

STATE OF THE CITY 2017

I would like to address the overall performance of our City as reported by Staff; their accomplishments, their challenges and their goals. Staff reports that the City of Talent has a sound financial program. According to our financial team, Talent's reserves and contingency funds are approximately \$1.8 million, or about 23% of our \$10 million plus budget for fiscal year 2016-2017. Historically, contingency funds are kept available for emergencies and Talent's reserve funds have been set aside for future projects. There is also a 5% unappropriated ending fund balance. During this fiscal cycle, the General Fund was increased to cover contingency funds, however the unappropriated fund balance decreased. Staff will recommend increasing our reserves this year, while trying to hold the line on costs to our citizens. The City's debt service remains very manageable at 4.6% of the total budget. The majority of Talent debt remains in the water fund, generated by the original bonds that were issued. The financial department reports that this debt is self-supporting. Talent's valiant effort to hold down rates for its citizens as we incurred multiple increases from the Medford Water Commission is an ongoing battle. Finance is completing their transition to a new financial and utility billing software. For utility customers, the new utility billing portal will allow viewing of prior bills and show prior consumption in tables and charts. The software will also connect with the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) so City employees can easily see where all meters in the city are located. For City department managers, the financial software will allow for more readily available reports to easily track revenues and expenditures. The new software will also allow employees in different buildings to easily communicate and send service orders and other utility information without having to travel back and forth or send multiple emails. In addition to the financial and administrative management of Talent, the City provides many essential operational services such as Public Works, who oversees water utilities, street maintenance and storm sewers. The Talent Police Department provides public safety and police protection, while Parks and Community Development address our recreational needs and quality of life. Maintaining Talent's water distribution system is critical. The SCADA System that allows for control of the City's water distribution system has been upgraded; including complete replacement of old outdated telemetry hardware that had become obsolete. We have updated Talent's master water meter, in an effort to maintain greater accuracy. Roughly 267,666,000 gallons passed through this meter last year. That is an average of 22,305,000 gallons per month, 744,000 gallons per day, 31,000 per hour, and 517 gallons per minute. Accuracy to the minute is very important. After discovering weaknesses in our reserve water tanks, a new reservoir is being considered that will more effectively allow for seismic activity which would eliminate a certain threat to our community.

Public Works has continued with improvements for City streets, including crack sealing and "grind outs" of streets to extend the life of aging roadways. In a continuing effort to make City streets safer for walking, a sidewalk was added to Schoolhouse Road, lighted LED school crossing signs installed within the school zone, and plans are developed to extend the sidewalk Wagner Creek Road to Foss Road. Front St. was improved with curb, gutter, and sidewalk, as well as new asphalt and storm drainage system. Included in the Public Works wheel house is the maintenance of our open space. As the Talent Park System grows with the addition of donated property that will one day become Suncrest Park, the

possible redesign to the Splash Pad to save water and electricity, the completion of our Heritage Trail and along with participating in new grants for improving the habitat along Wagner Creek, Talent parks are moving forward. Talent's Police Department led by Police Chief Curtis Whipple, has investigated over 4000 cases, written over 1300 traffic citations this past year, including speeding within the City limits as well as DUII arrests within the City. Burglaries are down 17.9%, Thefts were down 28.4%, and Unauthorized use of a vehicle down 36.4%. These reductions are significant as they increase the livability standards for the City of Talent. Talent's goal is to have our citizens feel safe in their homes, on our streets, and in our parks. In addition, Officers of the Talent Police Department participated in numerous Community Service events and other endeavors to enhance the livability of Talent. The list below is not comprehensive, but is a snapshot of what occurred.

- Officers met with and discussed community issues with the workers of the Talent Avenue production facility of Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- Operation Talent SCOUT #1 - a survey of the neighborhood near Talent Elementary School was conducted.
- The first Coffee with a Cop was conducted.
- Officers participated in the Talent Elementary School Flag Ceremony
- Drug take back events to dispose outdated and unwanted prescription drugs
- Participated in a Multi agency effort to clean up the Bear Creek Greenway.
- Officers assisted with a Maslow Project car show at Brammo.
- An exercise was conducted with Fire District 5, Phoenix and other members of the City of Talent. This event was focused on the probable Cascadia event, but also developed into a general discussion of other types of emergencies which might occur in and around the City.
- A Mental Health worker has been assigned to the South County area and has been working with the Talent Police Department. Talent Police Officers also received training on numerous topics this year to maintain and increase their knowledge.

The Talent Community Development Department, has been working to refine our online Accela building permit software, to allow better tracking of permits both for home and business owners, as well as the Jackson County Inspectors. We have had one new commercial structure built from ground up. We continue to lay the out the beginning processes needed for considering the expansion into our Urban Growth Boundaries and Urban Reserves.

A significant challenge for the City Recorder has been streamlining of our City Ordinances. There are literally thousands of older ordinances and resolutions that need to be reviewed and updated to be made more readily available to our citizens. We have submitted all of our updated Ordinances in order to present a codified bank of ordinances. Then everyone will have full access to all City codes online and at City Hall.

On the technology side of things, City manager Tom Corrigan reports that Talent has made great strides to upgrade its software and hardware systems. For example; Talent has prioritized updating our water flow monitoring system and has had to improve its firewall security, to protect the City's information and that of Talent's citizens. Talent has also outlined a Disaster Recovery Program for our water system and City Hall. Our IT department, (all one of her), has also virtualized 3 servers at City Hall and was instrumental in upgrading our financial software. We are striving to keep all of our citizen's information safe!

As champions of quality of life, Our Community Development Department is engaged with our Planning Commission to adopt new Economy and the incoming Housing Elements of our Comprehensive Plan. We also achieved lower Flood Insurance rates and completed the Old Bridge Village restoration project.

Talent's greatest strength continues to be, its people. In addition to the amazing Staff, there are many very involved, dedicated volunteers, who in one way or another enhance all of the ongoing initiatives demonstrated with Talent. They are guardians of our environment and of our future. Volunteers vitalize our downtown and create recreational opportunity for our children. They have as much to do with the State of our City, as any one great effort in Talent. They are humble and full of heart. Our community owes a profound thank you, to every single person who has joined the effort to make Talent our wonderful home. We cannot look back on our successes in Talent with saying a heartfelt goodbye to one of Talents most beloved volunteers and champion of mother earth, Elizabeth Zwick. We love you and we miss you!

We also stated with resolve, that Talent welcomes all with a particular neighborly protective eye on those who would be singled out for marginalization. Not here, not on our watch! As we look forward to the promises of 2017, Talent will continue to build on the successes of this past year.

These are important times in Talent, as we look forward to many long awaited efforts coming to fruition, like Maker Space, Integrated Pest Management and the very excited Talent Urban Renewal Gateway Project. We face more work ahead, there is so much more to do. I call to all of our residents to get involved and join the incredible efforts in progress. Make you voices heard and keep you City government moving toward a collective vision for Talent. Talent cares. Talent endeavors. Talent thrives.