

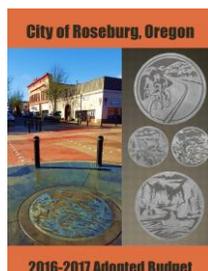
Message from the City Manager

Summer has started here in the City of Roseburg, and what a great time of year this is. Music on the Half Shell kicks off the first week of summer, the Fourth of July Celebration will take place in Stewart Park and recreational opportunities are going on throughout central Douglas County. During June we welcomed almost 400 graduating seniors from Roseburg High School and approximately 400 graduates from UCC finished up in May. I was told recently that at the Roseburg High graduation, almost a third of the

students stood and were cheered as they indicated they would be attending UCC in the fall. I too attended both Roseburg High School and UCC. I look back fondly on my time at each institution and the great educational opportunity I had those many years ago, and that are still available to students and their families. This was a tough year for our community and our community college. I cannot say enough about the resiliency of the community, the support for those who are still in need, and the way individuals stepped up to meet the challenges we have been facing since last October 1. Thank you to each of you who played a part in the healing and recovery process and please continue to support all of those impacted now and in the future. UCC STRONG!



Operationally, this is the time of year when Council adopts the annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The 2016-17 budget includes over \$12 million in capital construction (City and Urban Renewal) and just over \$20 million in General Fund operations. As always, we are guided by the Council Goals in our budget preparation and operational resource allocations.



The current Council goals include -

- 1) Identify and Implement Long Term Infrastructure Funding Mechanisms to Ensure Infrastructure System Sustainability
- 2) Implement the Urban Renewal Financial and Capital Improvement Plan, Evaluate Establishment of a New Urban Renewal Plan Area
- 3) Initiate Community Livability Programs and Beautification Projects
- 4) Define and Establish a Business Friendly/Improved City Image

Each of the Council Goals includes a number of action items that were to be carried out over the two-year period for which the goals were adopted. Many of the action items have been completed, but a number of the action items are included in the upcoming budget cycle. Each of the goals is important and provides policy direction organizationally as we continue to strive to make cost effective use of our financial and human resources and to provide a high level of service to our community. Clearly, our commitment to the community's infrastructure is a high priority.

Over the past two years, we have developed utility rate policies that should sustain our water and storm drainage utilities into the intermediate term future. Our Urban Renewal funding, which is currently providing over \$3 million annually for transportation infrastructure ends in September 2019. It is imperative that Council and our community participate in a process to identify long-term transportation funding options well in advance of the end of our current Urban Renewal Plan area. Council is currently evaluating options that they would like the community to consider. Our current transportation infrastructure is in relatively good shape, but there are not enough financial resources to maintain the system for the long-term. Transportation funding has been a Council Goal for the last couple years and we will be working towards a long-term solution during the next fiscal year.

In the interim, we continue to leverage our Urban Renewal funding with City and State resources to rebuild and improve as much of the system as possible in the next three years. A great example of this leveraging is the Highway 138 Corridor project in which the Oregon Department of Transportation is investing over \$10 million dollars with approximately \$2 million in City/Urban Renewal funding. The City, through Urban Renewal invested an additional \$2 million in rebuilding the downtown core area during this fiscal year which is an extension of the 138 Project's Oak and Washington improvements. The City's contractor just initiated work on Parrott Street and Spruce Street from Oak Avenue south to Mosher which continues the necessary transportation system improvements from Interstate 5 through the highway system and into our downtown and neighborhoods.



In addition to the transportation projects, the City continues to invest between \$1 and \$2 million annually in our water and storm drainage systems. These two important infrastructure systems allow for orderly growth in our community. Our water treatment facility takes water from the pristine North Umpqua River and treats and distributes it to over 10,000 customer services and over 30,000 people. In turn, the storm system efficiently collects rain water and runoff through an elaborate system of underground and above ground pipes and ditches before discharging the water into the South Umpqua River and some maintained streams.

Regulatory processes for the public's health and safety are becoming more onerous and costly, but clean healthy water is an essential public service, and keeping our waterways safe and healthy is always a high priority.



As we begin to emerge from the recession, we are beginning to see new investments in our community. While some retailers have left our community due to national retail issues, other retailers are expanding to meet local demands. Most notably, Coastal Farm just opened their new facility immediately east of their previous facility and two of our major car dealerships, Clint Newell and Lithia Motors have built or remodeled their facilities and expanded opportunities for customers in our area following the relocation and construction of the new Honda dealership last year. A local development group will soon be breaking ground on a new Hampton Inn adjacent to their Windmill Inn property and will be engaged in additional development in that area over the next few years. This year housing starts in Roseburg exceeded pre-recession numbers for the first time and new single family development is keeping pace with this year's numbers. We also anticipate 50-60 new multi-housing units and a new assisted living facility will break ground soon.

The City continues to work with local developers, businesses, agencies and volunteers to accomplish Council's goals and make Roseburg a great place to live, work and play. Have a great summer!

Respectfully,

C. Lance Colley
City Manager

