

Friday March 11, 2016

Good Friday afternoon everyone. It appears we are in for some pretty severe weather in parts of the state this weekend, so if you are travelling please check ahead. Apparently we could get "feet" of snow in some of the passes, and the some coastal areas could see over six inches of rain in a short period of time. It should make for some interesting experiences, but please be safe if you are on the road.

On Monday, Chiefs Burge and Timm and I attended the Oregon Government Finance Officers Association conference at the invitation of Finance Director Ron Harker to present a training session on the Organizational Impacts and Preparedness relating lessons learned from October 1, 2015. There were over 350 people in attendance at the session. Our primary purpose was to let government professionals know how overwhelming situations of that magnitude can be and how different organizations were impacted. As we have said from the beginning, the public safety and first responder activities were well organized and pretty efficient, while the media frenzy created after the tragedy was much more difficult to deal with. The presentation was very emotional, and it became apparent quickly that few people had any understanding of the impact on all of the organizations within our tight knit community. I want to thank Ron for asking us to present and both of the Chiefs who did a great job of delivering a very important message to people from around the State of Oregon.

As I indicated in an earlier correspondence, I met with Mike Fieldman this week to look at potential locations for portable toilets around the downtown area. Mike indicated that UCAN would contract for the installation of three units and evaluate the effectiveness over a trial period to see if the community objectives can be met through the placement of these three units. We will work folks to monitor and evaluate the program over the next few months to determine if there is a long-term benefit. I appreciate Mike's willingness to step forward to get this trial period moving. As we continue to struggle with some of the sanitation/health related issues identified by various community groups, we hope this opportunity can at least make a difference in the core area.

On Wednesday afternoon I had the opportunity to provide a brief tour of some of our more prominent City facilities for Councilors Eggers, Hawks and Zielinski who had not been on a facility tour since their appointment/election to City Council. We stopped by Sunshine Park, the Public Works Shop, the Water Treatment Plant, the Airport and the Public Safety Center. The tour was a great opportunity for folks to see one of the most significant community facility investments that have been made over the last twenty to twenty five years. Our employees take great pride in their work and their work place so it's nice for Councilors to get the opportunity to see these facilities periodically and to meet some of our staff.

On Thursday the Public Works Commission met to review a number of items that will be on your Council and Urban Renewal agendas Monday evening. The Commission made unanimous recommendations to move forward with a couple of intergovernmental agreements, one with ODOT and one with Douglas County, as well as an equipment

purchase. We are very appreciative of the commitment that our volunteer commissions make on behalf of the community and the organization. The Public Works and Planning Commissions spend a great deal of time helping us make major decisions and providing sound recommendations to Council. Monday evening Council will consider the final phase of the LUDO amendments that have been in front of the planning commission for the last six months or so. Once again, I would like to thank them for their thoughtful deliberation and consideration of the public's input as they helped formulate the policy document that will be in front of Council Monday night.

Public Safety personnel including individuals from our Police and Fire Departments will be participating in the 2nd annual 'Princess for a Day' for girls in foster care. It will be on Sunday, March 13th at Seven Feathers Convention Center, the event is sponsored by DHS, CWP, CASA of Do. Co., ADAPT, Douglas CARES, and FDC. The event runs from 10:30-5:00 and provides an opportunity for girls in foster care to build self-esteem. The girls are paired with an escort (Uniformed Firefighters & Police) and they are pampered throughout the event (new dress, shoes, hair, make-up, etc). Please see below for more detailed information on the event from an article that ran in the February 3rd edition of the News Review.

<http://www.nrtoday.com/news/20442015-113/princess-for-a-day-event-reaches-out-for>

I would like to remind you all that the third annual St. Patrick's Day parade will take place downtown on Saturday March 12th from 11:00 until around noon and that the 18th annual St. Paddy's Day Grub and Pub Crawl will take place later in the day. The Grub and Pub Crawl is a fundraiser for Douglas County special needs youth. It has been very successful over the years, and this year has expanded outside of the downtown area. A link to the organizer's website can be found below.

<http://roseburgpubcrawl.com/>

Have a great weekend everyone. I hope you have an opportunity to enjoy some of the local festivities. See you all Monday evening at 6:30 for the special meeting regarding the Library proposal just before your regular meeting!