

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE—December 17, 2019

Prepared for Mayor and Councilors. Please contact Steve Powers, City Manager, for additional information.

At Your Service

At this year's ILEAD Youth Leadership Summit, a free, one-day event open to any high school-aged teen living in Marion County, teens were empowered and equipped to be less afraid to talk about mental health with friends, family, school counselors, and in the community. Coordinated by the City of Salem through Laurie Shaw Casarez, ILEAD is produced each year by a youth committee, college student event staff, and a planning committee made up of local youth development, prevention, and workforce readiness professionals.

Upcoming Issues

Staff are preparing for a \$60 million revenue bond issue for improvements to the drinking water system. The tentative schedule is for a bond resolution to be considered at the January 27 City Council meeting. The City's bond counsel is reviewing a tentative schedule that would allow a March bond sale. The bonds would be paid by the utility rate revenue. The improvements are in the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

Revenue

For a referendum referring the City Operations Fee to the May 2020 election, a petition with a minimum of 3,831 qualified signatures must be filed with the City Recorder for signature verification by or before December 12, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. No petitions were submitted.

Management

A candidate has accepted the position as the Urban Forester with an anticipated start date of not later than February 10, 2020.

Good news on the litigation front. The City won a jury verdict in the Dundon v. City of Salem case. Ms. Dundon tripped on a small lift on a walkway in Riverfront Park. A jury agreed with Deputy City Attorney Jenn Gaddis that the City was not liable for the accident because of recreational immunity.

Partnerships

The City will be providing general contractor services to the Mid-Willamette Valley Cable Regulatory Commission (CCTV) for the improvements to the vacant first floor

space at CCTV. The work will be completed in 2020. The space will add studio and training capacity for CCTV and the City.

Staff are working with Salem Keizer School District to assist with SKSD's management and delivery of 58 bond-funded projects. There are five projects underway with 53 to follow over the next four years.

Library

Kimberli Fitzgerald was successful in obtaining a \$6,231 state grant for the stabilization of the Ben Maxwell digital photo collection. This photo collection was donated to the City by Mr. Maxwell's widow. Mr. Maxwell was the photographer and historian for the *Capital Journal*. The collection is available to the public and managed by the Library. The grant will help upgrade the technology for the collection by moving the photos to a cloud-based storage system.

Lile, a Salem moving and storage company, has been issued a contract for moving the Library out of its current location and into the temporary location. The move is scheduled for February.

Homelessness

The Hillcrest property has been reviewed by City and Housing Authority staff for housing and shelter uses. The conclusion after multiple looks is that City and Housing Authority resources would go further and better meet affordable housing and shelter needs by renovating more modern and code compliant properties, smaller properties, or building new. The most recent review was for the 2019 Policy Agenda. If interested in the staff report from the 2019 Policy Agenda council work session, please contact Tami. A few of the significant issues, requirements, and questions:

- Location is not proximate to services and amenities (another challenge for using federal funding)
- Americans with Disabilities Act compliance upgrades.
- Potential historic review limitations and costs (this has been a cost escalator for the Yaquina project).
- Environmental remediation.
- No water (the well was sold as part of another transaction). A new water line and possibly a new water main will be needed to serve the property.
- Significant renovation costs for either shelter or residential use.
- Environmental site challenges that may preclude the use of federal funds (HUD requirements for sites are more restrictive than private development)
- Funding restrictions (federal) on using funds for shelter instead of housing.
- No funding sources for redevelopment.

- Numerous operational challenges due to the size and design of the buildings resulting in an extremely staff-heavy operation.

HUD has approved Marion and Polk Counties forming their own Continuum of Care (CoC) and leaving the Oregon Balance of State CoC. A CoC is a federally required entity that receives HUD funding for homelessness prevention. A Marion/Polk CoC is positive for Salem and the region. A regional CoC will bring more focus on homelessness in the two-county area, will require use of coordinated entry and information, and should increase Marion/Polk's share of federal homelessness funding. HUD determined that Marion and Polk Counties, thanks to the work of Janet Carlson and Jan Calvin at the COG, provided enough evidence to support the split of the existing CoC.

Council Follow-up

Staff are preparing the letter to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services regarding the City's concerns with the lack of progress on the North Campus site. A City park, the Yaquina affordable housing project, and private development are planned for the North Campus.

Staff are working the Community Action Agency on implementing the expanded warming center network. Contacts were made with the churches providing the existing sites. The availability of more warming center nights will be in place.

Parks

November damage from malicious action in parks was \$658, a decrease from last month and November 2019's \$1,195 in damages. Whether the decrease is a trend or an anomaly remains to be seen. The repaired damages were all graffiti.

Happy Holidays and thanks for reading,
Steve