

Monthly Mayor's Report
November 2017

November has been a busy month with approval of the next stages for The Dalles Sewer Treatment Plant improvement, looking for new managers for The Columbia Gorge Regional Airport, addressing the ever increasing issue of homelessness, hiring a new planner, working with the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments board to relocate Area Agency on Aging, Link transportation, Building Codes services and participating in discussions of how to support animal control with Home At Last.

The issue of homelessness was an item for discussion at City Council regarding the possibility of drafting and implementing an Exclusionary Zone Ordinance in business districts for individuals who repeatedly violate the law. It was not on the docket for a public hearing; however, one person who attended demanded to speak and became loud and disruptive. I asked our Police Chief, Pat Ashmore, to escort this gentleman from the room.

While City Council meetings are generally open to the public as required by Oregon's Public Meeting law, the right to public testimony and comment is not absolute. The City Council has, by resolution, set forth rules to govern when public comment will be allowed. In addition, any person offering public testimony are required to be courteous and to the point.

If an exclusion ordinance is drafted, like any other ordinance, a public hearing is required. Notices will be posted and a venue designated so that all concerned may attend and have an opportunity to speak. The decision whether to move forward on such an ordinance will be made in the early part of 2018.

Animal Control is an essential need for any community. A number of years ago, Wasco County discontinued its animal control program. Home at Last, a non-profit organization was created. Recently that program has experienced staffing and funding difficulties. There are many people working to solve those problems, including the City of The Dalles. If you have time, please volunteer. If you cannot volunteer, please lend financial support to this important service.

Weather reports suggest another cold winter with snow and rain at lower elevations. The City Public Works Department has planned for this possibility and is ready to respond to the need for snow removal and sanding streets.

City Council will have only one council meeting in December, that being on the 11th, because of the Christmas holiday. On behalf of the City Council and all employees of the City of The Dalles, have a wonderful holiday season.