



‘Twas the
Night Before
Christmas

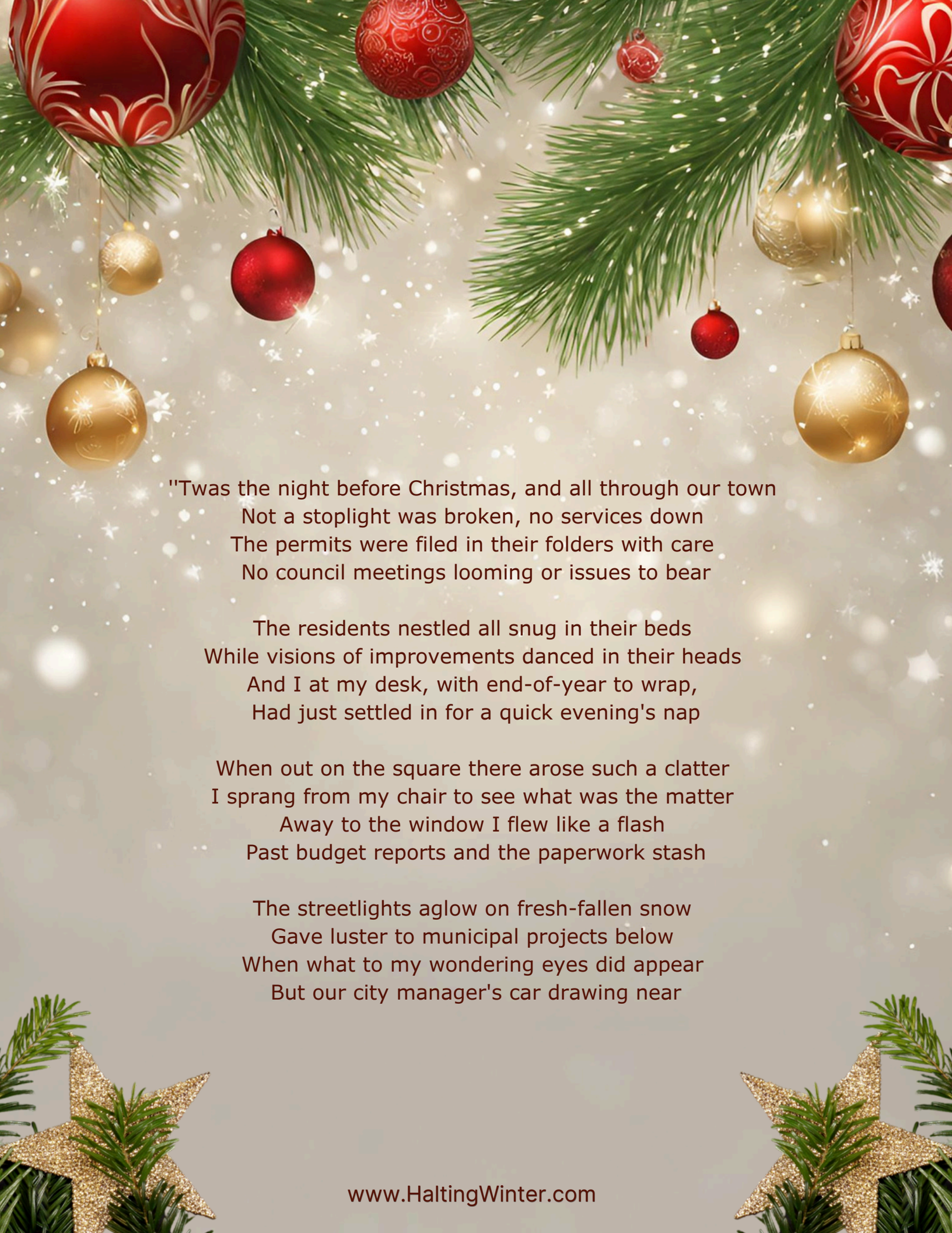
A Municipal Christmas Poem



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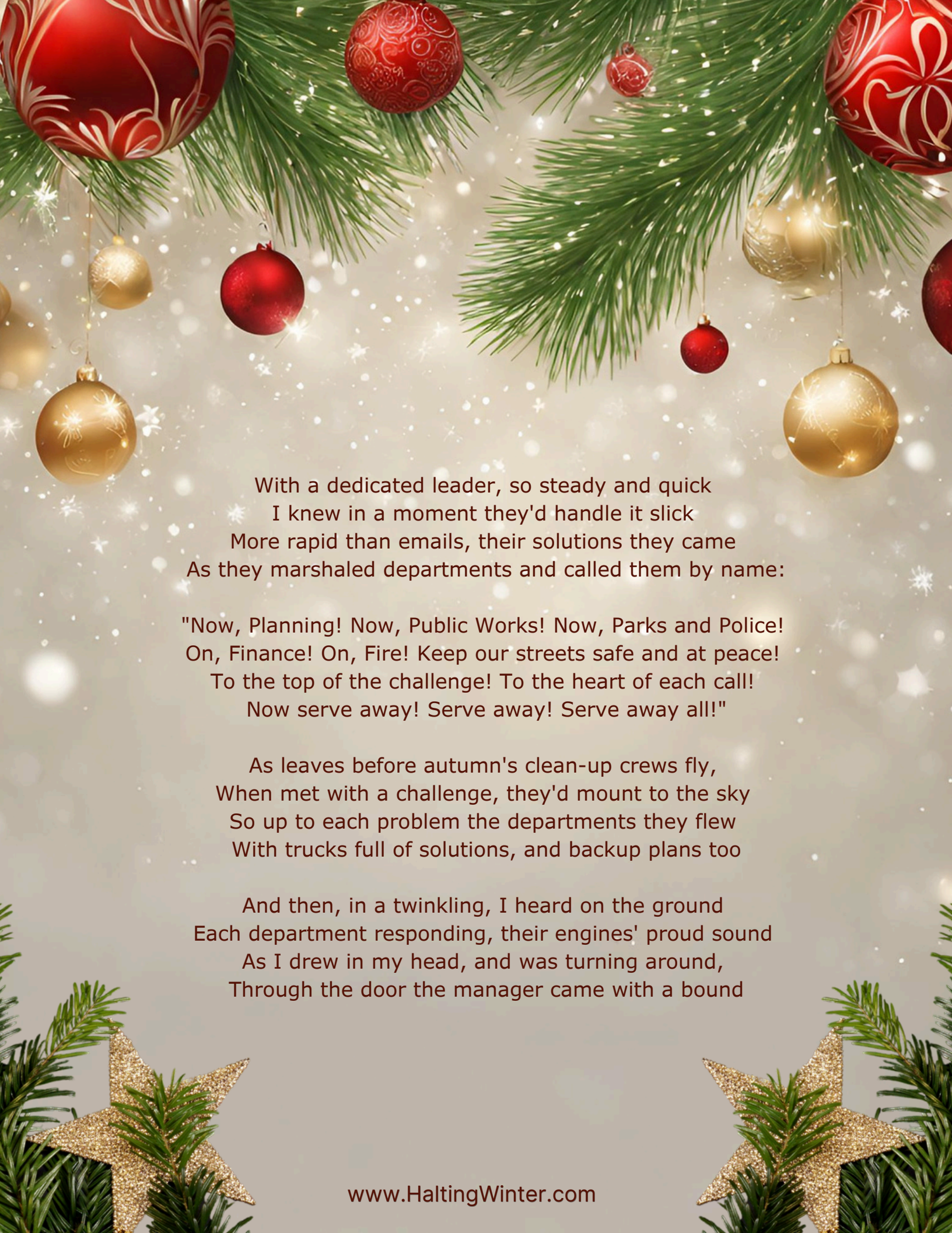


"Twas the night before Christmas, and all through our town
Not a stoplight was broken, no services down
The permits were filed in their folders with care
No council meetings looming or issues to bear

The residents nestled all snug in their beds
While visions of improvements danced in their heads
And I at my desk, with end-of-year to wrap,
Had just settled in for a quick evening's nap

When out on the square there arose such a clatter
I sprang from my chair to see what was the matter
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Past budget reports and the paperwork stash

The streetlights aglow on fresh-fallen snow
Gave luster to municipal projects below
When what to my wondering eyes did appear
But our city manager's car drawing near




With a dedicated leader, so steady and quick
I knew in a moment they'd handle it slick
More rapid than emails, their solutions they came
As they marshaled departments and called them by name:

"Now, Planning! Now, Public Works! Now, Parks and Police!
On, Finance! On, Fire! Keep our streets safe and at peace!
To the top of the challenge! To the heart of each call!
Now serve away! Serve away! Serve away all!"

As leaves before autumn's clean-up crews fly,
When met with a challenge, they'd mount to the sky
So up to each problem the departments they flew
With trucks full of solutions, and backup plans too

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the ground
Each department responding, their engines' proud sound
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Through the door the manager came with a bound



They were dressed for all weather, from meetings to calls
From neighborhood streets to our fair City Hall
A folder of projects they had in their grasp
And they looked like a leader here to make progress last

Their eyes how they twinkled! Their expertise shown!
Their plans were all solid, each detail well-known!
Their confident smile spoke volumes of care
And their steadfast resolve shone bright in the air

They spoke just enough, then went straight to their work
Solved all the issues, then turned with a jerk
And laying their finger on projects complete
Made sure every service was running so sweet

They sprang to their car, to their team gave a call
And away they all worked for the good of us all
But I heard them exclaim, as they drove out of sight—
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"



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