



COLLECTING THE MONEY



Responsibilities of the City Treasurer

Staunton Citizen University

*Presented by Rick Johnson, Treasurer
Sept. 17, 2019*

Rick Johnson, Treasurer

- Accounting major, Bachelor of Science from Virginia Tech (Go Hokies!)
- 18 years public and private accounting experience
- Elected 2005 (over 12 years governmental experience)
- Master Governmental Treasurer
- No party affiliation
- Staff of 3 deputy treasurer's and >\$300K budget



Constitutional Officer



- Elected every 4 years
- Other constitutional officers:
 - Commissioner of the Revenue
 - Commonwealth Attorney
 - City Sheriff
 - Clerk of the Court (elected every 8 years)

Elected to Serve



- Primary responsibility of Treasurer to citizens is the **receipt** and **collection** of revenue, the **safekeeping** of revenue, and the appropriate **accounting** for and **disbursements** of such revenue
- Also responsible for collection of certain state funds under the Code of Virginia

Money Collected

Processed 60,276 receipts last year, over \$97 million

- ✓ Utilities (water, trash, etc.)
- ✓ Parks & Recreation
- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Federal & State programs/grants
- ✓ Dog licenses
- ✓ Business licenses
- ✓ Parking permits
- ✓ Parking meters
- ✓ Permits and inspections
- ✓ Parking tickets
- ✓ Duck pond
- ✓ **And of course –**

Taxes

- Real Estate >\$18M on >11K bills
- Personal Property >\$6M on >17K bills
- Bank Franchise
- Public Service (Telecom, Gas, Electric, Railroad)

Delinquent Tax Collection

Treasurers have many collection tools for personal property:

- DMV stops
- Intercept VA state tax refunds and VA lottery winnings
- Wage liens (100% rather than garnishment 25%)
- Distress – asset seizure
- Bank lien
- After 4 years almost 99% of tax collected

Real Estate Tax Collection

- Third party renters liens
- Judicial sale of property (must be 2 years delinquent)
- Efforts are made to arrange payment plans to avoid sale of properties
- After 4 years, 99.2% collected

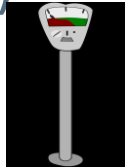
Safekeeping of Revenue

- In conjunction with Finance, developed policies that provide safe investment of public funds
- Internal controls
- 2 signatures on checks – Finance controls processing of invoices and Treasurer prints checks
- Audited by APA (state funds) and by independent city auditors

Miscellaneous



- Serve as the Doggie DMV
- All dogs are required to be licensed in the locality they reside
- Send reminder to owners
- Count quarters from park duck feeders (37,074 last year)
- Count quarters from parking meters (105,711 last year)



Thank You!

- Treasurer's office is open
Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Please contact us by any of the
methods listed or even better yet –
stop by to see me or my excellent
staff – Susan, John or Beth!



540-332-3833



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