

Mayor's Report July, 2015

During August, the City Council is not in session unless a special session is required. This would be necessary only if an issue could not wait and needed council approval. Key personnel, the Mayor and Councilors take advantage of this time for vacations and trips.

I will be attending the Mayor's Conference in Cottage Grove from July 30th to the 2nd of August. From August 19 until the 22nd, a delegation of the Mayor, Council woman Linda Miller and Councilman Dan Spatz, our City Clerk, Julie Kruger and others will be visiting our sister city, Miyoshi, Japan. This will be the first time in many, many years that the Mayor of The Dalles has made the trip. As a result, we will have formal receptions by the Mayor of Miyoshi and a city council of 22 and later with the Governor of Tokushima. There is a possibility of a trade mission given to us from Governor Brown. It promises to be a great trip to strengthen our ties with the citizens of Miyoshi.

In October, a group of Japanese students and chaperones will visit The Dalles. It was meeting the delightful students who came last year that convinced me I needed to make this trip. If you are willing to be a host family for these students or their chaperones, please contact Julie Kruger at City Hall.

City Council has been very busy. Besides approving the city and urban renewal budgets, they approved an agreement to repair roads annexed previously and to take responsibility for those roads. This is an issue that has been lingering for many years. Further annexations have been suspended for two years. An agreement with ODOT for our Transportation System Plan was agreed to. Many representatives of our community will be serving in an advisory capacity during this planning period which will extend into next year.

On the 27th of this month, City Council will be reviewing changes to the Cities sign code and awarding a contract for our 2015-16 crack seal projects, fulfilling their promise to make road repair a high priority.

As we go forward in 2015, key issues will be more economic development, moving forward to develop a Business Incubator space, helping existing businesses get stronger, filling empty store space downtown and helping to identify a short term and long term plan for strengthening educational opportunities at all levels in The Dalles. The key to success in The Dalles is when the whole community supports an idea such as the new pool.

Congratulations to the Fourth of July Committee for the best fireworks in Oregon's history, to Mainstreet for StreetFest, to The Dalles Rodeo Association for its 50th Anniversary rodeo and to the Chamber of Commerce for helping to make that a success.