

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

Mayor's Message

Another year has come and gone. As we look forward to a new year, we reflect on some of the bigger things that happened in 2023, in addition to normal city operations.

We had another very successful Spring Clean-Up Day. We filled 3 dumpsters and hauled off a trailer load of old tires, along with a bunch of e-cycle stuff. We had some phenomenal volunteers who went above and beyond in their efforts to pick up and haul stuff for those who needed extra help.

We were finally able to start and complete construction on the Wastewater System Improvement Project. We still have to dredge the lagoons, but construction is done and the evaporation pond is operational.

The first step in a number of phases of a Main Street Beautification Project was accomplished. Thanks again to the North Powder FFA for donating the beautiful flower baskets and to the Ford Family Foundation for a grant to purchase a trailer and water tank. We received a grant from Union County to run wiring for more street lights on the north side of 2nd Street.

Thanks to the Huckleberry Festival Committee, we had the first 2-day Huckleberry Festival. It was very (continued on page 2)

New Library

The City has received notice that we have been awarded a Community Development Block Grant from Business Oregon in the amount of \$1,207,060, for a final design and construction of a new library.

Please keep in mind, that as with any federally funded grant, there are several steps that must be completed before construction can begin, starting with contract negotiations for the grant and grant administrator, and completion of an environmental review process. After that, we can start advertising for Architectural/Engineering services to complete a final design.

Construction should include adding onto to the south end of the City Hall building along with developing parking areas and sidewalks.

All-in-all it is expected to take at least 2 years to complete the project.

Wastewater Project

With the completion of the evaporation pond, the city still struggles to meet discharge limits and reporting issues which have resulted in additional DEQ fines. For years, the city has fought the problem of bio-solids breakdown due a large part to the accumulation of inorganic matter. Some of the build up appears to be a remnants from a truck wash that was here in the mid 1990's. However, there is still a lot of other inorganic material that is continually being flushed or put into the wastewater system. Things such as grease, disposable wipes, paper towels, feminine products, needles, clothing, toys, etc. cannot be decomposed by bacteria and other microorganisms and therefore settle and buildup in the bottom of the lagoon preventing the reduction of biochemical oxygen demands (BODs) which result in high pH, ammonia, and E.coli levels.

Because of the large amount of bio-solids build up, dredging is no longer an option, but a requirement of DEQ. The city is working on a plan to have the lagoons dredged by next September, which should alleviate the problem of not being able to meet discharge limits. Sludge will be removed from the ponds, strained to remove the inorganic substances, and then applied in liquid form at a DEQ approved site. Soil and environmental testing is already in progress on the lagoons and on the proposed application site.

The estimated cost for dredging is approximately \$850,000. In addition to the remaining funds from the Community Development Block Grant and ARPA funds, the city has already been approved for a \$390,000 loan leaving a shortage of about \$240,000. The city can apply for additional funding from Business Oregon in the form of 1/2 grant, 1/2 loan but it will require a \$13.05 increase in monthly sewer rates (\$61.30) by the end of September 2024. \$61.30 is considered to be the standard "affordability rate" by the State of Oregon.

Anyone with questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Wastewater System Project or sewer rate increases should bring them to the City Council.

"You are never too old to set a new goal or to dream a new dream!"

-C.S. Lewis

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Jan 1 New Year's Day
City Hall CLOSED
- ◆ Jan 2 Grange Meeting
6:30PM Wolf Creek Grange
- ◆ Jan 4 Library Board Meeting
5PM Library
- ◆ Jan 8 City Council Meeting
7PM City Hall
- ◆ Jan 15 M.L. King Jr. Day
City Hall CLOSED
- ◆ Jan 19 Food Bank
2PM to 4PM Methodist Church
- ◆ Jan 23 School Board Mtg.
6PM

NOTICE:

The next City Council Meeting will be Monday, JANUARY 8, 2024 at 7PM at City Hall (340 E Street)

*City Council Meeting
January 8, 2024
7PM City Hall*

*Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance
Public Comment (allow 4 minutes each)
Amend/Accept Agenda
Amend/Accept Minutes
Accounts Payable
Library Report
Huckleberry Festival Report
Public Works Report
Ordinance Enforcement
City Recorder Report
Mayor's Message
New Business-
-
Old Business-
- Wastewater Project Update
- Electronic Speed Sign
- Library/Meeting Room Update
-
Council Comments*

***Additions and/or Changes may be made to the agenda.**
If special accommodations are needed, please notify City Hall at 541-898-2185 by noon on Friday prior to meeting.

Library News

Lisa is still working on reorganizing and familiarizing herself with the library. Part of the reorganization includes disposing of some old books and purchasing new ones, including some from local authors. Lisa would also like to make audio books more available through the library. She is open to suggestions from patrons as to favorite authors or genre of reading material you would like to see more of.

