

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE  
PROGRAM

City of Parkersburg, WV

2025  
PROGRESS  
REPORT


West Virginia  
Municipal Home Rule Board  
P. O. Box 11360  
Charleston, WV 25339-1360  
[MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov](mailto:MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov)  
304.558.3356

**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 Home Rule 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 the first business day of December, by emailing to WV Municipal Home Rule Board at [MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov](mailto:MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov).

<b>A. General Information</b>		
Name of Municipality: CITY OF PARKERSBURG		
Certifying Official: THOMAS T. JOYCE	Title: MAYOR	
Contact Person: RYAN BARBER	Title: DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	
Address: ONE GOVERNMENT SQUARE		
City, State, Zip: PARKERSBURG, WV 26102-1627		
Telephone Number: 304.424.8519	Fax Number: 304.424.8464	
E-Mail Address: <a href="mailto:RYAN.BARBER@PARKERSBURGWV.GOV">RYAN.BARBER@PARKERSBURGWV.GOV</a>		
2020 Census Population: 29,746		
<b>B. Municipal Classification</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class II	<input type="checkbox"/> Class III
<input type="checkbox"/> Class IV		
<b>C. Attest</b>		
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.		
Thomas T. Joyce		10.20.25
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 and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

<b>Initiative:</b> Collect and/or Redeem Demolition Liens
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your <b>original plan application</b> <input 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? N/A
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).  This non-tax related initiative has not been implemented, because the City's Administration changed in June 2015 and the current Administration has been focused on other projects. This includes the demolition of slum and blighted property in the City of Parkersburg. Furthermore, the City and/or its Urban Renewal Authority can already participate in the sale of tax delinquent properties, especially on property where the City has issued liens for demolition or delinquent fees.
<b>SUCSESSES</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.
<b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.  N/A

**Initiative: Streamline the Development Review Process**

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application? Yes

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted?  Yes  No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? N/A

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

This non-tax related initiative has not been implemented. Instead, the Administration has been focused on policies and procedures that streamline the development review process. For example, the Administration has implemented a new Development Plan Review Checklist for all commercial development (new construction and/or rehab that is in excess of 1,500 sq. ft. or where the project budget exceeds \$150,000 in valuation).

**SUCSESSES** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

The Plan Review Checklist has been received well by staff and those going through the process.

**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.

Not applicable.

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

<b>Initiative: Implementation of a 1% sales tax</b>		
Was this tax initiative a part of your <b>original plan application</b> <input type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <input type="checkbox"/>		
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <b>X Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?		
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).		
<p>Article 778: Consumer Sales and Use Tax was enacted on December 16, 2014 with an effective date of July 1, 2015. Subsequently, the City's plan to reduce and/or eliminate Business and Occupation Taxes (Article 779: Business and Occupation Tax) was approved by Parkersburg City Council on January 13, 2015. After receiving comments from the Home Rule Pilot Program Board and an advisory opinion from the West Virginia Attorney General's Office, further amendments were made to Article 779 so as to be in compliance with the enabling legislation. These revisions were approved by Parkersburg City Council on final reading on July 28, 2015 and were submitted with the City's 2015 Progress Report.</p>		
<p><b>REVENUES</b> – 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.</p> <p>N/A</p>		
<p><b>SUCCESSSES</b> – 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.</p> <p>A one percent sales tax was implemented on July 1, 2015, per Parkersburg City Ordinance 0-1500. Since the tax was implemented, the City has received remittances from the State of West Virginia Tax Department in excess of \$32 Million over the past 9 years. In accordance with the enabling legislation, the City eliminated and/or reduced Business and Occupations Taxes on the following categories:</p>		
Category:	Previous Rate:	Current Rate:
<b>Manufacturing</b>	0.20	0.00
Retail/Restaurants	0.40	0.28
Electric, light, and Power (on sales and demand charges for domestic purposed and commercial lighting)	3.60	0.00

Electric, Light, and Power (on sales and demand charges for all other purposes)	2.80	0.00
Public Utilities - Natural Gas (on sales and demand charges for all other purposes)	2.35	0.00

As a result, the City foregone/lost approximately \$11,550,000 in B&O taxes during the same time period.

**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.

Parkersburg initially planned to reduce B&O taxes on January 1, 2016. After receiving some questions from the Home Rule Pilot Program Board and an advisory opinion from the West Virginia Attorney General's Office, the city revised its plan so the implementation of the City's sales tax would simultaneously coincide with a reduction in B&O taxes. As such, the City had to revise its budget for fiscal year 2015-2016. There have been no issues since then regarding this tax initiative.

<b>Initiative: Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on Sundays after 10 AM</b>
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application? No
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? February 28, 2017
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A
<b>REVENUES</b> – 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.
<b>SUCSESSES</b> – 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.

Since the ordinance was enacted, several establishments have continued to provide brunch service.

**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.

**Initiative:** Amending the State Building Code to allow for the regulation of open collection and storage of materials, merchandise and other items upon residential properties within the City

Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application? No

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted?  Yes  No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? June 11, 2019

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A

**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.

**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.

Since the 2019 report was submitted, the City's Code Enforcement has issued citations to numerous property owners using the above referenced ordinance. In doing so, properties were cleaned up and are now in compliance with the City's ordinance.

**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.