

Friday June 12, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone. What a beautiful day today. I am so glad we dropped back down below the 90s. My first order of business today is to welcome Andrea Zielinski, our newest City Councilor who will now represent Ward II. It is great to have Andrea on board. It is clear that she loves Roseburg and is involved in the community. What a great opportunity for all of us to have her join our organization and play an active role in shaping the future of our community. WELCOME Andrea!

Thank you all for your attendance at Monday's Council meeting. While it may seem somewhat insignificant to some, Monday's adoption of the budget is really one of the most important steps in our organization's fiscal process. With the budget in place, we can assure our staff and community that our service levels will be intact for the next fiscal year. We can also begin targeting resources to carry out the action steps to accomplish Council goals and begin implementing some targeted service level enhancements. We are in the process of recruiting for the budgeted part-time compliance position as well as the part-time fire department secretarial position. We hope to have those positions filled shortly after the beginning of the fiscal year. We are also moving forward with a number of capital construction projects. This may be the busiest construction season we have seen. While that is very exciting, it is also a little stressful.

Once again, it has been a very busy week here at City Hall and throughout the community. I attended a lunch meeting with Alex Campbell from the Partnership along with consultants from Leland Consulting Group and Partnership Hospitality Services to discuss work that the consultants are doing as part of a grant the Partnership received. The consultants are evaluating the current state of the wine tourism business as well as other associated aspects of the industry to determine how we can best leverage the current industry and to identify any missing pieces that might allow us to take better advantage of the blossoming tourism activity. The consultants are also meeting with long-time industry leaders, community leaders, chamber representatives and many of the local winery and vineyard owners and operators. We look forward to sharing the results once they are available.

Wednesday morning I attended the shift briefing at the Police Department with Chief Burge. I try to get to departmental meetings at least two or three times a year just to check in with folks and let them know how much we all appreciate their hard work on behalf of the community. Our public safety folks do a great job and I believe it is important that we share our appreciation with all of our employees. After all, they are the "service" we provide. Thanks to Chief Burge for including me this week.

On the project front, the MUP (multi-use path) replacement project in Stewart Park from the golf course parking lot to the park maintenance shop is almost complete. This is another example of our staff leveraging dollars to make a grant project work. Our Public Works staff removed and disposed of the old asphalt section of the path in preparation for our contractor, Knife River, to come in and do the prep work and lay the new asphalt. The vast majority of the out of pocket cost was funded through a trails grant, with our local match coming from staff design work and the removal of the old path. Using staff time for the local match allowed us to put “the cash” into the project. Our Park’s staff is also anxiously awaiting word on a couple of other grant projects. We will keep you posted!

As I think you are all aware, the work on the downtown project has started. The Oak/Washington project will be the signature project for changing the face of downtown to more of a destination. Some of the underground utility work will be done first followed by the intersection construction, which will include the design work in the concrete intersections as well as kiosks and the medallions in the sidewalk areas at each intersection. As you may be aware, a number of trees in the core area have been removed or have died over the years and new trees will be placed in most of those locations. Because some of the other mature trees are not appropriate street trees, some of them will also be removed and replaced as part of the project. While we wish we could keep all of the trees, they are impacting sidewalks and pedestrian safety, so the new trees will be selected to be more compatible with the downtown walking environment. Like many great projects, sometimes we need to sacrifice a little in the short run to get the desired long-term outcomes.

So speaking of long-term desired outcomes, and short-term hard work, the Public Works Commission, at its Thursday meeting recommended awarding bids and construction management contracts for a storm drainage project at Indianola over in west Roseburg, the slurry seal project which will impact a number of neighborhoods, the grind/overlay and crosswalk/intersection crossing project for Stephens from Stewart Parkway to Newton Creek, and the design contract for Spruce/Parrot. The construction work will be done this summer on the storm line and pavement management projects. The design work for Spruce/Parrot will be completed in an effort to build that project during the spring/summer of 2016. Staff is also interviewing engineering firms to finish the design work on Stewart Parkway from Valley View to Harvey Avenue. That contract will be coming forward in the near future.

Thursday I was invited to share in the groundbreaking for NeighborWorks Umpqua’s veteran’s housing project down on Mill Street. NWU has owned property in the area for

many years. They moved one house into the neighborhood and restored another next door to this project. The new project will consist of the construction of two new single family homes that will be sold to first time veteran home owners. NWU has been most recently involved in the Eagle Landing project which also provides housing for veterans, but is on a rental basis and for many, not their permanent housing option. It is the hope of NWU that these two affordable homes will allow a couple of veterans and their families to fulfill their dreams of home ownership in their community. A number of local folks from NeighborWorks Umpqua, SERVICE and the neighborhood were on hand for the groundbreaking. The regional vice-president for NeighborWorks America was also on hand to say a few words and to surprise the local chapter with a check for \$10,000 to be used on the project.

And finally, thank you all for your support Monday night. We are embarking on one of the busiest construction seasons in years and I think we have a lot of momentum going in the community to do good things. We appreciate your leadership and your support in moving the community forward. Have a great Friday afternoon and a wonderful weekend everyone!