

MAYOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER, 2018

The Dalles City Council returned to work in September after taking the month of August off. After submitting its ideas for the next Legislative session in 2019, the Council reviewed the League of City's top six priorities which are: mental health investment, revenue or tax reform and cost containment, housing to include homelessness improvements, money for infrastructure, right of way and franchise fee authority plus broad band investment and 3rd party building inspection preservation.

Mental health services and homelessness was again discussed at the League of Cities convention in Eugene. It is hoped the legislature will provide return funding once again for mental health and assist communities in their efforts to deal with growing homelessness.

For the last 9 months, the state has provided building permit and inspection services for Wasco County and The Dalles. They have asked that either Wasco County or The Dalles decide to take over these services by the end of 2018. The City Council has asked Julie Krueger, City Manager and Steve Harris, Planning Director to investigate whether it would be feasible for the City. The issues are cost of setting up an office, area of service and use of an existing \$4 million surplus left over when MCCOG was dissolved. Some of this surplus belongs to each of Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler Counties. An audit may be needed to determine how much money goes to each. The ability to use 3rd party private inspectors for specialized projects is also an issue.

The Gitchell or Waldron Building, located between Lewis and Clark Park and the City water treatment plant, north of the railroad tracks, was a major issue at the council's September 24 meeting. The Council was given several alternatives but chose to discontinue negotiations of how or whether to move the building and voted to publish a Request for Proposals to demolish the building.

Although this is reputed to be the oldest building standing in The Dalles, thousands of tax dollars have been spent to stabilize and maintain it. In the end, its instability was deemed dangerous and the likelihood of it having to be torn down in the future to make way for future waste water plant improvements is more than likely. Any plan to demolish the building will have to conform to Oregon Statutes which control historic buildings.

Due to holidays and other scheduling, City Council is scheduled for only one meeting a month through the end of 2018. Of course, in the event of necessity, the Mayor can call for a special meeting.

There are multiple candidates for three City Council positions. Please educate yourself on these choices. I have decided not to run for another term and Rich Mays has filed unopposed for Mayor. Taner Elliott will also be stepping down. Both Tim McGlothlin and Russ Brown are running for re-election. Your vote will help determine the future City Council. Let's keep progress moving. The Dalles needs good leaders to keep us growing in the right direction.