



# Falls City Newsletter



*"Addressing the needs of the community and planting the Seeds for a secure future."*

## 1. Falls City Financial Conditioning Project (FCP) Frees Up Over \$100k!

You read right, the FCP will save the city close to \$135,000 in FY20-21 through identification and correction of organizational inefficiencies, modernization of processes, and outsourcing. There will be additional revenues coming in from Franchise agreements, and SDC's in the near future as well, but the value is not fully determined at this point. After a careful audit of all departments and activities, and with the help of City Staff, it was determined that some changes in organizational philosophy could lead to amazing outcomes.

### We looked first to un-captured revenues:

- Master Utility Right of Way Ordinance- ensures utilities in the right of way pay their fair share for use and upkeep of the public rights of way- first reading scheduled for 12/9/19 City Council Meeting.
- System Development Charges- ensures developers and others pay their fair share for expanded use of the city's built infrastructure- DLCDC planning grant awarded to pay for engineered cost lists, then rate development.

These items will help to ensure that individual and business uses of our shared infrastructure pays its fair share for upkeep. Other streams, such as a yearly inflation adjustment on utility rates, will also be considered by the City Council.

### We looked next to organizational efficiency in the local government:

- Created an Organizational Map
- Reorganized Departments, divisions, programs and tasks
- Rewrote Job Descriptions to align with Reorganization
- Implemented a new staffing philosophy: In each department, strong leadership paired with developing, but capable workers.

These efforts have allowed the City to reduce qualifications required for some roles, and hours required for others, without eliminating any services. It has also allowed for easy adjustment to growth or shrinkage in the future.

### With that, we developed and pitched a plan to the City Council and are now acting upon that plan!

In FY 20-21 (beginning July 1, 2020) Over \$125k more will be repurposed from operating costs and, without losing services, made available for such things as: capital improvements (keeping the water plant going, building lagoons, etc...), community development (the greenway project, parks, events, etc..), and the like!

## 2. Oregon Governor's Office Recognizes Falls City Greenway Project!

The "Greenway Project" is the first to be adopted by the Oregon Governor's Office as a Regional Solutions Priority. It has been featured twice in their newsletter and the team is working diligently with City Staff to make this project a reality. With this recognition and support, the odds of this project reaching completion rise exponentially as funding sources open up and support from state agencies comes in. This is an exciting time for Falls City!

**For more about city projects, visit our webpage and click the "Projects" button.**

[www.fallscityoregon.gov](http://www.fallscityoregon.gov)

## Falls City Newsletter: 12/2019

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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### 3. A SPECIAL THANKS: **Community Thanksgiving Meal Volunteers and Contributors!**

This year's meal, like so many before, was a great success! Headed by **Dana Schowalter**, the meal **served over 250 community members!** **Kristy Major** carried the torch for 15 years and helped train the new organizers to help ensure this year was a success. Thank you, Falls City and thank you, Kristy, for your decade and a half of service!

### 4. **What? FALLS CITY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING!**

Where? Mountain Gospel Fellowship

When? December 7 at 5:30pm

Why? Christmas! Hot Cocoa and Snacks Provided! It's fun!

How? The Christmas Spirit! Electricity!

Who? Everyone!

### **COMPLETE YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE WITH THE CITY OF FALLS CITY!**

Contact City Hall for Details: (503) 787-3631, [info@fallscityoregon.gov](mailto:info@fallscityoregon.gov).

### **NEED ASSISTANCE FINDING HOUSING OR FIXING YOUR OWN?**

Polk CDC, a non-profit purposed to assist with housing in Polk County, has many options:(503) 831-3173.

#### **SCHEDULED CITY MEETINGS**

The Public is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

#### **City Council**

December 9, 2019 @ 6:00pm

#### **Parks & Recreation**

December 18, 2019 @ 11:00am

#### **Public Works**

December 19, 2019 @ 6:00pm

#### **COUNCIL GOAL SETTING**

Coming up in January

#### **STATE OF THE CITY**

Coming up in February