of the property separating a new apartment complex from elderly single units for security purposes.

Executive Director Metta Holman was selected for a two-year term to serve as Vice-President of Membership Services for Arkansas NAHRO (National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials). Administrative Assistant Sara Stucky was named to serve on the Membership Services Committee. Project Manager Lisa McCarley was asked to be the official photographer of Arkansas NAHRO.

The 6/30/2009 fiscal year end audit was prepared with no substantial findings.

Following a physical inspection on random units, common buildings and grounds which was conducted by REAC (Real Estate Assessment Center) in October, a score of 95 out of 100 was reported. No health and safety violations were noted.

Community outreach was very successful and Christmas items were received for the elderly from First Baptist Church of Knoxville who made stockings stuffed with personal items including socks donated by Hanes Brands, Inc. Toys for Tots and many local businesses provided gifts for the tenant children and the tenants' annual Christmas party.

The Clarksville Housing Authority participated in the local law enforcement's national night out and the health fair with both events held at the Marvin Vinson Multi-Purpose Building.

The Bill Dickerson Computer Lab continues to hold classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and has been instrumental in helping its students obtain better jobs utilizing their newly taught computer skills.

Homebuyer education workshops continued to be sponsored by the CHA and presented by ARVAC, Inc. Local banks and realtors also participated.

Mrs. Ethel Bougher was recognized by Mayor Billy Helms and the CHA Board of Commissioners for thirty-three years of tenancy.

The Clarksville Housing Authority Board consists of Chairman Denton Tumbleson, Vice-Chair Cheryl Rideout, Bob Norris, Tom Pittman, and Arnola Collins.

LIGHT & WATER

History

Clarksville Light & Water Company is owned by the City of Clarksville, Arkansas. It was established in its present form in 1947, when the City Council appointed a Commission to act as an agency of the City, charged with the responsibility of administering the Light and Water Company in the best interest of the citizens of Clarksville. Clarksville Light and Water Commission Members are: Steven Sosebee, Darrell Weathers, Matt Wylie, Eddie Lindsey, and Christel Thompson.

Customers

Clarksville Light & Water Company presently serves approximately 4,300 residences and businesses within the Clarksville city limits, providing electricity, water and wastewater treatment services. Additionally, water is supplied on a wholesale basis to the cities of Coal Hill, Lamar, Hartman and Knoxville, as well as the Horsehead, Ludwig

and East Johnson County water associations.

Sales

Electricity sold during the year decreased 3.8% to 244,597 megawatt hours. Water sales decreased 1.3% to 1.54 billion gallons.

Construction

Electrical distribution system improvements totaled \$528,000 for the year 2009. This included overhead to underground line conversion of \$206,000 and \$196,000 of a \$487,000 contract for extension of a 69KV transmission loop to increase reliability of the system and provide a dual feed for the West substation.

Water distribution system improvements totaled \$918,000 for the year 2009. This included \$472,000 of a \$760,000 contract for water line upgrades, \$198,000 for services to two new subdivisions provided by developers, \$40,000 for a new long-term master water plan and \$54,000 for master fire line extensions.

Sewer line and collection system improvements of \$1,158,000 were completed during the year. This includes services to two new subdivisions of \$194,000 provided by developers and a \$942,000 pretreatment plant of which \$750,000 was funded by a local industry and State grants through the City of Clarksville.

Fuel Adjustment

Clarksville Light & Water Company purchases wholesale power from Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, Independence County Hydroelectric and the Southwestern Power Administration of the Department of Energy for distribution within the city of Clarksville. Our electric rates are established in reference to a base rate for the cost of a kilowatt-hour of power purchased. When the cost of power differs from that base rate, the difference goes into the calculation of a fuel adjustment to be applied to each customer's bill.

The fuel adjustment is calculated on a 6-month moving average basis. This means that it will take six months for the Company to recover the difference in the base cost of power and in what was actually paid to purchase that power.

Historically, this time gap has resulted in significant swings in the Company's reported net income. Additionally, substantial cash reserves are required to finance this delay in cost recovery.

Departmental Summary

Electric Department operating revenues of \$18,929,000 are down \$153,000 from 2008 electric revenues. The cost of power purchased decreased \$741,000 and there was a net

increase of \$375,000 in other expenses. This resulted in a \$213,000 increase in electric net income to \$949,000 for the year 2009.

