

March 8, 2019

It has been some time since I have contacted the citizens of Glens Ferry through my Mayor's Corner.

Information flow to the public is one of the most important things a government can do. It saves time, energy, and sometimes legal problems. Often the government forgets that they do not have all the answers to a problem.

To be open to the citizens of Glens Ferry I continue to try and be in the office each day on a regular basis and I also am in the office on Fridays from approximately 9 am to 12pm. Meetings and other appointments do take me out of the office quite often, but I encourage you to call and make an appointment. I will do all I can to get with you. Better yet if you see the black Ford parked at City Hall stop and come in.

Water Plant manager Michael Mitchell has taken on some projects to continue our maintenance updates at the water plant. The screens at the plant needed replacement and this was accomplished last week. They are up and running. I am in the process, with Michaels input, putting together a budget to address some additional upgrades. At this time, they are in the planning stage and will not be started until FY 2020.

There is no doubt that patching roads is not the answer to our infrastructure needs here in town. It is the only option I now have. I am working with our Economic Director (Christy Accord) in developing a plan for our truck route and additional replacement of the roads here in town. I would be glad to meet with anyone having an idea on these matters.

Our Airport Manager (Justin Wootan) is in the process of repaving the airport. Most of the cost of this project will be with a grant from the state and in-kind work. I received many calls both pro and con on proceeding with this project. After extensive review by the Council they voted to continue this effort and that is what I intend to do. Mr. Wootan is working with our engineer (Keller) and I believe in the end this will be a project that will benefit the City into the future.

This summer we will continue to install additional water lines at the cemetery. The system was designed so that we could add additional water lines as funds come available. Joe Heidt and the crew are also in the process of cleaning up the cemetery for the summer and of course Memorial Day, which will be here before we know it.

Again, it is sad, but I must report that we have continued to get some vandalism at some sites here in town. Some windows were found cracked at the Museum which may or may not have been vandalism, but the tagging of the new skate park was very disappointing. Although this asset is not a City facility, we should all be proud of the site and protect it from further damage. I am working with the Sheriff's Office to address some options for additional coverage. I encourage everyone to keep an eye out and report anything that might look out of place.

We have a group of volunteers starting an effort to raise funds for a new Animal Shelter to be built here in town. If you would like to help with this, please contact me and we will get you on the list to come to meetings and help with grants and fund raisers. Everyone is welcome. They are very dedicated, and I believe they will succeed.

We will start some maintenance items on the City baseball field near the swimming pool. We will start with a new roof and then complete other items as budget permits. The lights at the field that were damaged by the storm in January will be replaced. We have bids and we are now just waiting to get the company here to get them back up and running.

Our library continues to be a bright spot for me. It is amazing what Jennifer and the board are accomplishing. I do not get to meet with them as much as I would like, but I can tell you it is always a highlight of my day to be there and hear about their plans.

The school baseball program is trying to raise money to install lights at the school field. This is a very worth while project and if you can help with funding this project please consider doing it. You will be glad you did.

Some time ago I informed the City of some needed repairs to a recorder at the sewer lagoons. The recorder is in place and Joe is working with the state DEQ on additional maintenance. We have patched together the aerators to get us by and plan on replacing them as soon as funding can be found.

The "Walk Safe" project that is planned along Bannock and 1st went out to bid. We received 3 bids, and all were above the estimated costs for completion of this project. The City Engineer will be evaluating these bids for options.

It has been an amazing year. Debbie Rowan retired at the end of February after a long career here at City Hall. I enjoyed our time together here. Ms. Rowan was a dedicated employee and helped me in so many ways. I will truly miss our budget meetings and those "Are you sure you want to do that Mayor" conversations.

Monty