

To: Mayor Ken Williams & Oregon City Council
From: Darin J. DeHaan, City Administrator
Re: Bi-monthly Report

Date: October 12, 2021

I am pleased to provide Mayor Williams and the Oregon City Council with the following synopsis of City Business for – September 24th – October 8th , 2021.

City Administrator:

- I was advised by Jeremy Ciesiel with Ogle County Highway that they were going to submit the Pre-Application to FEMA for the mitigation grant for Lake Mistake. Mayor Williams and I provided several photos and video of the 2017 flooding to help with the pre-app.
- I made the decision not to extend the watering contract into October for the downtown flowers. I spoke with Merlin and relayed our appreciation for how well everything looked. I can't count the number of compliments on got on our downtown this year. Tyler will work to cut and remove the plants for winter season. We will meet early next year to discuss designs as well as line of sight issues that were identified this year.
- I finished and submitted the Tourism grant with Chris Manheim to the State. The grant was written to offset partial costs of the ADA ramp at the Coliseum as well as looking at a chair lift and ADA compliant bathroom in the upstairs.
- I had my first meeting with GovHR to go over their services as it relates to hiring a Public Works director. I have provided a synopsis of those services and costs to Mayor Williams and Comm. Schuster.
- I continue to work with Emily Lauderdale from Blackhawk Hills Regional council on the Community Forestry Grant. I have a list of potential vendors for a tree inventory and will work with Supt. Plemmons to create specs for costs for the inventory service. Emily and I completed the rest of the grant requirements during our meeting.
- I helped to finalize some coordinated efforts for AOP. Thank you to Luke Dixon (WH) and the construction company for accommodating the parade route and the 5k. They did a great job clean up the street and moving heavy equipment out of the area.
- Not sure what the numbers were like for AOP attendance. I did see license plates in our Municipal lots from several different states. I will debrief with the Police Department and Street Department to discuss any barricade or traffic issues that we need to consider for next year. Great job to all of our staff for helping make this a great event for Oregon.

- I attended the certificate of appreciation presentation on Iron Mike.



- Commissioner Cozzi and I held the first meeting for sustainability planning for the City of Oregon. We were joined by Steve Rypkema and Tim Benedict. We are working to establish a mission statement as well as some strategic focus. We plan to meet with department heads soon to discuss potential projects and plans within City Departments.
- Met with Chris Manheim and Mayor Williams to continue our downtown store front strategies. We continue to look for innovative ways to address issues as well as attract and maintain businesses.
- I continue the progress with the Feral Cat program with Dr. Champley. They will be doing the first round of TNR in the 300/400 block of South 3rd Street around the Blackhawk Apartments. I spoke with their management; she was very supportive of the program due to all of the complaints she has fielded. I created an info flyer which will be distributed by volunteers. Thank you to Comm Wilson and the Council for your support on this program as well as a special thank you to Dr. Champley for leading the program.

Street Department

- The Street Department was busy preparing for Autumn on Parade. Tons of barricades and signage is deployed for the weekend and then must be retrieved the following week. The continue to work on sidewalks as time and weather allows.
- The new plow truck arrived. I met with Supt. Plemmons and James Morris and looked over all the enhancements that will help them do their job more safely and efficiently. The steel snowplow will clean the snow off the city streets much better than the old plows.



Photo credit: Cheryl Hilton

Water Department:

- Helm Civil continues to complete the water main project on Jefferson Street
- The Water Department has had some roof repairs completed. Dave is work through the process of finishing that project at the Water Department.

Recreation Paths:

- Had my first meeting with Benesh and Supt. Plemmons to plan for the bike path behind the fire department. I have shared the vison with Erin Folk at the Park District to keep them in the loop as well.

Coliseum:

- Bid opening for the ADA ramp project: 10-8-21 10:00 a.m.

City Hall:

Reminder that City Hall will be closed Monday October 11th for Columbus Day.

Depot:

- I received notice from Roger Cain that they have coordinated the siding to bring the Silver View rain car to Oregon. They believe weather permitting the track can be installed by December 15th. The owner of the car has indicated they can move it in a few days after the track has been installed. This has been a long process, but I think this is a great tourist attraction for our community. I look forward to seeing the car on the property in the very new future.