

## MAYOR'S REPORT, MARCH 2016

Change takes courage but there are some people who are afraid of change. As The Dalles changes, there are a few people who have chosen to attack public officials in an effort to stop change instead of getting involved. This is often the reason why some citizens do not run for office. They simply do not want to be the target of criticism or attack because they are called upon to make tough decisions which some people do not like. I can assure you that the current council and myself will continue to move The Dalles forward in positive ways that will improve the lives of every citizen.

The Dalles is changing in many good ways. Through a lot of hard work, the downtown is coming back to life. New businesses are locating along main Cstreet and development is growing. Besides the Craig Building remodel and the coming apartment complex where the Tony's Building now stands, a hair salon, three new brew pubs and a new music store have located on 2nd street. And the Salmon Cyclery has just been purchased.

In the next few months, City Council will be preparing a budget for 2016-17 which will once again focus on repair of roads, finding ways to keep water and sewer rates where they are or lower them, replacing the 115 year old Dog River pipeline which provides over 50% of our water, plus

looking for ways to improve transportation and housing, improve worker safety, hire a badly needed Human Resources Director and work with the county to find ways to share services.

Other significant goals set by the council are to Complete Phase one of the Waste Water Master plan which includes a new component for using methane gas to develop energy, finish the water shed post fire replanting, construct an 18 inch industrial flow waterline to help bring industry to the port area, upgrade the Lone Pine Well for emergency backup, continue looking for an RV park location and seek to develop additional parking in the downtown area.

The Urban Renewal Agency will be taking a new look at its mission, how it's financed, how it's managed and how its current debt can be more rapidly paid off.

The Granada block has been the subject of a lot of discussion following repeated attempts to develop it over the last 6 years. The Urban Renewal Advisory Committee has recommended not accepting any of the last 3 proposals received for multiple reasons, the most important - that none had sufficient financing. Their recommendation is also to offer each building for sale separately in the hopes that 3 new development proposals will be received.

This year looks to be the year of the tourist. The Historic Highway Centennial celebration will occur this summer, an additional tour boat will bring more passengers and a new bike hub will be constructed at the Lewis and Clark Festival Park where the Sacajawea fountain will be placed in the next few months. There will be festivals, new events and activities. Get involved and be positive.