



An Innovative Community; Authentically Hometown

City Applies for Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Funds

State provides an additional \$250M to continue funding popular program

MOUNT VERNON, February 9, 2023 – The City of Mount Vernon is not alone when it comes to meeting the challenge of updating its aging water and wastewater infrastructure.

Recognizing a need, the State in 2021 created the Ohio Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program, which quickly received more than 1,200 grant applications requesting nearly \$1.4 billion in utilities infrastructure funding. The City of Mount Vernon was among the many municipalities, in Knox County and beyond, to apply for this initial funding, with the villages of Danville and Centerburg receiving grants for their infrastructure projects in the program's first round.

On Jan. 6, 2023, Gov. Mike DeWine signed House Bill 45, which will provide an additional \$250 million in funding through the Ohio Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program. A week later the State Department of Development notified the City of Mount Vernon and other previous applicants that they would be eligible for this new round of funding, and the City promptly provided the State with updated information to confirm its eligibility.

The City seeks to fund the following infrastructure projects through this program:

- Buckeye Addition Waterline Extension
- Clintonville Subdivision Storm, Wastewater and Water Line Improvements
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
- Pittsburgh Avenue Waterline Extension
- Fairgrounds Road Water and Wastewater Line Extension
- Parrot Street Wastewater Line Extension

“Clean drinking water is part of the foundation for a good quality of life, yet too many communities in Ohio can’t reliably provide residents with this basic necessity due to crumbling infrastructure that has been too expensive to fix,” Gov. DeWine said upon announcing the creation of the Ohio Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program in 2021.

“Water quality isn’t just about protecting our health, it’s also about our quality of life and our economic future,” added Lt. Gov. Jon Husted.

The State created the grant program to reduce or eliminate the local financial burden associated with critical infrastructure needs, such as the construction of new water systems, the replacement of aging water lines, and the installation of new water mains. Grants are also funding projects to prevent sewer system backups and replace failing household sewage treatment systems with new sewers.

The City of Mount Vernon is excited for the potential to receive external funding for its critical projects, and is thankful to State legislators for allocating additional funds towards such an important need in communities across the State.

END

ABOUT THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON:

The City of Mount Vernon is an innovative community with an authentic hometown feel. The City is dedicated to providing modern services with an emphasis on continual improvement, customer service and equitable laws that support our citizens and visitors, while retaining and attracting investors in our community. Home to 17,000 people, Mount Vernon is the county seat for Knox County and boasts historic buildings and districts as well as business and professional, educational and recreational opportunities through many adaptive reuses of the community's infrastructure and spaces. The City has strong ties to higher education, with Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Kenyon College and Central Ohio Technical College operating satellite locations in the historic downtown. Located 40 miles northeast of Columbus, Mount Vernon is near the geographic center of Ohio and has connections all over the globe.

CONTACT: Todd Hill
PHONE: (740) 393-9517
DATE: February 9, 2023