



City Manager's Weekend Update

3/2/2018

Parks Master Plan - We held a Parks Master Plan public participation event at Four Rivers Cultural Center on Tuesday. We received some great feedback. It's not too late to provide more feedback. You can participate in an online survey by clicking [here](#).

Video Recording Now Available - The City of Ontario began video recording council meetings for the public to watch from their homes. It is best viewed in a Chrome or Firefox browser and may not work well with Internet Explorer. The meeting videos can be found with our agendas [here](#). This is one of the many efforts we are making to create a more transparent government. Click on the little video camera next to the agenda.

Residency Requirement – The city council reviewed a proposed resolution requiring department heads to have residency in the City. The council amended and approved a resolution requiring department heads to live in the city and for all employees to have residency within the 8c School District Boundaries. The public filled the chamber and the lobby outside the council chamber. We appreciate all of the support and involvement from the public.

Wastewater Permit – A significant issue on Tuesday nights' agenda was a presentation on the proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. This permit gives the right to discharge its cleaned water into the Snake River 6 months of the year. The City of Ontario is the first city to have imposed on them new arsenic limits. Over the next 15 years, the Department of Environmental Quality is asking the City to invest potentially over \$100 million into building a facility that will reduce the arsenic content to levels far below drinking standards. The city's concern is that we are being asked to invest this much money into a facility and there has been no study to say that it will achieve the water quality standard desired in the Snake and Columbia River. Potentially, this is the proverbial "Bridge to Nowhere."

City Officials have met with State Senator Cliff Bentz and Representative Lynn Findley. We have also met with Congressman Greg Walden's and Senator Ron Wyden's staff from the US legislature to discuss these issues.

Bond Refinancing – I have spent a significant amount of time working refinancing city bonds for the upcoming meeting. This will save the city more than ½ million over the term of the bond, so it's worth the time.

Legislative –

PERS - There is a bill which would establish a 25% matching fund for PERS side accounts. The city has held onto its savings from last year to contribute to a side account if this legislation gets approved. The city would be able to pay down over \$500,000 of our \$10 million obligation by using our savings with these matching funds. The bill is making its way through the Ways and Means Committee and should go to both chambers for passage.

Net Neutrality – What is net neutrality and why should you care? Net neutrality prevents cell and internet carriers from blocking content and determining speeds on your devices. Even though you may have an unlimited data plan, without net neutrality, a carrier may downgrade your speed once you hit a certain data use, so that your device runs slower.

Oregon is trying to get around a recent overturned policy from the FCC by passing HB4155 which will prevent public bodies, including cities, from contracting with an internet service provider that engages in activities such as paid prioritization, or basically that does not practice net neutrality. This puts cities between the crossfire of the state and federal government on this issue.

Economic & Community Development

Activity in our community development office indicates that things may be picking up again.

Staff is reviewing 7 applications for issuing building permits. We issued 8 permits this past week. Staff is working on 13 land use applications and issues in varies stages of completion.

Staff has received its first Housing Incentive application. This is very exciting. We are hoping many other families or builders will take advantage of this \$10,000 incentive.

Staff has been working feverishly on the Splash Pad with the design and construction team, helping to keep the project moving on schedule.

Recreation

Youth Soccer Registration deadline was Wednesday. We currently have 532 kids registered. Late registrations are still allowed with a minimal late fee. Bring them out, it's Ontario's favorite sport.

Spring Break Arts and Craft flyers will go to schools next week. Hopefully they will make it home with your kids.

Airport

The security fence at the airport, as part of the capital improvement plan, will begin its first stage this month with the survey crew doing the layout. This is a project costing over ¾ of a million dollars and the city's share is only 1% or about \$8,000.

March also will begin the construction of the grass strip for gliders and tow-planes. There is excitement from pilots regarding new growth at the airport. The City is exploring ways to build more hangers because demand is high and there are no vacancies at Ontario Airport. The airport receives calls every day from people looking for hanger space.

The first piece of equipment volunteered for use at the airport has been brought in. It will be used to prep the soil for pre-emergence and knocking down gopher and ground squirrel mounds.