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From the Office of the Mayor: Tom Anderson

# City of Shady Cove INSIDER



City of Shady Cove
"and a river runs through it!"

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#### FINANCIAL UPDATE

During the week of January 18th, the City Council received a copy of the City's audit for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2015. Under the section titled ECONOMIC FACTORS, NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET AND RATES, two statements are important and worth repeating:

"We anticipate gas tax revenue will decrease due to more fuel-efficient vehicles and alternative fuels. Fuel options have increased to include electric and compressed natural gas, which does not pay into State gas tax and has a direct impact on the revenue we receive. This may have a negative impact on overall gas tax revenue collected." Note from the Mayor: This may extend the time table for improvement of all non paved streets, but the program will continue until complete.

"The City's permanent property tax rate of 54.7 cents per thousand is the lowest in the region and one of the lowest in the state. As such, property tax fails to generate enough revenue to fully fund City services. Without the benefit of franchise fees, public safety fees, other City fees, and state subventions, the City could not provide even a minimal level of service." Note from the Mayor: It is the intent of the City Council, supported by Staff, to continue to provide services to at least the current level. The following suggests that will happen.

The category GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS reflects, under Governmental Activities, the City's net position for the year ending June 30, 2015 compared to the year ending June 30, 2014:

Year ending June 30, 2015: \$634,842

Year ending June 30, 2014: \$427,671

Difference: \$207,171 48% increase in one year

The dollar amounts are not monstrous like we are exposed to for the State and Federal Governments. However, for the small City of Shady Cove, the net financial position improvement is very significant. This reflects an outstanding job done by the City Administrator, Aaron Prunty and his small staff.

During the January 21st Council Meeting the Council was provided a financial statement for the first half of the current fiscal year. All accounts are on track with the budgeted amounts. All operational funds reflect revenues slightly in excess of budget and expenses slightly less. Another fine performance by Staff.

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING: JANUARY 7, 2016**

The Council commenced the meeting with a Public Hearing to consider a zone change request. The request concerns the property directly North of the City's library. It is currently zoned P (public). The request is a reclassification to GC (General Commercial).

The Council heard a reading of the City Planner's finding and recommendation to approve the request. The Planning Commission's summary of their Public Hearing and recommendation to approve was also reviewed. The only testimony was from proponents. The primary proponent was Mr. Tompkins who will purchase the property from Bellwood Properties, Inc. should the rezone application be approved. His plan is to establish a "classic" car display and sales business, along with sales of related parts and equipment. He will initially utilize the vacant building (formally the Masonic Lodge) and ultimately build a new building, similar in appearance to the library, facing Crater Lake Highway. The latter requires an subsequent application and site plan review before the Planning Commission.

The requested zone change is in conformance with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan of the City of Shady Cove. The Council discussed the request and concluded that it would be appropriate and agreed to a first reading, under New Business, of an Ordinance amending the Comprehensive Plan and changing the Zoning Map of the City of Shady Cove. A first reading was conducted under New Business.

Also under New Business the Council addressed

several matters. As you may recall from the November INSIDER, the determination of the necessity for a \$25,000 supplemental Business License Fee, for the sale of marijuana, was deferred until this meeting. The supplemental fee was applied in anticipation of activities, as a result of marijuana sales, requiring increased police involvement. Such activities have not materialized. As such, the Council approved a Resolution to forego the supplemental fee for the balance of the fiscal year, and refund any fee that had been paid.

A subsequent Resolution was approved revising the marijuana sales supplemental Business License Fee line on the City's Fee Schedule. The subject remains, but the amount is now zero. As set forth in the document initiating the supplemental fee, the Council will review its necessity annually.

During the December 3rd Council Meeting, the Council discussed, at length, the possibility of reestablishing a Public Works Department as well as management and operation of the Shady Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant. Following additional discussion, the Council approved a Resolution stating the City's intent to investigate the reestablishment of a Public Works Department complete with management and operation of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Consistent with the forgoing, as a first step in the process, the Council approved a Resolution directing staff to pursue a formal Wastewater Treatment Plant assessment.

# **CITY COUNCIL MEETING: JANUARY 21, 2016**

The meeting commenced with an excellent presentation from Sheriff's Deputy Jeff McGrath. He provided handouts and video charts reflecting numerous categories of legal violations in Shady Cove with comparisons between 2013, 2014 and 2015. Most of the categories were elaborated upon with evaluations for each category. Following the presentation and evaluation of the data, Deputy McGrath responded to numerous questions from the Council and audience.

A general consensus reflected Council interest in such presentations in the future.

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING: JANUARY 21, 2016 ... continued

Under Unfinished Business the Council heard a second reading of the Ordinance noted above in the January 7th Council Meeting summary concerning an amendment of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map. The Ordinance was approved by unanimous vote.

Also under Unfinished Business, the City Administrator provided an update on his pursuit of a formal Wastewater Treatment Plant assessment. He has been contacted by 3 engineering firms who have expressed interest in responding. An RFQ (Request for Quote) will be issued in the very near future.

Following issuance of a RFQ, response to the same, selection of an engineering firm, actual evaluation of the Treatment Plant and summary, the City should have a report not later than early May 2016. That report will include a general evaluation of the plant as well as short and long term replacements and improvements and costs based on current dollars.

# FEBRUARY 4, 2016 PROPOSED AGENDA

Public Hearing on a Riparian Ordinance. This will be a hearing wherein the Council only takes input on the Ordinance sent forward by the Planning Commission. The Council will not entertain questions, nor discuss the subject. It will be an agenda item for the February 18th meeting wherein the Council will discuss openly and respond to questions.

Discussion will also take place concerning rules governing recreational marijuana.



# Upcoming Events February 8 **American Red Cross** Blood Drive @ URCC 10:30 AM-4:00 PM Info: 1-800-RED-CROSS February 9 Shady Cove—Trail Community Watch Program 6:00PM-City of Shady Cove Chamber Quarters Info: 541-631-1164 or 541-840-3570 February 27 Upper Rogue Community Center Chili Cook Off & Dessert Auction 5:30 PM Tickets: \$5.00 at the door Info: 541-878-2702