

Friday September 25, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone! By the time you receive this Councilor Zielinski and I will have completed our second day at the annual League of Oregon Cities Conference. We will update you briefly at your Monday meeting and I will follow up with some highlights in a written correspondence in the next week or two.

Once again, it has been a busy week on the project front, with significant work being completed on our Oak/Washington project. We hope the two intersections on Oak will be open for traffic next week, and the contractor will move down to Washington's two intersections at Main and Jackson. Street light pole installation has begun and the overall project is beginning to take shape. It is clear that some of our local businesses have begun to experience a drop off in traffic, so please encourage people to come downtown and support their local businesses!



Work is continuing out on NE Stephens from Stewart Parkway to Newton Creek. The grind/inlay portion of the project was recently completed with four lane miles of repaving completed. Work on the Stephens Street crossing near the Cow Creek Tribal headquarters is nearing completion and the ADA ramp work is almost done. The contractor still has some slurry work in the center turn lane to complete and striping to do and that project can be wrapped up.

Alex Campbell from the Partnership and I met with a local business to confirm our interest in working on some incentives to help them acquire additional property for business expansion and job retention. Alex has been working with the State through Business Oregon to get State resources added to the incentive to make this attractive to

the business and allow us to help local businesses expand and thrive in our community. We hope to have something back to Council in the next two to four weeks.

And speaking of the Partnership, Alex and company are hosting an industry tour today that involves three different very modern, very technologically advanced forest products manufacturers in south Douglas County. The contingent will tour the Engineered Wood Products plant operated by Roseburg Forest Products in Riddle as well as C & D Lumber, who is completing a multi-million dollar expansion, and D. R. Johnson Company, who was recently certified as the first cross-laminated timber (“CLT”) producer in the US. The State has been instrumental in working on the CLT process which has been hailed as the “greenest” structural construction process developed in many years. I was hoping to attend, but the LOC conference started on Thursday as well. I will get an update from Alex early next week.

On the recruiting and hiring front, Chief Timm has narrowed the Assistant Fire Chief candidates down to five finalists who have been invited to Roseburg for interviews and an assessment center in mid-October. Once that process is wrapped up, focus will shift to the Battalion Chief position. We are encouraged by the pool of qualified candidates we have seen from across the country for both positions. Testing for Firefighter and Police Officer positions is complete with interviews for both positions scheduled in early October.

On Wednesday I had an opportunity to meet with Molly McCarthy from Senator Ron Wyden’s office. Molly has been the Field Representative for a number of years now and represents most of southern Oregon for the Senator. We had a great discussion primarily around transportation funding, economic development and the Veteran’s Home/Housing project that has been tentatively approved for our area. I attended a Med-Com meeting on Thursday with Councilors Ryan and Hawks. I don’t usually attend those meetings, but Gregg Timm was out this week on a well deserved vacation so I joined our representatives for the Med-Com Board meeting. We will update Council on their activities in the near future.

We look forward to our Monday evening meeting at which we will provide Council with a short review of our contract procurement process under the agenda item titled “Construction Project Lifecycle”, and an update related to Council’s 2015-17 goals under the “Goal Review” agenda item. Have a great weekend everyone! We will see you all Monday night!