

## City Manager's Update — January 15, 2021

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

### *At Your Service*

From a satisfied resident,

I bike to work, and winter is always the roughest part of the year – more road grit, etc. Yesterday, when I got on to Kuebler, I immediately noticed that the sweepers had been out, and I thoroughly enjoyed a smooth ride to work. Your crews may often go un-thanked, but please let them know they are not unnoticed. I certainly appreciate their service!

### *Council Follow-up*

All but two of the 12 violations of SRC 86.030, Unlawful Public Tree Removal, have been resolved. Work continues on the remaining two. For the ten, restoration has been or will be completed or payment has been provided to the City. One case has been closed because the owner is deceased; two have been closed because we are unable to locate the owner of the property at the time of the violation. Changes have been made to ensure more timely administration of SRC 86.030.

### *COVID*

The City has 1,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine for our first responders. We have completed the vaccinations of Fire and Police. WVCC (911) will be vaccinated this week. An employee work group is preparing how City employees fall within the State and County requirements for vaccines. We will have internal vaccination clinics to quickly vaccinate City and Housing Authority employees.

Urban Development has assisted 11 businesses that don't have a relationship with a local bank and wanted help connecting with a lender offering federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loans. After calling around we learned that Central Willamette Credit Union (CWCU) was one of the only lenders taking applications from new customers. CWCU is a federally designated Community Development Financial Institute (CDFI) that provide financial services to persons and businesses who historically lack access to financing, such as in underserved or low-income communities. A bonus for the 11 businesses is that because CWCU is a CDFI, it can begin processing PPP's before other financial institutions, placing the businesses at the front of the line.

### *Downtown*

The Holman Riverfront Park Hotel is moving forward with submitting an Urban Renewal grant request and plans to break ground this spring. The hotel will be built on the lot at 195 Commercial Street SE, the site of the now-demolished Marion Car Park. The developer is considering requesting a URA grant exception for up to \$749,999 in February or March.

### *Drinking Water*

On January 22, the Salem City Club's program will be the City presenting information on protecting and treating our drinking water, with a focus on actions the City is taking after the wildfires. The program is at noon, via Zoom. If interested in registering contact the Salem City Club directly, or Tami can assist you.

## ***Affordable Housing and Assistance to the Unhoused***

With City assistance, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency has expanded the ARCHES Drop-In Day Center. In addition to extended hours, ARCHES now have a kitchen and is serving breakfast and lunch five days a week. ARCHES is now able to provide clients with access to laundry facilities and individual shower stalls.

The City has released information for non-profit organizations and developers on how to apply for CDBG and HOME funds. The City has \$2 million available for the program year beginning July 1, 2021. The funds are for projects that assist low-income residents. The application window opens February 8 and closes March 10.

## ***Legislature***

When working with the state legislature, having a unified message is essential. Council's Legislative Committee recommends to Council the priorities and policy statements that guide the City's positions for bills. One City voice increases our ability to accomplish City priorities. When a City Councilor or staff provide testimony, it can be challenging for legislators and state staff to separate the speaker from the City. This uncertainty can dilute the City's message and impact. A legislator or state staff person could believe the speaker is supporting an issue or bill on behalf of the City instead of the priorities Council has approved. Councilors should defer to the City's legislative committee and advocacy process. Please contact Courtney Bush or me if you have questions or legislative concerns.

## ***Policing***

The Salem Police Department's Gladiator program and the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency's HOME Youth Services personally delivered gifts to youth this holiday season. The partnership provides a healthy interaction between the youth served by HOME and police officers. Once a week, the Gladiators join HOME in fun, COVID-safe activities like games at the park.

## ***Projects***

The Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) project management method used for the Police Station sets a guaranteed maximum price. As anyone who has remodeled or built a house knows, there will be changes to original plans. For the Police Station, changes have been necessary to ensure the functionality, design, and maintenance of the building. Amendments requested by the general contractor are thoroughly reviewed by city staff and the City's Owners Representative to ensure the requests are justified and are not the responsibility of the general contractor. I have approved a contract amendment adding \$406,000 to the contract price. The project was \$59.7 million; it is now \$60.1 million. The Police Station project budget has \$1.7 million remaining. As the general contractor, City staff, and Owner's Representative continue to work through the final completion of the project and outstanding items, the \$1.7 million will be reduced.

## ***Protests***

Events at the State Capitol have an impact on the City budget. A preliminary estimate for the January 1 and January 6 protests is 1,229 hours at a cost of \$109,667. The department drone was shot down by a paint ball; cost to replace the drone is \$34,000.

Thanks for reading,  
Steve