

Mayor's Report for January & February, 2017

The start of 2017 saw The Dalles hit with the heaviest snow in years which stayed on the ground a record 80 plus days. Because this is a rare event for our area, the city had limited equipment to accomplish snow removal. Nevertheless, we were ready.

Public Works personnel and other city staff participated in a National Weather teleconference early on, which provided important information about the strength of the storm. Armed with that information, a crew was designated for rotating 12 hour shifts in the beginning. With a storm of this size it was important to keep the main streets and feeder streets usable first. Unfortunately, it was difficult to get to all neighborhood streets in a timely manner.

When the Gorge was closed, ODOT requested long haul trucks stop in The Dalles and not Hood River. This required that we divert our crew's efforts to areas on 6th street where they cleared shoulders to give trucks a place to park. They are now working to remove as much gravel from the streets as possible. Approximately 60% will be recycled for reuse.

City Council has set its Goals for 2017-18 and will now begin its budget process. These goals are concentrated in three areas. The first is to complete ongoing projects like the Dog River pipeline and the Waste Water plant upgrade. The second is to complete the Transportation, Housing and Parking studies and begin planning to update the Vision Statement and Comprehensive plan for The Dalles. All this will not be completed until 2018 but will include plenty of opportunities for public input.

The third is to make sure our new department heads have the tools they need to improve cities services. This includes the Police Department, Finance, Human Resources, Planning and Economic Development. We will also need to concentrate on repair of roads damaged by the storm.

I want to complement the citizens of The Dalles who weathered the storm with patience and sometimes humor. Although, a few citizens were not satisfied with the city's performance, we received many more thank yous and much praise for the city workers who labored long hours. Citizens worked hard to dig out cars, drive ways and clear gutters. Thank you all. It's what makes us proud to live in The Dalles.