

COUNCIL GOAL SETTING  
OF  
FEBRUARY 2, 2015  
12:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Steve Lawrence

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Dan Spatz, Tim McGlothlin, Linda Miller, Russ Brown, Taner Elliott

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Nolan Young, City Attorney Gene Parker, City Clerk Julie Krueger, Finance Director Kate Mast, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Police Chief Jay Waterbury, Librarian Jeff Wavrunek, Administrative Fellow Daniel Hunter, Planning Director Dick Gassman

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m.

**COUNCIL GOALS**

**Review and Adjust 18 Month Work Plan**

City Manager Young reviewed the new format for the goals, noting it was developed for an 18 month time period.

The Value Statements were reviewed. Mayor Lawrence noted he had made some minor changes to what had been submitted by staff. Statement C, the words “create and retain” were replaced with “will provide”. Statement E, the words “health and” were inserted between promote and public.

Councilor Spatz asked the Council to consider adding a goal under Statement B, to work with various agencies concerning recreational, greenspace, and sports concerns. He suggested adding a goal to Statement C to continue working to promote the Discovery Center’s importance for the National Scenic Area.

Mayor Lawrence said the City Council should also develop a policy to address Council support or opposition to political resolutions.

Councilor Brown said it was important to remain realistic and only list attainable goals. City Manager Young said it would be difficult to accomplish all the items on the list, but the Council should tell staff which ones were most important, by listing them in priority order.

### Prioritize Goals

#### Goal A. Infrastructure:

A goal was added to review the Water Capital Improvement Plan and rate schedule.

A goal was added to complete a structural study of the Gitchell Building to determine whether it should be demolished, stabilized, or rehabilitated. Councilor McGlothlin said he wanted to be able to stabilize the building by painting the rest of the exterior. City Manager Young said there were structural concerns and a study should be completed before any more improvements were done on the building.

#### Goal B. Work with Partners:

There was discussion regarding the expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary. There was consensus that the definition of minor and major amendment needed to be decided by the National Scenic Area before additional work could be done toward expanding the UGB.

Goals #2 and #10 were combined into one goal, and moved to priority #1. (Identify and pursue opportunities to assist with enhancing the K through community college education system and improve school facilities, including a regional center for innovation).

#### Goal C. Economic Development:

There was discussion regarding #5, reviewing the partnership between the City and Chamber for tourism. City Manager Young said the Chamber would bring a presentation to the March 23 Council meeting and then the agreement would be on the April 9 agenda as an action item. Mayor Lawrence said the agreement stated the proposal was to be submitted to the City Council by March 1 and the Council would have until May 15 to make a decision. He said the Council needed an opportunity to discuss the proposal before making a decision.

Councilor Elliott noted that Goal B,6 and C,7 were similar. Councilor Spatz said it was important to make sure that Mid Columbia Housing Agency and Regional Solutions Team were part of both goals.

Councilor McGlothlin asked the status of Goal C,11, partnerships for redevelopment of the Elk's Club building. City Manager Young said that would be discussed at the February 9 Urban Renewal agency meeting. McGlothlin said there should be an update from the City Manager on many of the goals listed so they knew the current status of projects.

Goal D. Balanced Budget:

Councilor McGlothlin said the YouthThink Program was stable now and the amount of funding from the City could be reduced. He asked if funds had been budgeted do improvements in the Court room. Staff said upgrades for the Court were included in the 2015-16 budget.

A goal to analyze the financial viability of continuing with the current court system was added as a goal.

Goal D, 4, added the following language: "and develop an incentive based employee safety program."

Goal D, 6: removed the words "if feasible" and added "including cost accounting" to the end of the sentence.

Goal D, 7: re-worded as follows: "Implement a method to track costs of City Public Works construction projects by the beginning of the 2015-16 fiscal year."

Goal E. Civic Responsibility and Public Safety:

Goal 1 was removed.

Goal F. Transparent Efficient Government:

It was decided to change #3 to twice a year town hall meetings instead of quarterly meetings.

**PRIORITIZATION OF CITY PROJECTS FOR WASCO COUNTY COMMUNITY  
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT LIST**

There was agreement to move item #4, curation of historic assets, below the Civic Auditorium restoration and to move #10, Rock Fort improvements below curation of historic assets. This created the library addition being renumbered to 4; Civic Auditorium to 5, curation of historic assets to 6, Rock Fort improvements to 7, Elks building to 8, industrial park water flow to 9 and West Sixth Street widening to 10.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 PRE-BUDGET DISCUSSION**

### Discussion Regarding City Council Department Budget

It was suggested to increase line item 58-10 to \$4,500 for Sister City delegation travel and increase the gift line item to \$2,500. Council requested presentations by the Veterans Group and YouthThink concerning their needs.

### Fort Dalles Rodeo and Fort Dalles Fourth of July Funding Requests

City Manager Young said the transient room tax revenues had increased 30%. He said there would be more than enough from the increase to fund the two requests for community events, and that it was appropriate to use those funds for tourism related activities. There was discussion regarding whether the full \$35,000 for the Fort Dalles Fourth was affordable. It was noted that the Main Street Program was in full support of both events and planned to pursue partnerships with both groups.

The Council agreed it was important to explain that the funds used to support these events was tourism money and not taxpayer money.

City Manager Young suggested bringing the issue as an action item to the February 23 Council meeting for a decision.

### Current Financial Condition of City

City Manager Young said the financial condition of the City had improved and he believed was stable. He said it would be easier to address priority funding for streets with this good news.

### Review of Budget Policies and Practices

Councilor Brown said he was looking for assurances that Street Fund revenues would be spent only for maintenance, as per the goal stated. City Manager Young said staff would be bringing options for consideration regarding how to proceed with a street maintenance plan.

### Questions and Comments by City Council

Councilor Spatz asked if Wasco County had decided to pursue a road funding program. City Manager Young said the County was going to wait to see what the State Legislature did for transportation funding before making a decision. It was the consensus of the Council to also wait to see what happened at the State level.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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Submitted by/  
Julie Krueger, MMC  
City Clerk

SIGNED:

  
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Stephen E. Lawrence, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk