

City of Monmouth

City Manager's Report

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

July 7, 2017

City Council Goals

The City Council adopts goals each year. The most recently adopted goals are in effect for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year. The first goal is to obtain additional street funding. We currently can only do minimal maintenance on our roads, which continue to deteriorate every year. The next goal is building a new Power and Light office building and yard. Design is currently underway. The new facility will be between Warren and Ecols streets. Speaking of buildings, City Hall will get some attention this year as we try to find a way to properly house our administration staff. Growth is also on the agenda as we determine if we need to make any changes to our urban growth boundary. Lastly, we will continue to monitor the Highway 99 reconstruction project. Plans are in place to relocate all of the electric lines on Highway 99. We are still figuring out how best to relocate the water lines. The need to relocate these lines was a surprise, which is taking a great deal of staff time and will be expensive to implement.

Credit Cards

Have you ever wanted to use a credit or debit card to pay your utility bill? You can now. Check out the City website section about [Online Utility Payments](#) for more details. We are also accepting cards for other City fees, such as dog licenses, park reservations or building permits.

Surplus Buildings

The City purchased the old Monmouth fire station back in 2007. The original idea was to add this property to a larger development project.

However, no project ever materialized. Over the years, we have had a variety of temporary uses in the building. The Council recently authorized the sale of the building to generate some cash and to get a productive use in the building. The building was recently sold and will become a fitness center.

When you build a new police station, you end up with an old police station. We previously had an interested buyer in the old police station, but it didn't work out. After a recent bid process, the City accepted a bid to move a church into the facility. Some land use approvals are needed to allow this move forward. We'll hopefully see an occupied building in the near future.

Bike Repair Stations

We installed bike repair stations at the Police Station and the Main Street Park Amphitheater a couple of months ago. One was funded through a Cycle Oregon grant; the other through our urban renewal district. When the Monmouth Engaged Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee submitted the grant, members wondered if the stations would get much use. Both repair stations are being used quite frequently. This should grow as people become more aware of the locations. Ride your bike to downtown. If you get a flat tire or have a mechanical issue, we have you covered!

City Budget

The City's budget committee (7 City Councilors and 7 Citizens) had their work cut out for them this year. The General Fund had been running an intentional deficit for a couple of years which had

to be corrected. PERS system retirement costs also elevated significantly, making the deficit worse. City staff dug into their budgets and proposed a variety of minor and major cuts. The Budget Committee also authorized staff to consider additional revenue sources. Through a very disciplined and thorough process, the committee closed the budget gap by adding new revenue and making some targeted cuts. The committee was very troubled by how proposed cuts would affect services provided to our citizens and acted to minimize this impact.

Marion County Well

You may have noticed a quarterly notice in the utility bill newsletter about one of our wells. The well was found to have a potential for allowing in contaminants. As such, we are under State order to correct this deficiency. Plans were just submitted to the State regarding a new filtration system that will provide an extra layer of protection for our water supply. If approved, installation of the new system should start in a few months.

Amphitheater Use

The Main Street Park Amphitheater is a major asset to our downtown and the Monmouth community. The facility was designed with a huge amount of citizen input and City staff did a great job managing construction. The facility was designed for maximum use. If you are going to go to the effort and expense that we did, you would like to get the most bang for the buck.

Some people may think that you have to be a professional group to use the amphitheater stage, like a band playing at Music in the Park. Not so. Bands can play at the amphitheater. A theater group could put on a production. It could even be used for a business meeting. So far, in addition to Music in the Park performances, WOU music groups have used the stage and there have been several business meetings held. There have also been a great number of impromptu performances by poets, thespians, orators, acrobats and musicians. The stage is open for use year round. We do have a reservation process in place if you

want to make sure it's available for your use. Why have your next performance at your house, when you could be on an amazing stage?

New Subdivision

Monmouth continues to grow at a slow rate. Most of our recent projects have been "infill" projects, which use lots scattered about town. We are lacking available lots for single-family homes. Land is available, but in the hands of property owners not interested in development. One exception is Edwards Addition. Ground has been broken for Phase VII. This is on the west edge of the neighborhood, near Martin Way. We look forward to having new lots available for future Monmouth residents.

Citizen Input

The City Council is currently studying ways to gain citizen input and answer questions outside of regular Council meetings. Ideas include town hall meetings, open houses, coffee with the Mayor or other formats. If you have any suggestions, please give me a call.

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

