

Friday March 27, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone. As I indicated last week, I am at training today and then taking a long weekend (short vacation) through Monday and will return on Tuesday. Sheila is finishing up this week's message and is available if you have any questions in my absence. Once again, thanks to those of you who were in town Monday and attended the Council meeting. I hope Tom and Larry are enjoying their "spring break" time away.

Tuesday afternoon we had an opportunity to meet with Councilor McDonald for new Councilor orientation. Department heads had an opportunity to talk with John about their duties and responsibilities and City Attorney Bruce Coalwell and I had an opportunity to convey Council and City Manager duties and responsibilities. It was a great chance to share information and perspectives about local government and each of our roles in the process of policy making and operational activities. All of us appreciate John's enthusiasm and look forward to working with him and the rest of Council as we move forward.

As you might imagine, in addition to the construction work that is going on, spring is an incredibly busy time in our parks and public works maintenance divisions. With the early warm weather, grass is growing faster and earlier than normal and with over 400 acres of park land, there is a lot of mowing to be done. We recently called back three of our regular seasonal park maintenance folks and have interviewed candidates for the temporary seasonal positions that are included in the budget. Our parks are an important component of our community livability and our maintenance crews do a great job of keeping things in shape. Spring is the toughest time to keep up as wet grounds and growing grass are a difficult combination.

Next week Nikki and I will be talking to a group of local community advocates, the Good Governance group, about the upcoming Highway 138 Corridor Project, the Oak/Washington Project and other activities that the community will see during the next two construction seasons. I have spoken with the group about annually about the City and community topics and they have been very supportive of what the City has accomplished over the last few years and are looking forward to hearing from us about the next two years.

We are also holding an open house regarding potential improvements to the parking structure on April 2nd from 5:30-7:00 in the Council Chambers. We have invited all of the businesses downtown to attend so I hope we get a good turnout from business owners and operators as well as folks who park in the parking structure. The architects have come up with great options to consider as a potential project to provide a safer and more attractive facility for customers and downtown employees to park in.