Water Department operating revenues decreased \$53,000 to \$3,826,000. Expenses increased \$308,000, and the net loss of \$198,000 reflects a decline in earnings of \$361,000 for the year.

Sewer Department operating revenues of \$1,818,000 are down \$123,000. Expenses rose \$122,000 and the net loss of \$163,000 reflects a decline in earnings of \$245,000 when compared to 2008.

System Growth

Significant electric system construction projects scheduled for 2009 include completion of the \$487,000 contract for construction of the last leg of a new 69KV loop at a projected cost of \$291,000 and conversion of overhead lines to underground service for \$300,000.

Water system projects include \$288,000 for completion of a \$760,000 water line upgrade project, repainting of two water tanks at a cost of \$180,000, and construction of a new tank at a projected cost of \$3,500,000.

Sewer system improvements include \$260,000 for relining manholes and sewer lines and \$50,000 for refurbishing a sewer lift station.

MAINTENANCE

The City's fleet of vehicles is maintained at the City Garage where repairs and routine maintenance are made to vehicles from the Street, Police, Fire, and Parks Departments. There are a total of 51 vehicles as well as numerous mowers, tractors, graders, backhoes, etc., that the maintenance department maintains. The City's Maintenance Department consists of two employees.

PARKS & RECREATION

Parks and Recreation has an advisory board, consisting of Kathy Howell, Gene Raible, Ron Leonard, Richard Rogers and Mike Bean, to help guide the growth and operation of our parks system.

The department continued to serve the citizens of Clarksville with a plan to improve and maintain our existing parks and facilities. The new playgrounds continued to be very popular in 2009 and were used extensively.

The June 12th storms controlled our workforce for three months. The Parks Department spent the rest of the year trying to catch up while dealing with wet weather.

Continued activities at the Marvin L. Vinson Multi-Purpose Building were Kid Fest, Health Fairs and Body Walk. All the youth organizations' programs continue to be strong and growing. We continued to provide facilities for basketball, baseball, softball, boxing, soccer, and swimming. The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing facilities and support to youth organizations in whatever way possible.

2009 National Night out, held at the Marvin L. Vinson Multi-Purpose Building, continued to grow in 2009. Attendance was the largest we have seen to date for this event. The evening was capped off with a large fireworks display that was enjoyed by young and old alike.

The construction of a dog park was completed. The park is located West of the City Park Playground and East of the Big Ball Field. The Park was constructed to allow an exercise area for dogs where they can run without being leashed. The construction of a skate park, in the same area, began in 2009 and will be completed in early 2010.

The Soccer Complex will be receiving a new concession stand and restrooms in 2010. The engineering for this project was completed in 2009 and construction should begin in 2010 as soon as weather permits.

The swimming pool continues to be a challenge facing the Clarksville Parks and Recreation Department

The Sustainability Education and Recycling Center on Oakland Street continued providing recycling opportunities for the citizens of our community. The number of citizens enjoying the new drop-off center increased dramatically in 2009. The market for recyclables is growing and is therefore increasing revenues. The center of course is still subsidized by general fund revenues. A permanent structure is needed to replace the travel trailer currently in use at the site.

The Parks and Recreation Department looks forward to helping provide our citizens with a healthier and greener community.

PLANNING AND ZONING/BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

The Planning and Zoning Commission/Board of Adjustments consists of the following members: Chairman Herbert Rideout, Charles Burcham, Floyd Pledger, Jo Anne Virden, Joe Oberste, Connie Hamilton, Matt Hurst, Toby Wilson, and Dr. Don Pennington. The Planning Commission approved five Special Permit Requests and four rezoning requests. The Board of Adjustments approved seven requests for variances. There were no new subdivision projects presented for approval in 2009.

POLICE

The Clarksville Police Department consists of – one Chief, one Assistant Chief, one Lieutenant and two Sergeants who are shift Supervisors, one Sergeant and one Senior Patrolman who are CID officers, one Warrants Officer, one School Resource Officer, nine Patrol Officers, one Fill-In Officer, one Code Enforcement Officer, one Traffic

Control Person who also works as a weekend Communications Officer, two additional weekend Communications Operators, three full time Communications Operators, , and one Secretary for a total staff of 27.

