

City of Monmouth

City Manager's Report

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

December 10, 2012



Streetscape Project Done!

If you haven't been Downtown recently, you need to come down and see the recently completed streetscape project. It is truly beautiful. Our Downtown is now unified from Highway 99 to Monmouth Ave. While the project took some time, it was well worth the wait and temporary inconvenience. We now have decorative streetlights, landscaped street corners, trees and street furniture throughout the Downtown. The project allowed us to hang new banners and decorate trees all through Downtown for the holiday season. The new streetlights will also allow us to unify the Downtown with banners during the year and flower baskets in the summer. The streetscape project was very complex. The Public Works Department did an outstanding job on the project, with support provided by several other City departments. The project represents a substantial investment of time and money to build a new community asset and to support our Downtown businesses.

...and the Other Projects

The streetscape project in itself would have been enough to keep our small staff occupied. Unfortunately for the Public Works staff, several important capital projects came together at the same time to put some serious stress on the department. In addition to the streetscape project, the department managed multiple other

projects. These included a major renovation of our wastewater treatment plant, construction of new water treatment facilities, reconstruction of two water lines and finalized development of the new Main Street Park fountain project. Whew!

Monmouth Approach

Your City government is getting a lot done to make our community better. Progress is everywhere, whether it is visible or behind the scenes. A recent observer noted that the City has probably completed more projects in the last five years as it had in the prior thirty. This has happened because our City Council has set ambitious goals and we have the staff to make it happen. The City's overall approach is aggressive, but disciplined. We aim high, carefully weigh options, make sure our ducks are in a row and then we pull the trigger. This approach has resulted in much progress while maintaining our core services and keeping our finances in impeccable order.

Employee Service Awards

Speaking of high quality staff, the City handed out employee services awards at our December 4 Council meeting. This is always a fun event. Five-year awards went to Kelli Carpenter (Police), Scott McClure (Management), Mark Robertson (Police), Michael Strack (Police), Mark Fancey (Community Development), Aaron Raines (Public Works) and Jon Steed (Finance). Ten-year awards went to Wendie Hamm (Court) and Adam Telfer (Public Works). Chief Darrel Tallan received a Fifteen-year award and Ed Alvarez (Public

Works) got the big daddy of the night with a Twenty-year award. Congratulations!

Police Station Bond

For those that haven't heard, the City is working to relocate the Police Department into the old Forest Capital building on Highway 99. The department has been split between their current location and a portion of Volunteer Hall for a number of years. The Jackson St. site was originally the City library and was never designed as a Police Station. While they have made do for quite a while, the building's deficiencies have become more and more vivid. These deficiencies came to light when the City commissioned a study that looked at all of the main City buildings. The study documented current conditions and offered suggestions for improvement if any existed. In the case of the Police Department, it was noted that the building is grossly undersized, dysfunctional in layout and likely would not withstand a major earthquake. The building and site are so constrained that little can be done to renovate or improve the site. Because of this, we started looking at options for placing a new building at a new location. One option that jumped right out was using the former Forest Capital building. Rather than assuming that it could be used as a Police Station, we hired an architectural/engineering firm to do an analysis of the building. They were charged with assessing if the building would make a good Police Station and how much it would cost to do so. Their main findings were that the building could very much be turned into a quality Police Station and this could be done at a cost savings of roughly 18-25% less than a new build. As we are ever conscious of spending taxpayer money, this savings looked very enticing. With this information in hand, we worked with the owner of the property to sign a sales contract that holds the property until we can ask voters for support of a bond that would be used to purchase the facility. This election will be held in May 2013. If approved, the bond would allow us to locate our dedicated and professional police force into proper quarters. In the realm of the "Three Bears", the proposed facility would be "just right" by providing just enough space to function now

and into the future. It would not be undersized, nor would it have extra space or high-end features that aren't really necessary. This is a critical community issue and we hope you will take the time to consider our funding request. We will do our best to keep you informed. More information on the Police Station election will be coming out soon.

New (and Relocated) Employees

Mike Gregory was hired 12/3/12 as a Foreman in Power and Light. Mike has been a Journeyman Lineman for over 22 years. He recently worked at the City of Ashland as a Power Lineman and Foreman for over 16 years. He brings to MPL excellent experience and a great set of skills acquired in a diverse environment.

Debra Richard was recently hired on as a temporary Utility Secretary for Public Works and Power and Light. She has extensive experience with customer service, computer software usage, handling multiple projects effectively and dealing with people from many different technical fields.

Shannon Medel moves from Power & Light/Public Works to our Finance Department as the new Utility Account Technician. She brings ten years of City experience in utility functions, electronic meter reading software and Excel applications to her new challenge.

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



Happy Holidays!