

Friday March 20, 2015

Good Friday afternoon and welcome to the first day of spring 2015! It looks like our late winter weather may hit this weekend and next week which could bring us a little rain and maybe even some snow in the cascades. That would be great news for the forest fire danger that is approaching. As a reminder, Mayor Rich and Council President Ryan will be on well-deserved vacation time so Councilor Kaser will be running the meeting Monday night. We look forward to seeing everybody else! On a "Council" note, we received an application from Beverly Brandt for the position formerly held by Marty Katz. Ms. Brandt is a retired college administrator who served as the Vice President for Economic and Administrative Services for UCC during the last five years of her thirty year career in the field.



The Historic Resources Review Commission met on Wednesday and held a couple of public hearings regarding exterior renovations and window replacement projects. Neither project met our criteria very well so the HRRC asked both property owners to consider additional options and return to the commission at later meetings. In addition, the Commission was informed that we are moving forward with design options for the parking structure located in the downtown historic district. While the structure is not a historical building or "contributing" structure in the district, our process still requires a review by the HRRC. After the April 2<sup>nd</sup> open house on design options, staff will schedule another

presentation to the Commission. We will also need additional Council approval if we move forward with final design and construction management services as well as the bid award for construction.

Last weekend the Taylor/Hatfield Foundation, with help from DRA, held their 17th annual St. Paddy's Grub and Pub Crawl which is a fundraiser for Douglas County youth with special needs. From all indications, despite the rain, the event went off pretty well, was well attended, raised some money for kids and was enjoyed by those who attended. A nice addition to this year's event was a food court that was set up in the City parking lot at Rose Street across from the Willis House. Any time you have a couple thousand people visiting downtown, it is nice to make sure there is food available. I appreciate the organizers who worked with City and DRA staff to address concerns that were raised in the past and who put on a very well attended event again this year.

On the project front, our contractor finished their second week of night work on Oak Avenue where water line replacements and upgrades are being done in advance of the 138 Corridor project. We also received notice from our airport "apron" paving contractor that they will begin the second phase of the apron rehab work in a couple weeks. You

will see an item on your Monday Council agenda relating to a task order to complete a transportation “pavement management evaluation”. The work product will provide us with information to help us prepare our five year pavement management program as well as help us determine our current “pavement investment” requirements. We are currently spending approximately \$800,000 in transportation fund resources on pavement management, but our long term investment needs are much higher than that. The final report will allow us to have a meaningful discussion about transportation infrastructure sustainability. As part of our “Goal” we will then need to determine if we can meet the future needs of the system.

Earlier today, Brian Davis, Ron Harker and I attended a software demonstration online which could provide us with a much more “interactive” web presence and link to social media as part of a communications strategy. The system can interface with Facebook and Twitter but provides better interactive feedback and reporting. The company offers two separate options that we will be considering at in the near future. One is primarily a community interface module and the other includes programming that would allow video streaming of all Council and Planning Commission meetings complete with agenda item coordination and archiving. We do not have pricing yet, and, depending on that, I think we might look at rolling out the communications piece first and then continue to evaluate the cost/benefit of the second option. It was a very interesting demo and we all thought it could be very helpful in sharing information about City activities and receiving constructive feedback. Stay tuned. We hope to demo the software with the rest of the department heads soon.

A number of us have or will be attending annual conferences and training this week and the next few weeks. I will be at the City Manager’s 2015 West Coast Regional Summit next Thursday and Friday and then taking a short vacation until Tuesday. Have a great weekend everyone! We will see you Monday evening.