In 2009 the Clarksville Police Department continued to make great strides in a non-stop effort to combat crime and make our community safe for all.

The CPD investigated 338 accidents, opened and closed 351 code violation cases, made 458 misdemeanor arrests on warrants, made 141 felony arrests, and the total number of misdemeanor charges filed in the city was 3,200.

The second annual Rotary Club Earle Hunt Jr. Police Officer of the Year award was presented to Patrolman Jeb Clark. Patrolman Clark went above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis and proudly served the Clarksville Police Department and exemplified the best the CPD has to offer. Patrolman Clark was also named a 2009 Red Cross Hero for the State of Arkansas by the American Red Cross.

The Clarksville Police Department was honored by receiving the 2009 Morgan's Choice Award. The award was presented by the Morgan Nick Foundation and the Arkansas Attorney General's Office.

Chief Greg Donaldson was chosen 2009 Arkansas Chief of the Year by the Arkansas Police Chief's Association (AAPC). Chief Donaldson was also elected to serve as the second Vice-President for the AAPC.

Clarksville Police continued their Christmas traditions by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army; participating in Toys for Tots, the Angel Tree program in conjunction with the University of the Ozarks women, Coats for Kids with the help and support of Forrester Davis Development, and delivered 30 bicycles to area children. With the gracious help of the Knights of Columbus and community donations, we also participated in our second annual Shop with a Cop program. This year we were able to assist over 40 families. Each child was allotted \$150.00. Most of these children shopped for siblings and parents before considering their personal wants or needs. With the assistance of several organizations in Johnson County we were able to provide each family with a Christmas meal. This is one of the most rewarding opportunities that CPD officers participate in.

The Clarksville Police Department had an extremely rewarding and productive year in 2009. CPD believes that it is not only our responsibility to serve this community, it is our pleasure. As proudly displayed on the bumpers of our patrol units, the Clarksville Police Department is "Committed to a Better Community".

STREET

The Street Department consists of four employees who continued routine maintenance of streets and drainage. Tom Cogan continued splitting his time supervising both the Street and Parks Departments.

Drainage Projects completed in 2009 and paid for through the Street Improvement Fund were – Montgomery and Buchanan; Sherwood; Tanglewood; Olive Drive; Porter Industrial Road; and Thompson Drive; at a cost of \$942,333.63. A City Engineer will be in place in early 2010 and we will then establish a new maintenance plan for streets and

prioritize streets, drainage, and sidewalks that need to be constructed and/or repaired.

Highway 21 extension is still in the development/planning stage and will be a joint project between the city of Clarksville and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. The State Highway Department is also planning to widen the bridge on Rogers Avenue at Exit 58 to five lanes. The bid for this project will be let in the 2011-2013 Highway funding cycle with the project scheduled for completion in 2015.

SUMMARY

The City's general fund beginning balance for 2009 was \$537,846.23. 2009 Revenues totaled \$3,224,662.64. The General Fund Expenditures for 2009 were \$3,140,596.32 bringing the General Fund year ending balance to \$621,912.55 General Fund Investments total \$3,650,000.00 to bring total General Funds available to \$4,271,912.55. This is an increase of \$84,066.32 over total revenues available at the end of 2008.

Street Fund beginning balance in 2009 was \$201,308.58. Revenues totaled \$589,835.88. Street expenditures for 2009 totaled \$520,169.02. Street Funds available as of December 31, 2009 were \$270,975.44 which is an increase of \$69,666.86.

Community Project Funds, revenues from 20% of the city one cent sales tax, ended the year with a balance of \$926,079.91.

Street Improvement Funds, revenues generated from 80% of the city's one cent sales tax, ended the year with a balance of \$1,073,183.97. Street Improvement Fund Investments totaled \$1,000,000.00. Total Street Improvement funds available year ending 2009 are \$2,073,183.97.

The City continues to provide excellent services to our citizens while keeping the city on sound financial footing.

I encourage every citizen of Clarksville to take an interest in our community. Your participation and contribution will make a difference. If you have an idea, suggestion or concern I invite you to call or come by my office. The City Administration Office is located at 205 Walnut Street and is open from 8:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:30, Monday through Friday. We are here to serve you.

**Please pray for God's continued blessings on Our Great City,
Our Great State, and Our Great Nation.**

