

City of Monmouth

City Manager's Report

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

April 12, 2018

City Council Goals

The City Council meets every year to set goals for the organization. Rather than setting overly broad or merely aspirational goals, Council sets goals that are measurable and typically can be completed in that "goal year". We sometimes have somewhat broader goals, but mostly our goals are our action plan for the year.

Goals for 2018-19 (starting in July) are:

- Determine an Approach to a City Hall Upgrade
- Establish a Path for an Urban Growth Boundary Expansion
- Obtain Additional Stormwater Funding
- Develop a Commercial/Retail Property Portfolio
- Review the City Transportation Plan
- Emphasize Citizen Engagement and Communication

Highway 99 Project

If you have driven on Highway 99 recently, you have probably noticed utility crews in the street and on adjacent streets. When complete, the section between Church St. and Madrona Ave. will have a continuous left turn pocket, expanded bike lanes, landscape strips and sidewalks. The roadway will expand a bit to fit the new design, which will impact businesses.

This year's work will focus on utility work, storm drains and the sidewalks and landscape strips. Several utilities will be working in the roadway, with a goal to complete their work by July 31.

ODOT is starting their work at Hoffman Road and will start working in town around August 1. Repaving of the roadway will occur in 2019. Be careful this summer as construction impacts on Highway 99 will be ever changing. And remember to frequent Highway 99 businesses. We want them to stay healthy during the construction process.

Highway 51 Project

A future road construction project is upgrading Highway 51 from near Craven St. to the S-curves. This project was included in the State's transportation plan based on a request by the City. The original design would have looked like Highway 99. Unfortunately, costs exploded when the project was looked at closer. A design option is now being developed that would not include a center turn pocket, but would include improved sidewalks and bike lanes. The new design should be ready for review in a couple of months.

New Employees

It's been a while since I highlighted new City employees. While we usually only hire a few new employees in a typical year, this hasn't been the case as of late. "New" employees at the City include: Laura Chrestenson, Power and Light Secretary; Janet Chenard, Finance Director, Suzanne Dufner, Community Development Director and Barbara Hogan, Senior Center Director. New Police Officers are Brittany Hester, Jeffrey Hodney and Quinn Lindley. Welcome to a great team.

New Power and Light Building

We are currently getting close to starting construction of a new headquarters for our Power and Light operation. They currently share quarters with the Public Works department on the S-curves. The new facility will be located between Ecols St. and Warren St. near our south electric substation. One thing that people may not know is that City building projects like this are treated just like any other building project. The new headquarters went through a formal planning process and the regular building permit process. Fees were paid just like building project. One process that has taken more time than we expected was State and Federal review of the project. Agencies are currently reviewing the impact of the building and yard on wetlands. We hope to start construction in a few months.

New City Councilor

Due to a vacancy, the City Council recently appointed a new City Councilor. After interviewing a very solid group of candidates, Roxanne Beltz was appointed to Council and took office on March 20. Welcome, Roxanne!

Growth and Development

We are definitely in a period of fast growth. People are moving to Monmouth and businesses are opening at a rapid rate. Permits were pulled for forty-seven housing units in 2017. More permits have been issued in 2018. The biggest possible project is a 119-unit apartment complex. On the business side, we have had seven new businesses open just in 2018. Most recent were the Grain Station, Domino's and OG Collective. We also have two industrial buildings and a car wash being built. The growth is great, but it does add a lot of extra work for staff. We have plenty of work to do when construction is slow. Construction adds to the regular workload. We have had to defer projects in a couple of departments due to development activity, while our building department has added temporary staff.

Economic Development Survey

The City of Monmouth has had a steady flow of high-quality Western Oregon University interns over the years. Most recently, one intern worked on creating a database to document sidewalk conditions.

A second intern researched how small towns approach economic development. One action that you can take to learn how your community feels about economic development is to ask them. Our intern prepared the following survey, which is open until April 30:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TMW78Z9>

Please take some time to fill out this quick and painless survey. We'd appreciate your input.

New Business Support

People periodically discuss how we can best support new businesses. While there are a variety of programs and approaches that can help, the simplest way for our community to support our businesses is to shop there. Customers equals \$\$\$, which keeps a business open. Customers have a much more powerful impact on a business than any coaching, how to guides, etc. So the next time you see a new business open, give them a try. If you like our longer term businesses, keep going there!

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.

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City Manager

