

Friday March 13, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone. Well, we finally got a little rain. It didn't really make a dent in things, but it was good to wet things down a little bit, and it appears we may get a little more this weekend. This has been another very busy week on the budget front. I would like to thank all Department Heads for their hard work in putting together budgets that reflect the work I have asked them to do to provide services throughout our community. As we begin work on activities to achieve Council goals, I hope the proposed budget will allow us to meet the goals over the course of the next twelve to twenty four months. I promise there will certainly be plenty of project activity to keep us busy.

On that front, I am sure you have noticed that night work has started on Oak Avenue just east of the bridge. This project is water line work that needed to be done prior to the beginning of the 138 Corridor Project. Nikki and her staff have been meeting with i.e. Engineering to finalize the Oak/Washington project so we can go to bid as well. In addition, and a big shout out to Nikki, we now have a fully executed contract with ODOT for the 138 Corridor work. ODOT is continuing to acquire right of way and will be out to bid, we hope, in late spring. I spoke with the publisher of the News Review today and asked if we could provide periodic "editorials" to update the community on the status of our projects and to encourage the community to continue to patronize the businesses and institutions that will be impacted from a "convenience" standpoint during construction. Jeff was very amenable to working with us to provide space for our communications as well as a link to our website for future updates.

We received word this week that our airport contractor hopes to begin the second phase of the apron rehab project in April with a completion date in late May. As always, excavation and paving in the spring will be very weather dependent. It would be great to finish the project during this fiscal year. We do not have any major airport construction projects planned for next year, but will continue to work with the FAA to carry out our long-term plans.



We are working towards applying for some ARTS money through ODOT (All Roads Transportation Safety, not ART as in pictures). We are currently working with a consultant to identify systemic improvements that meet the criteria outlined in this FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) program administered by ODOT. This is a very fast track process that was announced in late February and applications are due March 27th. Funding would occur in 2017-2021. The intent of the program is to address fatality and injury accidents utilizing a pre-determined group of crash reduction factors and cost/benefit ratios (in other words, there is not a lot of picking and choosing what to apply for, the criteria/requirements are VERY specific). Match is 7.78%. We will keep you posted if it appears we have a project or projects that meet the criteria for application.

The Economic Development Commission met this week to review a proposed renewal of our Roberts Creek Enterprise Zone (RCEZ) and to review our process that was put in place last year to receive, evaluate and fund tourism related grant projects. The EDC unanimously recommended that Council approve a resolution at your March 23rd meeting to renew the RCEZ. The cities of Roseburg and Winston as well as Douglas County co-sponsor the enterprise zone which allows, upon approval, specific manufacturing or e-commerce businesses, to access property tax incentives for adding jobs as a result of new investments. We have been participating in the Roberts Creek Enterprise Zone since it was first established in 1994. This is one of the few tangible financial incentives that we have available as a tool in our economic development tool box. EDC also recommended a couple of small modifications to our tourism grant process that will be utilized during the next round of granting. We have not yet established a time frame for that next round.

The Public Works Commission met Thursday afternoon to review a task order for our Pavement Management Program, a variance from the Oregon National Guard, and a telemetry study recently completed by RH2Engineering, Inc. You will see the task order recommendation at your next Council meeting. As part of our discussion about the telemetry study, we also talked about water system infrastructure needs and how to pay for certain necessary system upgrades and replacements. Staff will bring back a more detailed report on infrastructure needs in the near future as well as options for rate actions to consider to help meet the system needs. Rate action regarding the utility will eventually be in front in Council but evaluating the near and long term system needs is essential to quality rate planning and implementation.

Have a great weekend everyone. We will see you all soon!