

MAYOR'S REPORT JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

The Dalles has a new city council and that council will be creating its own legacy as 2015 begins. First, rather than beginning with last year's goals, this council began with a blank sheet. Second, its goals attempt to both deal with today's needs and consider what changes will produce the most long term success for the future.

The first priority is to observe a 3-year stop on all new road construction unless paid for by a commercial construction project. During these 3 years, maintenance of existing roads will be the road department's top priority. That means chip seal or crack sealing existing streets with the goal to first extend the useful life of all streets. The second major goal is to identify funding for streets without raising taxes or creating any new funding.

The budget for the whole city will be developed around these new goals and a few that were carried over. This year's goals are contained in an 18 month work plan which means this new council is starting now. There are 55 suggested goals which will be finalized this month. Among other priorities named are an update to the council on the status of Dog River waterline and Crow Creek Dam. (2 important elements in providing fresh water to the city's residents), adopt infill standards and policies to encourage new residential development, identify a method to better track costs of city construction projects, modernize our communication tools and consider funding requests for the 4th of July and Fort Dalles Rodeo 50th year celebrations.

Interspersed are goals regarding a new bicycle master plan, opportunities to assist in improving education, renewable energy, the Main Street program, tourism, housing, airport expansion, an RV park, budget support for economic development, human resources at the city and informational town halls.

There are other goals not named here but they will be finalized February 18 and the budget committee will begin developing the 2015-16 budget around these goals. Once finalized, they can be viewed on the City's web site.

Councilman McGlothlin will be traveling to Washington D.C. the first week in March with the Outreach team to meet with congressional delegations and federal staff. I will be replacing Councilman Spatz as the City's representative on the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District board of directors. This

assignment will help me better understand the area's needs and opportunities for growth.

Councilman Brown attended the League of City's new elected official orientation in Redmond and Councilman Elliott is scheduled to attend another training later this spring. The town is growing and changing. It means we must be the change we want it to be.