

**SERVICE COMMENDATION
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR
GERT PARASKEVIN**

WHEREAS, Gert Paraskevin began her career with the City of Troy on January 6, 1997 as the Information Technology Director. Gert graduated from York University in Downsview, Ontario, Canada with a Bachelors of Business Administration with concentrations in Management Science and Finance. She began the Master's program in Computer Science at Oakland University to continue her education; and

WHEREAS, After being hired as the first City of Troy Information Technology Director, **Gert** worked to establish the IT department, which was initially a part of the Finance Department with only three employees. Now the IT Department has 12 dedicated employees; and

WHEREAS, As the **City's IT Director, Gert** and her Team implemented a City-wide network that was initially comprised of 12 Windows NT servers offering print and file services, Exchange email, and SMS to 350 users. The network currently contains over 40 Windows 2000/2003/2008 servers (including both physical and virtual) and 488 users in an Active Directory environment; and

WHEREAS, Gert purchased and put into production a new IBM AS/400 utilizing TCP/IP and a Microsoft SNA gateway for communication to the network; implemented a new financial software package (JD Edwards) residing on that system. As IT Director, Gert served as front line support for all applications including G/L, A/P, Purchasing, Human Resources and P/R; and developed a new City-wide budget system utilizing JD Edwards; and

WHEREAS, Gert worked hard to eliminate silos of data and processes within departments by using systems and IT staff to create shared data and workflows among departments. Some of the main systems implemented to help with that included JD Edwards and then New World/Tyler financial systems; ESRI Geographic Information Systems; BS&A Building, Tax, Assessing and Utility Billing; Hyland OnBase Document Imaging; Cityworks Customer Service and Asset Management; Kronos Time Management; and

WHEREAS, Working with an exceptional and dedicated staff and creating an environment that has resulted in the implementation of many great technical and creative ideas are what **Gert** is most proud of. She credits them with pushing her to move the IT Department forward and for the IT Department's success; and

WHEREAS, Gert will retire from the City of Troy on February 1, 2022 after 25 years of dedicated service, many commendation letters in her employee file, and the utmost respect from the Troy employees, City Council, residents, and the Troy business community; and

WHEREAS, Gert will now enjoy more time with her husband **Ken** (married 40 years on September 12, 2021), daughter **Emily**, son **Michael** and his fiancé **Chelsea**, as well as enjoy traveling around the country and beyond, especially trips to San Diego to visit their daughter. In retirement, **Gert** plans to workout, relax for a while and if she gets bored consider volunteering or finding a part-time job in the technology field;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN, That the Mayor and City Council of the City of Troy take this opportunity to express their appreciation to **City of Troy Information Technology Director Gert Paraskevin** for her professionalism and her many contributions to the City of Troy for the betterment of the community; and

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN, That the Mayor and City Council of the City of Troy, City Management, and the citizens of the City of Troy, extends wishes of prosperity, good health and happiness to **Gert** during her well-deserved retirement years.

Presented the 24th day of January 2022.