

City of Monmouth

City Manager's Report

A Report on City of Monmouth News, Happenings, Successes and Other Items

June 24, 2019

2019-20 City Budget

Did you know that preparing and passing the annual budget takes about six months? This may seem like a long time, but it's a good idea to put in the work when you are approving a \$36.0 million dollar budget that covers 24 funds.

Monmouth's annual budget process starts with a look at our current financial condition. Our 14-person budget committee (Mayor and City Council (7) plus seven citizens) then gives general direction to staff for budget preparation. After much work by the Finance Department and every other City department, budgets are prepared, reviewed and then packaged into a recommendation to the Budget Committee.

Our Budget Committee provides a very thorough review of the budget and then passes on a recommendation to the City Council. While the City Council has the ability to do certain adjustments to the budget, it typically is approved as recommended. The annual budget is approved in June for a July 1 start. Council reviews budget trends throughout the year to make sure things stay on track.

Parks Master Plan Update

We are currently updating our Parks Master Plan. The master plan guides maintenance and development of our current parks, and looks into the future to see where new parks, trails and other recreation facilities may be needed. A survey was just completed regarding improvements to our parks. We are also using an innovative citizen engagement platform to gain input on our parks: <https://monmouth.mindmixer.com>. This

platform is more conversational and open-ended than a typical survey. Once you've signed up, you will be able to answer various questions about our parks. The Parks and Recreation Board will prepare a recommendation on the plan for the City Council in the Fall, so there is plenty of time to provide your input.

Skate Park

Parks come in all shapes and sizes. They can also meet different needs. One of the most heavily used park facilities in Monmouth is the Skate Park along the S-Curves. The skate facility is actively used year round, but is now showing signs of age.

A local group of citizens would like to build a much larger and better facility. The group is working with the Cities of Independence and Monmouth on this goal. The partners have developed a rough design for a new facility (it is quite bodacious) and now need to start fundraising activities. If you would like to participate in this effort, please contact Suzanne Dufner at 503-751-0147.

New Employees

David Karr is the Public Works Department's newly hired Project Coordinator. He will focus on major construction projects and department initiatives. David is a Central High graduate, and has been invested in Monmouth for many years. David has extensive engineering and surveying experience working for professional firms, as well as running his own business. His years of experience, and desire to invest in his home town makes him a valuable asset in his new role with the City.

Zach Taylor in the Public Works Department's new Utility Technician, specializing in street and stormwater system maintenance. Zach comes to us from ODOT, where he gained experience maintaining roads, signs, and stormwater culverts. Zach is a Central High School graduate, and has been looking for an opportunity to invest in Monmouth, and be a part of the Monmouth Public Works team.

Stormwater Utility

The City has three main utilities: water, wastewater and electric. The fourth would be a stormwater utility...if we had one. Stormwater system maintenance is currently housed in the Street Fund. This has led to a low level of maintenance as stormwater needs must compete with street maintenance needs, such as asphalt repairs, sidewalks and street signs. Any spending on the stormwater system cuts into funds needed for street maintenance.

Because we are not investing enough in our streets and stormwater systems, the City Council authorized hiring a consultant to help us build an actual stormwater utility. The consulting team is analyzing the City's routine stormwater maintenance needs, reviewing capital projects that would limit or eliminate flooding and developing a system to allocate costs. If approved, the new utility would be formed and a new monthly charge would appear on your utility bill.

The consultants are close to presenting draft findings to the City Council. Because this is a very important topic that effects everyone in the community, we will be actively reaching out to inform businesses and residents and to take input.

City Hall/Volunteer Hall

As you may recall, Monmouth Power and Light just moved in to a new facility on Ecols St. Plans are in motion to remodel/repurpose their old digs for use by the Public Works Department. Once the public works project is complete, the last "bad" City building will be City Hall. City Hall and Volunteer Hall (City Council Chambers) have deficiencies that would take too long to list.

We have an architect team in place that is developing two options to replace/renovate the existing City Hall/Volunteer Hall. One option would replace City Hall and renovate Volunteer Hall. The other would eliminate both current buildings and build a new combined facility where City Hall is currently located.

Even though we are only designing very basic facilities, either of these options will cost a serious amount of money. Once a preferred approach is determined, we will fine tune a design, tighten up cost estimates and figure out how to pay for it.

This project will have to compete with other City funding needs. The City Council is very conscious about the taxes and fees charged to our residents and businesses. Any rate increases or new charges will be considered very carefully and comprehensively.

If you have any questions about items in this report or anything related to the City, please call me at 503-751-0146 or e-mail me at smcclure@ci.monmouth.or.us.

Scott McClure
City Manager

