

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PILOT PROGRAM

City of Clarksburg

2015
PROGRESS
REPORT

West Virginia State Code §8-1-5a (m) provides:

"Commencing December 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, each participating municipality shall give a progress report to the Municipal Home Rule Board and commencing January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Municipal Home Rule Board shall give a summary report of all the participating municipalities to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance."

The Municipal Home Rule Board has developed this standard format for Pilot Program participating municipalities to prepare and submit their respective Annual Progress Reports. The intent of this standard format is to gather and compile information in a consistent, easily understood, and efficient manner that will be used to develop a concise and practical summary report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Annual Progress Reports must be submitted electronically as an individual file in PDF format no later than the close of business on December 1, 2015 by emailing Debbie Browning at debbie.a.browning@wv.gov, West Virginia Development Office, West Virginia Home Rule Pilot Program, State Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 553, Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0311, 304-558-2234.

A. General Information	
Name of Municipality: City of Clarksburg	
Certifying Official: Martin Howe	Title: City Manager
Contact Person: Martin Howe	Title: City Manager
Address: 222 West Main Street	
City, State, Zip: Clarksburg, WV 26301	
Telephone Number: 304-624-1677	Fax Number: 304-624-1662
E-Mail Address: mhowe@cityofclarksburgwv.com	
2010 Census Population: 16,578	
B. Municipal Classification	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class II <input type="checkbox"/> Class III <input type="checkbox"/> Class IV	
C. Pilot Program Entry Phase	
<input type="checkbox"/> Phase I (2007 Legislation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phase II (2014 Legislation) <input type="checkbox"/> Phase III (2015 Legislation)	
D. Attest	
I hereby confirm that I am the authorized official for this municipality and certify that the information submitted herein and attached hereto is true and accurate and that this report addresses each and every initiative included in the original Home Rule Pilot Program Plan Application for this municipality and any subsequent amendments, if applicable.	
Martin Howe	
Type Name of Certifying Official	Signature of Certifying Official
	Date

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each non-tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative:
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? March 26, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)
SUCCESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.
The initiative for relief from Party Affiliation for Municipal Non-Partisan Election and Board Commissioners consisted of the following four (4) components: (1) Relief from the mandate of opposite political party affiliation of election officials during City elections; (2) Relief from party affiliation requirement for Firemen's Civil Service Commission; (3) Relief from party affiliation requirement for Policemen's Civil Service Commission; and (4) Relief from party affiliation requirement for Municipal Building Commission. The implementation of this initiative allowed the City to place election officials in precincts they were familiar with, as well as serve in the positions they were most comfortable working. By removing the party affiliation requirement, we did not have to refuse any resident of the City who wished to work the election from doing so. In the past, we had to decline working City residents if they were not of a certain party affiliation and go outside the City limits to seek workers. Also, removing the party affiliation requirement for the noted Boards/Commissions, allowed for vacancies to be filled with individuals interested and qualified to fill such vacancies.
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative: Collection of Clean-Up Costs From Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company	
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?	
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?	
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s): <i>The City does not anticipate any issues in adopting the required ordinance and anticipates doing so in 2016.</i>	
REVENUES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance.	
SUCCESSES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.	
LESSONS LEARNED — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.	

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Initiative: Collection of Demolition Liens
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s): <i>The City plans on adopting the ordinance some time in 2016. The challenge in enacting this ordinance is that in order to collect liens on houses demolished by the City, at its cost, it will require the assistance of the Sheriff of Harrison County and the Harrison County Tax Office to ensure that the demolition liens are collected and paid at the annual Delinquent Tax Sale in Harrison County. The City would recover a portion of its demolition costs from a purchaser of a property that was demolished by the City and has a lien on record with the Harrison County Clerk.</i>
REVENUES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance.
SUCCESSES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.
LESSONS LEARNED — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

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Initiative: Procurement of Architect Engineering Services
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? November 9, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s):
REVENUES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance. <i>Under this initiative, no additional revenues would be generated by the City. The ordinance modified the City's projects over \$250,000. Under the Request for Proposal process outlined in the ordinance, proposals will still be solicited from a number of qualified firms, but all proposals must include the estimated price or fee to be charged by the firm. Under the current State Statute, the price or fee cannot be considered until the most qualified firm is identified. Under the new ordinance, the City will now be able to consider the proposal which is most advantageous with the firm's fee to be considered in addition to all other evaluation factors. This could result in substantial savings to the taxpayers.</i>
SUCCESSES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance. <i>Since the ordinance was just recently passed, the City has not requested proposals for procurement of architect/engineering services under the provisions of its recently passed ordinance. It may well be necessary to request proposals some time in calendar year 2016. The advantages and benefits of the new ordinance would be explained in next year's report to the Municipal Home Rule Board.</i>
LESSONS LEARNED — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

