



Tradin' Crows

July 2015 Edition



City of Rogue River

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City Hall Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Closed for Lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

City Council Meetings:
 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers

City Council Workshops:
 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers

See Calendar (page 2) for other meetings

Mayor: Pam VanArsdale

City Council Members:

- Bill Jones
- Fred England
- Robert Catherwood
- Shelli Spencer
- Don Daugherty
- Mark Poling

Planning Commission Members:

- John Schaeffer
- Cindy England
- JoAnne Mead
- Don Collins
- Evan Goeglein
- Dean Stirm

City Administrator:

Mark Reagles

Chief of Police:

Ken Lewis

Public Works Director/City

Engineer: John Krawczyk

"Congratulations" to the Rogue River Chamber of Commerce and the Rogue River Kiwanis Club for an exceptional 2015 National Rooster Crowing Contest weekend and all the event winners.

Even with the hot weather, there seemed to be more attending the dinner, the parade and the crow itself. Also, they are to be commended for moving the car show to downtown where the car owners were so happy to be parking on asphalt instead of a dirt field.

We had one of our biggest turn outs for the nonprofit booths this year. And a huge thank you to the commercial vendors who stuck it out for two-days in the 100+ degree weather.

The Rooster Crow committee wants to Thank all the volunteers who stuck it out in the heat and gave up their weekend to make the event one of the best ever.

The Rooster Crow committee will be holding their first 2016 Preparation meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 5:15 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers so if there is something that you are interested in participating in please attend. This event is totally put on by volunteers. They may be your neighbor, someone you know from church or that you frequently may see in a local store or restaurant. so come down and get involved. It really is a lot of fun and they are committed to making Rooster Crow a family oriented event!

Next month we list all the winners for the Run, the Parade, the Rooster Crow and the Car Show!

Remember that City Council meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and the fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. These meetings are always open to the public and the Mayor and City Councilors are always happy to see citizens participation.

Attention! Please read the back side of this newsletter!

July 2015						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
August 2015						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Scheduled Meetings		
July 2015		
1st	9:00 am	Sign Review Board
	10:00 am	Safety Committee
2nd	9:30 am	Personnel Committee
3rd	Closed in observation of Independence Day	
8th	6:30 pm	Tree City Committee
14th	10:00 am	Planning Commission Meeting
15th	9:00 am	Sign Review Board
	3:00 pm	Finance Committee
16th	10:00 am	Council/Staff Workshop
23rd	6:00 pm	Council Advisory Committee
	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
28th	10:00 am	Planning Commission Workshop
30th	3:00 pm	Finance Committee
First week in August		
5th	9:00 am	Sign Review Board
	10:00 am	Safety Committee
6th	9:30 am	Personnel Committee
	10:00 am	Council/Staff Workshop



Public Safety Fee Information Sheet

How are police services provided in Rogue River?

Police services are provided by the City to the citizens of Rogue River. Police protection is paid for through the General Fund. General Fund Revenues are made up of taxes, fees, fines, permits and intergovernmental revenue.

What is the Public Safety Fee?

The Public Safety Fee is a charge for service enacted by the City Council via Ordinance No. [15-392-O](#), effective as of June 25, 2015. This fee will offset the cost of retaining an additional Rogue River police officer. The total cost for the additional officer in the 2015-2016 fiscal-year is estimated to be \$76,980.

How much is the fee?

The fee has been calculated at \$5.00 per month or \$60.00 per year for each residential unit and each non-residential unit on developed property within the city limits of Rogue River. For more information on how a residential unit and a non-residential unit are defined, a copy of Ordinance No. [15-392-O](#) is available at Rogue River City Hall for review.

How will the fee be billed?

The fee will appear on your utility bill as a separate line item. This fee will be billed monthly at the same time as other utility fees are billed.

How can the City use the revenue collected by this fee?

Each item appearing on your bill is for a specific purpose. In the case of water and sewer utilities, these amounts are retained and tracked in separate funds and are restricted for use by the utility that collects the fee. For example, water fees collected can only be used to pay for water-related operations and improvements. Sewer fees collected can only be used to pay for sewer-related operations and improvements. The same is true with the Public Safety Fee. Any revenue generated by the Public Safety Fee will only be used towards funding public safety.

Why did the City create this fee?

For many years, Rogue River maintained a 5-officer department. In 2007 the City was reduced to 4-officers. At the time, with the economy in crisis, the City Council hoped to be able to maintain services with 4-officers rather than expend resources that were shrinking faster than they were growing.

In 2013, 2014, 2015, the City of Rogue River has experienced illnesses and injuries along with an increased work load and training requirements within the police department. Also the department has seen an increase in transient activities, violent crimes and drug activities. Our officers have responded, covering extra shifts and taking standby shifts in order to protect the citizens of Rogue River. However, this is simply not sustainable and puts immense pressure on the officers and their families.

How was this fee created?

Ordinance No. [15-392-O](#) is modeled after other cities that have implemented and currently charge a Public Safety Fee. The amount of the fee was calculated based on the cost of the additional officer and divided by the number of residential and non-residential units within city limits.

After many meetings and a great deal of discussion, City Council voted to approve Ordinance No. [15-392-O](#) enacting a Public Safety Fee and directed staff to prepare the fee to be placed on utility bills within city limits. Council continued to discuss alternate ways to fund the additional officer, including the possibility of a tax or special taxing district. It was noted that if an alternative was found, Council can vote to remove the fee.

Below is a summary of the meetings where this topic was discussed:

January 13, 2015 – Police Commission Meeting - The Rogue River Police Department staff attended the quarterly Police Commission meeting asking the Commission to support the addition of a fifth-officer to the 2015-2016 budget. Chief Lewis shared with the committee the struggles and concerns of both himself and the officers. The officers are currently working 4-ten hour shifts with three-days off. This shift would be fine if everyone was available to work on their assigned shift days. But with sick days, injuries, vacations and training to cover, they will likely work 5-ten hour days and be on standby one of their days off which means they can't make plans that would take them away from phone contact or reasonable distance from the city because they must be available to respond within 20-minutes.

February 13, 2015 - Department Meeting - Staff met to discuss the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. As part of that meeting, the addition of a fifth-officer was discussed and staff recognized the addition of a fee to offset the cost of the fifth-officer was the best alternative pending the outcome of the Budget Committee meeting on April 9, 2015.

April 9, 2015 - Budget Committee Meeting - The Budget Committee met to discuss the 2015-2016 budget for the upcoming year. Discussion included a Public Safety Fee, as well as a presentation from Corporal Snyder about the concerns of the department and the difficulties relating to 24-hour coverage. Other options for funding an additional officer were discussed. The Budget Committee recommended that the City Council move forward with including a fifth-officer position and revenue from a Public Safety Fee in the 2015-2016 budget.

May 7, 2015 - Council/Staff Workshop - the City Council makes a formal recommendation after reviewing all the options presented and indicated that staff should move forward with preparation of an Ordinance implementing a Public Safety Fee.

May 28, 2015 - Budget Hearing - Council discusses possible ways to fund the additional officer from existing revenues, and then made recommendation for staff to prepare the budget to include the additional revenue and expenditures for the additional position for a vote on June 25, 2015.

June 25, 2015 - Regular Council Meeting - The City Council unanimously voted to adopt Ordinance No. [15-392-O](#), establishing the Public Safety Fee and to include the Public Safety Fee into the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget and directed staff to prepare an information sheet for the public.

If you have any questions, please contact the City Administrator at (541) 582-4401