

City of Monmouth

City Manager's Report

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

March 13, 2019

CITY COMMUNICATION

It is fairly common for us to hear that citizens don't know what's going on or can't find information about City services and programs. It is a challenge to get information out in our busy world. The good news is that there are a variety of ways to find out what the City is working on. These include:

CITY OF MONMOUTH WEBSITE

The website has an amazing amount of information. If you want to know about Boards and Commissions; the City Budget for the past thirteen years; the meeting calendar; Council agenda, minutes and packets from 2012 to current; the City Departments and what they do; a link to the Monmouth City Code; permit and license applications; a description of our parks and how to make a park reservation; and much more, it is all there. If you cannot find what you want on the website, there is a "Report a Concern" link at the bottom of the first screen. Someone will get back to you shortly.

To receive agendas, minutes and packets (if available), sign up for e-notifications on the website. This link is also under City Services - Newsletters - Community News - sign up for e-notifications. You can also sign up to receive all calendar notifications, employment opportunities, bids and alerts. If you need to contact someone at the City but you are not sure who to contact, there is a "Contact Us" link at the bottom of the webpage right above the site map. Your information will be forwarded to the appropriate department.

COMMUNITY NOTES

The Community Notes are sent out each month with the utility bills (you are reading them now). If you have paperless billing, the Community Notes are emailed to you.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager (me) writes a brief newsletter (like this) every other month discussing what is going on with the City. It can also be found on the City's website under Newsletters or, upon request, it will be emailed to you.

NIXLE NOTIFICATIONS

Nixle is a notification system used by the City to send out alerts, advisories or items of community interest. To sign up: Text your ZIPCODE to 888777 from your mobile phone or sign up at www.nixle.com.

FACEBOOK PAGE

The most current information can be found on the City's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/CityOfMonmouthOregon. There are regular posts on activities, events and other items of interest within the City.

ASK!

If you can't find what you are looking for from these, JUST ASK! Pick up your phone and dial 503-838-0722. It is just that easy.

Power and Light Headquarters

Our fine electric department has moved into a new headquarters complex. They are now located at 780 Ecols St. S. The department previously shared space with the Public Works department in the Hogan Rd. complex, which also is the site for MINET.

The department did a heroic job containing costs of the project. When the project was put out to bid, the lowest bid was significantly over the engineering estimate. Contractor prices were up as they were very busy with other projects and material were difficult to obtain due the recovery efforts from multiple natural disasters. To make things worse, the inevitable surprises (cost increases) that come with construction happened, which only made it more difficult.

Staff cut portions of the project, worked with the contractor to hold down costs and did whatever they could to keep things within budget. They were successful. An example of keeping costs down, and City departments helping each other, was using rejected or surplus items from the Police Department project in the Power and Light Building. This included lights and carpeting. We also just got a sweet deal on a piece of equipment from another municipal electric utility.

We will have a ribbon cutting for the new facility on Wednesday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m. After we do some remodeling at the Public Works site, the last facility edge to crack is our City Hall building.

City Hall/Volunteer Hall

Speaking of City Hall, the City has engaged a consulting firm to develop options for renovating or replacing City Hall and Volunteer Hall (building behind City Hall). The firm has some initial findings that will be presented to the City Council in April. The ultimate goal is to have a facility that allows staff to provide quality services and will make the community proud.

New Employees

New employees in the Power and Light department are Loretta Kohanes and Scott Allen.

Loretta is the Utility Secretary. She greet visitors, answer the phone, schedules appointments, and processes and codes billing information to assist with Accounts Payable. She has twenty years of experience working in the field of customer service, reception, and administration.

Scott Allen is our new Planning Technician, which focuses on mapping and planning field work. He previously worked for us as an extern. In his off time he enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his wife and children.

Braden Smith is a new Police Officer. Braden attended Western Oregon University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in 2015. He also completed a program in Fire Science/EMT at Chemeketa Community College. In July of 2017 he was hired to work as a Public Safety Officer at WOU and served in that position until he was hired by us. Welcome, all!

MBA

The Monmouth Business Association (MBA) has been part of the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce for over twenty years. It is in the process of becoming an independent entity. MBA puts on, or supports key community events such as Music the Park, WOU New Student Feed, Halloween Spooktacular and Making Spirits Bright. MBA is looking for new energy to help it move forward. Business owners or citizens can contact mbamonmouth@gmail.com for more information.

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

