



# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY UPDATE

January 3, 2024

Adam J. Brown, City Manager

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Thank you for your patience in not receiving my weekend updates over the holidays. I was able to take a few days off and spend time with my family. I had a fantastic Christmas and New Year's Day.

**PGE Rate** - I received notice from PGE about their rate increases going into effect on January 1, 2025. The Oregon Public Utility Commission approved rate changes between 5.5% through 7.7%. Residential customers will see an increase in 5.5% While that's high especially on top of last year's large increase, I think they were planning on another one in double digits this year.

**Volunteer Coordinating Committee (VCC) Meeting Cancelled** – After discussing with the Council President and Mayor we determined that it made sense to cancel the VCC. There would be enough new appointees 3 days before their meeting potentially such that the new appointees would go in with very short notice and time to review applications.

**Synthetic Turf Field Bathroom Project** – We received the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department with the notice to proceed. Public Works Director Bill Lawyer has plans and we are making final edits prior to going to bid.

We got what we think is close to a final draft for the operations and maintenance contract for the synthetic turf fields by Keizer Community Fields. It is in their hands for review. It would be ideal if we can bring it back to the Keizer City Council at the meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> for approval.

**Gold Star Memorial** – A small team of us met at the request of Matt Lawyer to figure out next steps for the Gold Star Memorial at Ryan J. Hill Park. Councilor-elect Parsons and Mayor Clark met with Matt Lawyer, Mark Callier, and myself. We have a plan.

**Zipty** – Zipty finished up in my neighborhood and I was personally surprised it was not more obtrusive. We have dealt with a few calls, to which Zipty has been responsive. There will definitely be more growing pains as they build out a city-wide fiber network. The disruption is a price to pay to get a fiber network throughout the community.

## Planning

Starting Monday, homeowner's will now be able to apply for building permits online through the State's E-permitting system. Previously, this option was only available to contractors and building professionals. This will provide the opportunity for homeowners to apply for permits

online for projects they are doing themselves, as opposed to having to submit applications in person, or through the mail.

We received a building permit application from Pho Keizer, for internal remodeling of the old Shari's building.

The Hearing's Officer decision approving a 5 lot subdivision on Clear Lake Road was received and Assistant Planner Dina Horner got it sent out this week. The subdivision will retain the existing home and it is not yet known what will be developed, but staff anticipates that a mix of middle housing is likely.

Planning Department Specialist Megan Hurley has been working on year end data entry and updates for Code Enforcement this week. We were busy this year!

### **Public Works**

AKS Engineering is working on Phase II of the Turf Fields, Claggett Creek Wetland Enhancement/ Boardwalk, 2025/2026 Resurfacing Projects, Curb Ramp Replacement Project and assisting ODOT with the stormwater design for the Verda Lane Reconstruction Project. Lot's going on!

#### Parks & Facilities Division:

The kick off meeting for the Parks Master Plan amendment process for Keizer Rapids Park was held December 12<sup>th</sup>. Staff is evaluating the consultants proposed public outreach plan for the project.

One of the mowers used primarily at Keizer Rapids Park needs to be replaced. Staff is evaluating options and timing for replacing it.

#### Street/Stormwater Operations Division:

Bids were received on Thursday for the manhole repairs. The bids came in higher than expected, we are evaluating the next steps.

We met with the representatives from Ziplly. They provided us with a phone number to call to contact them directly with concerns and/or damages. We are providing this number to residents as needed.

#### Water Division:

The Delta well rehabilitation project is progressing nicely. The contractor is performing an additional video to help determine the next steps in the process.

The Reitz well is back on line. We experienced a failure in a fitting that required us to take it off line. In the meantime, the Meadows well has been running much more than normal and we have been experiencing additional complaints about cloudy water. This will now subside with the Reitz well in service. It is unusual to have both Delta and Reitz well's offline at the same time which is why the Meadows well has been running so much.

This year's water line replacement project was sent to the Daily Journal of Commerce (DJC) for advertisement for bids. The project consist of replacing approximately 1,400 feet of 6" OD Steel and 35 galvanized water services with 8" Ductile Iron and new copper water services.

Environmental & Technical Division:

The December 18<sup>th</sup> Lunch & Learn on Groundwater Basics had 15 attendees.

The Opportunity to Recycle report was submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) this week.

The Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) annual report was also submitted to DEQ this week.

Staff will be working on updating the web site to reference the Keizer Code instead of Ordinances.

The next Lunch & Learn will be held January 15<sup>th</sup>. The topic is Managing a new threat; Emerald Ash Borer.

January 21, 2025 is the [Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Summit](#) This is how we educate our construction audience.

We had several Public Works and Keizer staff assist in identifying, reporting, alerting affected neighbors of the December 26 and 27 Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) near the Keizer city limits. Thanks to the November Sanitary Sewer Overflow Training Environmental and Technical Division (ETD) held for all Public Works staff, the reporting of the SSO from the 24" and 18" Salem sewer main breaks were swift. Thank you to the Keizer team for keeping the public up-to-date as information was available.

The Environmental & Technical Division is working on updating the 2014 Erosion Control Ordinance.

Environmental Compliance is restoring (planting) vegetated stormwater facilities along Lydia.

We have two opportunities on February 4 for our public works field staff to get educated on our Vegetated Stormwater Facility and Wetland Tours. They will have two times to choose from working with collaboratively with the City of Salem from either 8:30-11:00am and 1:00-3:30pm.

**Police** - report from 12/19/2024

Patrol Division:

During the festival of lights parade, a citizen called to report a male subject causing a disturbance along the parade route. The caller provided details to include a description of the subject who was causing the disturbance and added there was possibly a knife involved. It was determined the subject made threats before pulling out a knife when confronted by the parade-goer about the chairs being knocked over. The subject was arrested and lodged at the Marion County Jail.

Officers worked a focused enforcement operation, which was designed to target retail theft crimes within the Keizer Station shopping center. This operation was coordinated by a detective assigned to the Community Response Unit (CRU). The operation resulted in eight people being arrested and 70 pieces of stolen merchandise recovered totaling \$1145.83.

Criminal Investigations Division (CID):

Detectives continue to work on child and sexual abuse cases, as well as assisting multiple law enforcement agencies from other states with investigations involving Keizer residents. School detectives continue to provide law enforcement consultation services to the Salem-Keizer School District and investigate crimes that occur at Keizer schools.

Traffic Safety Unit (TSU):

Officer Powell assisted with the promotional process for the position of Sergeant. There were four qualified candidates who applied. They have worked through the process and will highlight the promotion at the City Council Meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>.