



City of Munford, Tennessee

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Dwayne Cole, Mayor

Mayor's Report
May 26, 2020

Aldermen,

I am very pleased to announce that City Hall is now open for business as usual in the lobby and all our City offices. It was good to walk into City Hall today without having to use a key! I've had several inquiries about when the County Clerk's office will reopen for business. I've been in contact with County Clerk Mary Gaither and she is working on reopening the Covington office and then will focus on our office. We look forward to having them return very soon.

Tonight, we will have the second reading of the 2020-2021 Budget for consideration. This budget passed on the first reading at the April 27 meeting. Included in this budget is the Governor's Local Support Grant of \$164,000 to be used for public safety equipment and roof repairs on city buildings. Due to uncertainty in the current economy, only capital outlay purchases and repairs which are grant eligible are included. While there are signs that the local economy is improving, this budget is very conservative with revenues projected at \$4,155,565 and expenditures of the same. The tax rate to fund this budget is \$1.4261, which is the current rate at the previous assessment values.

Most of our citizens who are property owners have received reappraisals and reassessments. There is some confusion about the tax rate and concern that taxes will go up significantly. State law prohibits cities from having a windfall on reappraisals. Therefore, when the reappraisal process is completed, the County Tax Assessor will issue a certified tax rate for each city or town in the county. The tax rate will be reduced to produce the same amount of tax dollars as the previous higher rate. As soon as we receive this information, we will change the tax rate to the lower certified rate.

The 2020 Census is well underway and 67.8% of our citizens have responded. I am encouraging those who have not responded to do so immediately. The census is not only your civic duty but also affects the amount of funding we receive for roads, public safety, recreation opportunities, etc. The census also determines how many seats our state is allocated in the House of Representatives. Please go online and register at 2020census.gov.

Congratulations to the Munford High School Class of 2020. It is doubtful that any other class has endured as much adversity as these young people. They gave up spring sports, Senior Prom, Senior concerts, and the excitement of graduating together with their classmates. I hope each of them uses this as a life lesson that life is sometimes unfair, but you battle through and make the best of it. To the graduating class of 2020, I encourage you to go make us proud.

Dr. Courtney Fee and her support staff at Munford High School deserve an enormous amount of thanks for their efforts in supporting our graduating seniors and make the very best of a uniquely challenging situation. Thank you, Dr. Fee!!

Warm regards,

Dwayne Cole