

Monmouth Town Hall Meeting  
October 19, 2017  
Meeting Notes

The City held a town hall meeting on October 19 at the Monmouth Public Library. Below is a summary of topics discussed at the meeting:

- Traffic Concerns:
  - Clay St. (Monmouth Ave. to Hwy 99) – concern was expressed that cars travel too fast along this stretch. This has been reviewed by the Traffic Safety Commission with a recommendation for no changes on this street.
  - Madrona St./Hwy 99 Crossing – a citizen recommended more traffic enforcement at this intersection and along Hwy 99 to reduce speeds
  - Madrona St. (Hwy 99 to Talmadge) – better traffic enforcement was suggested for this street. A question was asked why most residential streets are 25 mph while Clay St. (Monmouth Ave. to Highway 99) is 20 mph. The Clay St. section speed was lowered due to the presence of the Library and Post Office.
  - Near Monmouth Elementary School – ideas suggested to improve safety in this area included speed bumps on Sacre Ave. and a new access point into the school
  
- Planning/Building:
  - It was noted that a comprehensive look at growth, density and traffic would be a good idea
  - A concern was expressed about business vacancies in Monmouth. We currently have two vacancies on Hwy 99 and two in the downtown
  - An idea was presented to have the City note new businesses or changes in businesses on the City website. The City highlights new businesses in the Community Notes newsletter and on our Facebook page.
  - A Domino's Pizza will be moving in to the former Rice Time building
  - A desire was expressed for more sit down restaurants
  - People questioned why we don't have a grocery store in Monmouth. A citizen noted that it would have to compete with WinCo and Roth's and there isn't a space big enough for a grocery store on the west side of Highway 99.
  - A concern was expressed about garages in apartment complexes being used as bedrooms. This is not an allowed use per City Code.
  - A desire for more affordable housing was noted
  
- Senior Center:
  - A citizen wondered why the Senior Center Director hours had been reduced when they were not reduced in the budget. The hours were reduced in the 2017-18 Budget and went in to effect on July 1, 2017.

- Marijuana Businesses:
  - Some citizens were opposed to marijuana businesses and thought that we had too many. It was also noted that these businesses are bringing in a significant amount of revenue through State-shared taxes and a local tax. We are projected to collect twice the amount of revenue from marijuana taxes as our annual increase in property tax revenue.
  
- Western Oregon University Impact on Community:
  - There was a concern that Western Oregon University (WOU) does not pay for general services like police protection because it is non-taxable. There are a fairly low number of calls generated from the campus. Ideas for a way to pay the City for general services have not been supported by the college. WOU pays utility bills just like any other customer. It was noted that the college, staff and students purchase goods and services in Monmouth. Staff and students that live in Monmouth pay property taxes directly or through their rent.