



# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY UPDATE

February 7, 2025

Adam J. Brown, City Manager

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Vacation was great and much needed. I came back to a super-busy week that's had me running all over Keizer and Salem for non-stop meetings. I wish I could say I'm completely caught up, but I am darn near close.

Chamber Greeters was hosted by our own Event Center Manager Lily Von representing the Event Center. We had a good crowd and Lily did a great job.

I want to give a shout out to our legal team of City Attorney Joe Lindsay and Legal Assistant Tammie Harms. They are not my employees, but they do such a great job of keeping things moving with the City staff reminding us of when things are due or expiring.

**Long Range Planning Task Force** –The Long Range Planning Task Force Meeting has been moved from February 24<sup>th</sup> to March 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be Council Goal setting during a City Council Work Session on February 24<sup>th</sup>. **Turf Field Operations** – Public Works Director Bill Lawyer met with the Keizer Community Fields while I was gone and shared with me the last items for clarification in the agreement. I worked with City Attorney Lindsay to get the points of clarification to him and he was able to kick out another draft. I am hopeful we will be able to put this on the City Council agenda on February 18th. It depends if they accept our edits.

**Gold Star Grant** – I submitted the grant application for the Gold Star Memorial. The funds for the grant, if we are successful, will not be available until July 1.

I did have a conversation with Mark Caillier, who is helping with volunteer efforts with the Gold Star Memorial, and I felt much better hearing that he believed we could get a lot of the services and some materials donated.

**Cordelio Power** – We had a really good meeting with Cordelio Power. Public Works Director Bill Lawyer, Planning Director Shane Witham, Environmental & Technical Division Manager Jenny Ammon, and myself met with their team. They have several resources from right here in Oregon who are familiar with land use processes and energy products. I left the meeting feeling like we were working with a company who were very good stewards of the land. The one thing we will have to figure out is how we navigate the master planning process if the ownership is just them and the City.

**Chamber Contract** – Councilors Soraida Cross and Kyle Juran, Mayor Cathy Clark and I met Wednesday afternoon to prepare for a Thursday meeting with the Keizer Chamber of

Commerce. The purpose was to go over the contract between the City and Chamber. The meeting on Thursday was very productive. We will put something on the agenda for the February 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting for the Council's consideration.

**Recycling** – Environmental & Technical Division Manager Jenny Ammon put together a meeting with Director Bill Lawyer and I and the solid waste haulers. The purpose was to talk with them about the new requirements for the Recycling Modernization Act. The producers of packaging will now have to pay a tax to the state for their products. The state will then send that to solid waste haulers to assist them in handling the increased recycling efforts. They will get \$3 per resident split between the two of them. So, that's \$120,000 split between Loren's and Valley Recycling to take on a whole slew of new recycling categories. I think you can imagine that \$120k will not begin to cover the new recycling requirements. Unfortunately, somehow that cost is going to need to be covered by someone. These new requirements hit in July of this year and January of 2026.

**Iyo Sister City** – Mayor Clark and I met with Ed Davis and Chuck Itoh to talk about the Sister City Relationship. We will be reaching out to people to see who wants to be a part of this non-profit sister-city committee. If you have some interest, please let me know.

### **Economic Development**

I followed up with several prospects last week and there is nothing definitive to report yet. Council will meet in Executive Session on February 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss property negotiations related to one of the prospects.

**Federal DEI Directives** – I'm attaching a letter that the City received from the Department of Energy. I believe we have received several similar letters from other federal agencies. As you read through it, consider how to interpret the language. It seems to be saying that DEI activities cannot be included in any federally funded projects, but I could see how it may be interpreted more broadly.

**Federal Executive Orders** – I was on a call today about federal executive orders hosted by the Council of Governments. I threw out the Letter about DEI initiatives, and they told me that those were supposed to have stopped last week. I'm not sure why they were "supposed to have stopped" unless it was by injunctions from federal judges that have occurred. I don't follow the federal scene that closely.

**Turf Field Funding** – While I was on the call about the federal executive orders I asked Brandon Jordan from Congresswoman Salinas' office about our appropriation of \$250,000 for the phase III turf complex funding. That allocation is in the budget that has not yet passed. If the budget gets passed after the continuing resolution expires in March our funding may or may not be included.

**Videography, Mics, and Tech** – Assistant City Manager Tim Wood met with folks from Crestron to look at technology in the event center, city council chamber, and city hall conference rooms. They felt confident that they could improve and modernize what we had to make some improvements. They will be putting together a proposal.

**Comcast** – Renewal is up for Comcast, which is interesting because we have to make the decision to extend it two years before it expires. If we decide to extend the franchise for five more years, then we will re-address it five years from now, which is two-years before the next extension. Confused yet? Anyway, to extend it, we have to put it on a City Council agenda and invite any comment.

**Legislative Outlook** – Here are some bills that the League of Oregon Cities is requesting advocacy with our state legislators.

**SB 916**, which would allow workers involved in a labor dispute to receive unemployment insurance. **The LOC is asking city leaders to contact their state senators today and urge a NO! vote on this bill.** The League testified in opposition to the bill, as it would likely lead to labor strikes. SB 916 would also be costly to cities as most public employers replenish the state’s Unemployment Insurance Fund, dollar for dollar instead of paying unemployment insurance taxes.

**HB 2533**, which will extend the attorney/client privilege for public agencies and officials to 50 years. An adverse court ruling in 2022 cut the public sector privilege to 25 years, placing agencies at a disadvantage in litigation and leading to the release of sensitive legal advice. The League and the city of Portland testified in favor the bill and **the LOC encourages city leaders to contact their legislators and ask them to support the measure.**

**HB 5025** is the budget bill for the Oregon Health Authority, which funds behavioral health services among other things. Of particular interest to the LOC, the budget bill will fund behavioral health workforce development, civil commitment services and jail diversion programs. Enhancing services to Oregonians needing behavioral health care is a top priority for the League as voted on by its membership. While the LOC was unable to testify on the bill this week, additional opportunities will be available.

### **Planning:**

We received an application for a 2-lot partition on Crater Ave that is looking to develop the lots with middle housing products.

The Subdivision Mylar was signed for a Partition on Willow Lake Rd. This project also went through the Comprehensive Plan/Zone Change process and plans to develop with a small multi-family housing project.

Code Enforcement continues to stay over-busy responding to complaints and working toward compliance on all kinds of livability related issues.

Staff attended the Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association (GNEKNA) and shared about various Planning projects and services the Planning Department provides.

The City’s consultant (who is helping us with our walkable design standards audit and code amendments) met with some representatives of the Neighborhood Associations Thursday to provide information and received feedback on the project.