

Friday February 19, 2016

Good rainy Friday afternoon everyone. Wow, this seems like it was a long week for only four days! We look forward to our regular Council Meeting on Monday evening as well as a second Public Works Commission meeting this month. Staff, primarily Nikki, is working diligently to develop and refine our five-year CIP in an effort to work it through the Parks, Public Works and Planning Commissions prior to submitting to Council for final approval. As you are all aware, our CIP, which includes projects and major capital purchases from all our funds is a primary driver of our annual budget process and meeting the Council's goals. While not all of our goals are capital related, many of the work plan items relate to either funding of or carrying out capital related projects. The CIP will be in front of the Public Works Commission this coming Thursday and the Planning Commission the following Monday. Portions of the CIP have already been shared with Parks and Public Works Commissions.

Other goal action items we have been working on include the development of a social media policy for eventual adoption by Council and a revised tree ordinance for your consideration that would eventually allow us to apply for Tree City USA status. A couple years ago, the initial tree ordinance made the rounds of the Commissions, but Council sent it back for revisions, primarily as it related to trees growing on residential property, behind the sidewalk and the permitting processes and requirements. We believe the ordinance as modified will meet with Council's direction and will go through the same commission process as the CIP. Parks and Public Works have both had an opportunity to review the proposal and suggested minor amendments and will be before the Planning Commission on the 29th. We will likely bring the CIP forward at your first meeting in March and the Tree Ordinance and social media policy at your second meeting.



Ron and I are meeting on Monday with representatives from the Assessor's Office to try to obtain some information regarding the current compression estimates that we received as well as information related to additional compression that may be caused by a future library district levy if one is proposed. We have continued to have difficulty "mining" the data that is currently available on the website so we hope a face to face meeting will allow us to receive all of the required information or allow them to get the information necessary for Council to make an informed decision. I have also asked for, but not yet received, information about possible options for different funding



levels that might have less of an impact on other important services being provided in our community. I look forward to hearing back from them next week.

As most of you know by now, Alex Campbell is transitioning out today as the Executive Director of the Partnership to take a position in the Governor's Office as the Southern Oregon Regional Solutions Coordinator. Alex has been very dedicated to Douglas County and has been a great advocate for economic development in our community. A small reception was held this week to say goodbye. We all wish Alex the best as he transitions out and we would also like to welcome Wayne Patterson. Wayne will fill Alex's position on Monday and has worked with Alex this last week during the transition period. The News Review wrote a brief article this week about Alex and Wayne. I will provide additional information as we move forward on the Partnership front.



On the project front, you can see the Highway 138 project moving forward. They are continuing west and south on Douglas and Spruce near the Visitors Center and Umpqua Business Center west of the railroad tracks. Internally, design work is continuing on Spruce and Parrott south of Oak Avenue and we hope to bid that project in the near future. You have a resolution in your Council packet regarding a small parcel we need to acquire to build that project. Design is continuing on the South Stewart Parkway project and will be completed sometime early in the next fiscal year with the primary construction programmed for 2017.



Have a fabulous weekend and we will see you all Monday night!