

# Planning a Sustainable Future for Frostburg



July 19, 2023

# Frostburg Facts

- 2020 Census: 7,027 residents
- Estimated about 5,000 are full time residents
- Home to Frostburg State University
- Elevation of 2000'
- Diverse population in Appalachia



- FrostburgFirst – A Maryland Main Street Community
- Sustainable Maryland Certified
- Maryland Smart Energy Community
- TreeCity USA
- Great Allegheny Passage TrailTown
- Western Terminus of Western Maryland Scenic Railroad
- And more!





# Sustainability in Frostburg

## **Infrastructure**

- Water
- Sewer
- Energy Consumption/Source
- Lighting
- Accessibility

## **Community**

- Main Street Vibrancy
  - Housing
  - Economic Opportunity
  - Recreation and Arts & Entertainment
  - Environment
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# Water: In-Line Hydroelectric Turbine

- Completed in 2012
- Raw water pumped over ridge of Big Savage Mtn.
- Turbine installed 350' below peak before Water Treatment Plant
- Net metered (required change in state law)
- Generates about 18% of total electricity consumed by City government each year



# Sewer: 20 years of CSO Separation

- Compliance with Consent Order
- Over \$20 M in projects to date – 85% grant funds
- New stormwater system + new sewer + new water + new streets and sidewalks
- Environmental goals
- Infrastructure upgrades



# Going electric

- Chevy Bolt – All electric Police car
- 2 public charging stations with 4 plugs (level 2 and DCFC)



# Lighting upgrades to LED

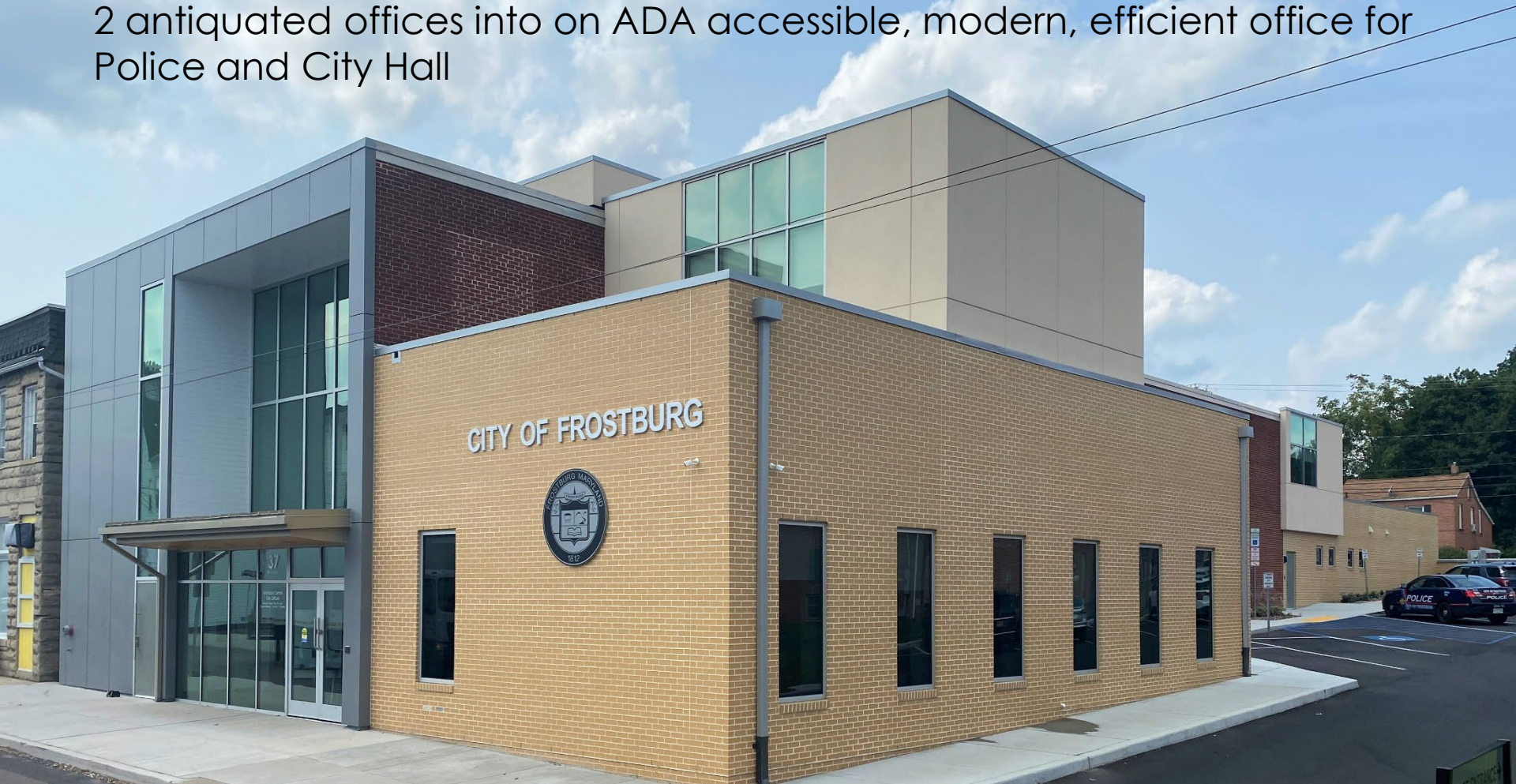
- All street lights have been converted to LED
- Maryland Smart Energy Community Grant used for many retrofit projects
- 1<sup>st</sup> generation LED lights replaced with new LED this year (ARPA)
- Potomac Edison also retrofitting utility-owned lights





# Accessibility

- Sidewalk Retrofit Projects: MDOT – Main Street, Safe Routes to School
- Special MDOT Project – Sidewalk and Bike Lane on Braddock Road
- Other Bike and Ped studies and plans have been completed – \$ needed
- Accessible fishing pier to be constructed at Piney Dam 23/24
- Frostburg Municipal Center \$3.2 M project, completed in 2021 – combined 2 antiquated offices into on ADA accessible, modern, efficient office for Police and City Hall



# Authentic Main Street with good vibes



# Housing Challenges and Opportunities

- Regional lack of professional, middle-income housing
- Surplus of former student rentals (originally single-family homes)
- 2 new subdivisions
- Successful Main Street upper stories, desirable apartments



# Economic Opportunity

- FSU – Regional Development & Engagement Office and Innovation Park
- Frostburg Business Park: BSI, Clark Industries,
- Main Street – more small businesses, fewer vacancies



# Recreation, Arts and Entertainment

- Multiple parks and variety of recreational offerings
- Main Street A&E – Palace Theater, Mountain City Center for the Arts, Mountain City Traditional Arts, and live music venues
- FSU- Cultural Events Series



# Environment



- Various Green Team efforts: Cardboard recycling, pet waste, etc.
- Commitment to Urban Tree Canopy – dedicated budget
  - Tree City USA designation
- Edible Arboretum
- Forest Management Plan for Piney Reservoir Watershed

# What's the next big thing?

- Microgrid for City's critical infrastructure: solar with battery backup
- Additional solar so City primarily is served by renewable energy
- No direct cost to City through Energy Services Agreement
- Supported with \$1M Microgrid Resiliency Capital Grant





Thank you!

[www.frostburgcity.org](http://www.frostburgcity.org)