

## Mayor's Report, Oct./Nov. 2015

When the current City Council makes a tough decision, they do so after reviewing all the facts and trying to make the best decision for all the citizens. The best way to understand the information given to council or taken into consideration is to attend council meetings, which occur the second and fourth Monday of each month, at 5:30pm in Council Chambers. Another way is to visit our web site at City of The Dalles. In the years since I have been attending city hall meetings and since I have been Mayor, this is the best informed, best prepared City Council I have seen.

Since January 2015, when this new council was formed, they have completely over hauled the budget to find money to pave close to 20 miles of city streets without asking for one cent of new tax money. They have changed requirements for property owners to allow more housing construction, stopped unnecessary annexations, hired a business recruiter to bring in new businesses in town, supported the development of the National Neon Sign Museum, eliminated a raise in water rates, set a priority goal to finally replace the 104 year old Dog River wooden water pipe line which brings over 50% of the city's water and yet leaks over one million gallons a day during peak flows and has asked for a review of the municipal court which has many thousands of uncollected fines.

This is not politics as usual. This is tough, honest, accountable, budget busting, business growing, thoughtful management. In the very near future, The Dalles will hire a new city manager. Since we have a strong city manager form of government, that person will be part of shaping our future. He or she will be asked to make recommendations for any shared services which can save the city money and give our citizens better service. This will be an opportunity to look at how departments operate, to consider efficiencies, to shape how services are actually delivered, how information is made available and how best to hear what our citizens want.

It will be an exciting time. During 2016, The Dalles will be a part of the Historic Highway 100 year celebration. We will see two new craft breweries open, a new Thai food market, development of high end apartments downtown, a new attempt to develop the recreation and Granada Theatre sites, completion of the Lewis and Clark Sacajawea fountain, an increased number of tour boats, redevelopment of the Craig building and other progress still in the planning stage. Businesses are moving to larger spaces downtown in expectation of this growth.

The Main Street Program is creating kiosks to inform tourists where to go, identifying available spaces for new businesses and developing plans to help existing businesses grow. The Chamber's dynamic advertising and marketing programs are producing new interest in The Dalles every day.

We still need an RV park, more housing, improved schools and school buildings, more businesses and apartments but all those things are being worked on. The City of The Dalles needs everyone's help. We need more positive, energized citizens who see a bright future, who are willing to jump in and help, who are open to change and new ideas and who want to leave the past behind. For all those already involved; thank you.