

Hello Residents and Council,

We just finished another great early August of fun in Dexter. We had great weather for Dexter Daze again this year and the Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival was well attended by Artists and visitors. With August winding down, we will soon see the start of the new school year and the feel of fall will be approaching. I hope everyone has had a great summer and has a great Labor Day!

Here is my report of recent activities and my calendar of planned Dexter activities looking ahead:

Mayor's Thoughts

First, I would like to thank all the residents of Dexter and the residents of communities that surround us for their patience during this busy summer construction season. There have been a great many road construction projects completed in and around Dexter this summer. While I know there has been some inconvenience to all, I just wanted to say thank you to all the drivers for their patience as these projects have been completed. The summer started with the reconstruction of Dexter Ann Arbor Road by the Road Commission. The City completed the first round of crack sealing and several sidewalk upgrade projects. The Baker Road Roundabout project is nearly complete and the School's Dan Hoey road improvements appear on track to be ready for the start of school. We know that construction season can be frustrating sometimes, but all of these infrastructure improvements have been planned to improve the safety and the ride-ability of our community for the future. We look forward to getting all the roads in Dexter open for your use very shortly.

My second topic is the subject of New City Offices – while we have spent much time on the idea of improving our fire station, I feel our need for new space for City Offices is even more critical. We have simply outgrown the space above the PNC Bank building and we need to find another home for our governmental functions. We currently have 6 full time staff in that space, however that will be changing in the near future. In the coming weeks, we will be hiring an assistant planner to help our community development/code enforcement office and we are considering the idea of self performing our City Assessing functions. Regardless of whether we self perform the assessing functions or use an outside company, we need more space in order to effectively allow our staff to go about their daily duties. We need more conference room space and daily work space and our staff deserve an improved working environment. Members of our Council have recently taken a tour of the Copeland Building and portions of the Old St. Joseph Church property. Council is currently waiting for a report from our Architect on whether either of those properties could be re-purposed for our use. Ultimately, we are looking for the best long term use of all properties under all scenarios. We are evaluating all options, whether lease or purchase, including the possibility of new City offices in the Monument Park building, or as part of the 3045 Broad Street discussions that we are having with Norfolk Development. I received a lot of questions during the Dexter Daze weekend on this topic. It was fun to talk about our facility challenges and I appreciate the interest that has been expressed. I was not surprised to hear that most people are concerned about the high cost of moving the fire station and residents that offered an opinion expressed a desire to keep the station right where it is on Main Street. We will continue to work together as a Council to find appropriate solutions. Please keep your feedback coming.

Recent Meetings

August 14, 2018 – Plein Air Festival – Welcome Reception for the Artists (at the Null Taphouse)

August 15, 2018 – Dexter Firefighter's Association – Annual Summer Picnic at the Dexter American Legion – I enjoyed attending this annual picnic and talking to our area firefighters and even a couple visiting Fire Chiefs from nearby communities. It is always great to hear their perspective on equipment and facility needs as well as learn how we are doing as a department. We have a great team of firefighters committed to serving our community and I appreciated the opportunity and invitation to be part of their summer picnic.

August 16, 2018 – Downtown Development Authority meeting

August 16, 2018 – Dexter Area Fire Department meeting – we discussed the potential purchase of a new ladder truck and potentially two new fire engines. This discussion will continue at the September DAFD meeting.

Upcoming Activities

August 27, 2018 – Washtenaw County HAZMAT Golf Outing

August 27, 2018 – City Council meeting

September 13, 2018 – Huron River Watershed Council – SUDS on the River Fundraiser

September 19, 2019 – WATS Policy Committee Meeting

I hope everyone has a great Labor Day weekend and I look forward to seeing you around our town. 😊

Shawn Keough

Mayor, City of Dexter

skeough@DexterMI.gov

(313) 363-1434 (cell)