Lisa is starting to make plans for the next Summer Reading Program. The theme will be "Read, Renew, & Repeat".

The next Library Board Meeting will be Thursday, January 4th at 5PM at the Library.

Library Hours-

Tuesday & Wednesday Noon to 4PM
Friday & Saturday 10AM to 2PM
Phone 541-898-2175

Email: npcitylibrary1@gmail.com

"Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground."

-Theodore Roosevelt

Lighting Contest Winners

Congratulations to the 2023 Christmas Lighting Contest winners!

1st Place: Maddox -
2nd Place: Nielsen-
3rd Place: Hansen-

Writer's Group

Are you interested in joining a local writer's group? We are organizing weekly meetings, beginning in February 2024 (tentatively Saturday afternoons). It is open to adult writers of all genres including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Writers and authors of all levels are welcome. Anyone interested, and for further details, contact Glenda at 541-898-2332 or email glndctr@yahoo.com by January 20, 2024.

If you are experiencing problems with your water or sewer, please contact City Hall.

City Hall Phone: 541-898-2185
(8:30AM-12:30PM)
Public Works: 541-786-4600
(7:00AM-3:30PM)
Monday thru Friday

After Hours Emergency: 541-786-4600
Mayor: 541-975-0422

*Please call during business hours if at all possible as a fee will be charged for after hours calls.

Mayor (con't)

successful and another 2-day event is in the plans for 2024.

Thanks to a Special City Allotment Grant from ODOT, we were able to finish paving 5th Street. We are still working on hauling more gravel, as we get time, to fill in along the edges.

Several trees and shrubs have been trimmed or removed. Thank you to the Rural Fire Department for their help. Work on the City Meeting Room next to City Hall is in progress.

With the help of a few volunteers and the Union Co. Public Works Department, we had some rock hauled in and spread along the road side next to the freeway exit near the Café and fuel station. Thanks to R.D. Mac for basically donating half the rock. The City purchased a "new" used dump truck and blade for plowing snow. It is much smaller than the old truck and will be a lot easier to maneuver along the city streets and alleys.

We had a good turn-out for the City Christmas Celebration. Thanks to those who participated in (or just watched) the parade, tree lighting and caroling. Thanks to the Rural Fire Department for hosting the Chili Feed and doing the hay rides. Thanks to everyone who decorated their homes for Christmas. It always adds to the holidays! And last, but certainly not least, the City has been awarded a grant to build on to the City Hall building for a new library. Please keep in mind that the project will take a couple of years to complete.

Dogs

Once again, let us remind everyone that it is **ILLEGAL** to let your dogs run at large inside city limits! **ALL** dogs must be on a leash or some form of physical restraint anytime they are on public property, including streets, alleys, parks or any other public right-of-way. They are **not** allowed on the premises of a person other than the animal owner without the consent of the occupant or owner of another property. Dogs running at large or not being sufficiently contained in a yard or properly restrained on a leash are becoming a major problem all around town. City Hall has received multiple reports of dog bites in the past few months. We also want to remind you that you are not allowed to have more than 3 dogs **per residence**, regardless of how big they are or who actually owns the dogs. Be sure your yard fences are sufficient enough to contain your dogs and keep them under control at all times. (cont.)



"And now we welcome the New Year. Full of things that have never been!"

-Unknown

(Dogs cont.)

and to keep them under control at all times. If a dog causes injury, damage or trespasses, it is not considered to be "under control". If a dog bites someone it should be immediately reported to the Union County Animal Control (Co. Sheriff at 541-963-1017), particularly if it breaks the skin. **ALL** dogs in Union County, 6 months of age or older, are **required** to be licensed and must show proof of rabies inoculation. Please be a responsible pet owner and don't let your dogs run at large!

Suite Blue Open House

The Suite Blue BNB will hold an Open House for the community on January 18th from 4:30-6:30PM. Come meet the Suite Blue team and see the newly remodeled Hudleson Building. Suite Blue invites all local businesses interested in being affiliated with marketing and guest services. Check out the special deals offered specifically to local community members. Help shape and share this local treasure with your photos, stories and memorabilia.

Church Services:

Cornerstone Baptist Church-
Sundays 10AM & 11AM and 5PM

Wednesdays 6PM

St. Anthony's Catholic Church-
Sunday Mass- 11:30AM

North Powder Community Church-
Sundays 10AM

City Council Members-

#1 Vicki Townsend #4 Justin Wright
#2 Jeff Nielsen #5 Lindsey Thompson
#3 Don McClure #6 Logan McCrae

Mayor John Frieboes

City Hall Office Hours

8:30AM to 12:30 PM

Monday thru Friday

Phone 541-898-2185

Fax 541-898-2647

Email: cityofnp@eoni.com

www.northpowderoregon.org

Closed Holidays

North Powder is an Equal Opportunity Provider