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Initiative: Building & Zoning Administration/Enforcement Provisions
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s): <i>No direct revenues will result from the adoption of this ordinance, although, the City may anticipate an increase in the number of citations issued, which may result in additional fine revenues.</i>
REVENUES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance: <i>The City has a serious problem in all of its neighborhoods with property owners not maintaining their property. These issues include overgrown grass and weeds, junked motor vehicles, trash and garbage, broken windows, and failure to properly maintain sidewalks and driveways. Under the current State law, there is no authority that will allow Municipal Building Inspectors and City Police Officers to issue citations for the external violations and nuisances listed herein. The adoption of this ordinance will allow on the spot citations for these violations, which will hopefully make property owners clean up and maintain their property. This will improve the appearance of the neighborhoods.</i>
SUCCESSES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.
LESSONS LEARNED — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

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Initiative: Appropriate, Adequate Funding for Advertising the City
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? November 9, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s):
REVENUES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance. No revenues will be generated under the proposed ordinance, although, the indirect benefits may assist the City in economic development and long-term possible operation of additional tax revenues to the City.
SUCCESSES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance. Under the current provisions of Chapter 8 of the West Virginia Code, the City may only expend an amount of \$0.25 per capita to advertise the City. Based on the City's population of approximately 16,000 people, this amounts to approximately \$4,000 per year. This Code provision has been in effect for many years and the City Administration was of the opinion that \$0.25 per capita was insufficient and needed to be increased. Under the recently adopted ordinance, the per capita was increased from \$0.25 to \$1.00 per capita, which will allow the City to expend approximately \$16,000 per year from its annual budget for the purpose of advertising the municipality and entertaining visitors which may include: 1) Sponsorships for non-profit organizations, cultural and art events, and sponsorship of special downtown events. 2) Sponsorships of events or programs of the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce, the Harrison County Economic Development Corp., Clarksburg Historical Society, Civic Groups, etc. 3) Local luncheon meetings with respective business colleagues. 4) Out-of-town travel to meet with prospective businesses. 5) Advertising the City in the newspapers, on websites, magazines, brochures, Facebook, and Twitter. 6) Hosting groups and visitors to the City.
LESSONS LEARNED — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

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Initiative: Impose a 1% Sales & Use Tax	
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?	
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? November 19, 2015	
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s):	
<p>REVENUES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance. <i>The City adopted an ordinance to implement a 1% sales & use tax which will take effect July 1, 2016. As required, the City adopted an ordinance to reduce the business & occupation tax on gross income received from manufacturing and gross income from retail sales. This will result in a reduction of business & occupation tax revenues from local businesses in the amount of \$800,000 - \$1 million. The estimated annual revenues from the 1% sales tax is \$2,970,000. After allowing for the reduction in business & occupation tax, the net increase in City revenues will be approximately \$2 million.</i></p>	
<p>SUCCESES — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance. <i>The proposed uses of the sales tax revenues included in the City's home rule application were, in order of priority, 1) to provide revenues for additional contributions on an annual basis to the Policemen's Pension & Relief Fund and the Firemen's Pension & Relief Fund to increase the funding ratio for both funds and to reduce the unfunded liability of both funds over a period of many years. Based on the most recent actuarial report, both funds are substantially under-funded and the additional contributions are very much needed and would not be possible without the additional sales tax revenues. 2) Provide funds for needed infrastructure improvements throughout the City. A portion of the sales tax revenues will be used in 2016-2017 for replacement of a dangerous and dilapidated bridge and for a major repair to a roadway in the Chestnut Hills area of the City. 3) Some revenues will also be used to assist the City with a major renovation and restoration of the Robinson Grand Theatre in Downtown Clarksburg. Restoration of the theatre has been identified by the business community, art & cultural community, City Council, and the general public as a needed project for the revitalization of Downtown Clarksburg.</i></p>	
LESSONS LEARNED — In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.	