

Friday July 29, 2016



Good Friday afternoon everyone! This week has proven to be about as hot as I can stand. I truly hope it cools off a little this weekend. Thank you all for your participation in what turned out to be a fairly short and efficient meeting. Mayor Rich will return for the August 8th meeting after spending some well-deserved vacation time out and about. I will be attending the PERS Board meeting today. Many of the regular employer attendees are not available but we are continuing to try and have a cohesive presence at PERS Board meetings. The Actuarial Valuation for the rate setting for the next two years will be presented on a system wide basis to give us a better idea of the impacts we will face over the next couple of cycles. I have seen the preliminary information and as we are all aware, the news will not be good.

On Tuesday I had an opportunity to sit down with Partnership Director Wayne Patterson to discuss project updates relating to E-commerce/Enterprise Zone overlay, the downtown boutique hotel project, alternative boutique hotel options and development of the Back 9 options which is just north of Douglas County Forest Products next to I-5. It was a productive discussion and there are a number of local businesses we are working with regarding relocation and expansion within the City limits and inside the urban growth boundary area. On Thursday Wayne, Derek Adams from AHM Brands and I met with Troy Brynerson of the News Review and talked about our recent media campaign around the Olympic trials and Run to Roseburg. We will review the analytics with our Economic Development Commission at a future meeting and provide an update to Council. The initial information indicates that between the Umpqua Life website and Facebook page we have reached and continue to engage thousands of people from around Oregon and throughout the west. If you have not taken a look yet, please go to The Umpqua Life Facebook page or www.theumpqualife.com.



Councilors Kaser and McDonald, Brian Davis and I attended the HTAG Leadership meeting on Wednesday. The group continues to make progress on a number of different issues and is planning a couple field trips to see what other jurisdictions are doing relative to similar situations. I will meet with a group next week on some of the housing issues HTAG is interested in as well as other community housing issues that are being identified. Different concerns relating to the homeless and transient population continue to pop up and the community continues to be interested in identifying service providers and cost effective solutions to at least the low hanging fruit.

I greatly appreciate the efforts being made by all involved to humanely address the myriad of issues that have been identified.

Finance Director Ron Harker received word from GFOA this week that our first Popular Annual Financial Report prepared by the Finance Department received the GFOA award for excellence. The PAFR can be found on the City's website and Facebook page. Ron indicated our court staff has been very busy this week working on a software conversion to our new system. If you have ever been through a software conversion, I am sure you can sympathize!



Today looks like another scorcher, but it should cool down a little over the weekend and next week. Have a great weekend everyone!