



# Tradin' Crows'

February 2023 Edition



## City of Rogue River

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[www.cityofrogueoiver.org](http://www.cityofrogueoiver.org)

## City Hall Staffing Hours:

Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and closed for lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

## City Council Meetings:

4th Thursday of every month at 6:00 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 all meetings

**Mayor:** Pam VanArsdale

## City Council Members:

- Sharie Davis
- Vacant
- Rick Kempa
- Barb Hilty
- Sherrie Moss
- Barb Gregory

## Planning Commission Members:

- Jay Chick
- Dee Copley
- Dean Stirm
- Debbie Kenney
- Jonna Strauss
- Mark Minegar
- Vacant

**City Administrator:** Ryan Nolan

**Chief of Police:** Jim Williams

**Public Works Director:** Michael Bollweg



**We will be Closed Monday,  
February 20, 2023**

## City Council Update

Mayor Wayne Stuart opened the first meeting of the year welcoming Former City Administrator Mark Reagles who deliver the Invocation. After the Pledge of Allegiance the Mayor and City Councilors delivered their committee reports.

The first item on the agenda was for the Mayor to deliver his 2022 *State of the City Message* which can be found in it's entirety on the back page.

The City Council then took action on the following agenda items:

- ♥ Accepted a resignation from City Councilor Pam VanArsdale and a vacancy was declared.
- ♥ Mayor Pam VanArsdale and City Councilor's Sharie Davis, Rick Kempa and Sherrie Moss were sworn into office and presented plaques by Mayor Stuart
- ♥ The City Council elected Councilor Barb Hilty as Mayor Pro-tem and approved the Mayor's Committee assignments for the next two years.
- ♥ Approved a Resolution establishing a new sewer fee schedule for 2023.
- ♥ Approved a Resolution authorizing signatures for banking services on behalf of the City.
- ♥ Adopted and authorized the Mayor to sign a

Planning Commission Final Order for a 12-unit multi family complex.

- ♥ Accepted a resignation from Planning Commissioner David Marshall.
- ♥ Declared delivery barrels as surplus property and donated them to Rogue River FFA.

*The next City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.*



## From Mayor Pam:

*If you're considering applying for a position on the City Council but you work and feel that you're not able to attend meetings that are scheduled during the day - come in and get an application because the City Council is willing to consider changing the time of workshops to the same time of the City Council meetings at 6:00 p.m.*

## Utility Department Update:

**SEWER:** This months water and sewer bill that you are receiving has a 7.75% increase to sewer. That is a total increase of \$2.50 for a single family household base rate. The increase was determined by the November 2022 Engineering News Record (ENR) Report by averaging the Construction Cost Index, Building Cost Index and Materials Cost Index. The City reviews other cities utility fees but does not do rate comparisons because each city has to consider their infrastructure, costs to run the facilities, population and funding when setting their rates. The City Council realized that the past cost increases were not keeping up with the increase cost of running the sewer system and made the hard decision to step up and do the right thing. If you have any questions or concerns about your bill please contact the Utility Department at City Hall.

**WATER:** As you have been reading in the City's newsletter for the last year or hearing on the street, the City is preparing to make some needed improvements to the City's water system. We are planning on initiating the second increase once the new radio read meters have been installed.

The water system improvements will consist of a new reservoir to be built across from the water treatment plant off of Classick Drive. Other aspects of the project include fire hydrant installation in areas of town with inadequate fire protection. We have begun replacing the water meters with new radio read meters that will give a more accurate representation of the water that is provided to you. It will also offer better leak monitoring for our customers. As you're aware the City has already been through the "One Stop" funding process with state funding agencies, and with historically low interest rates, timing could not be any better for these projects. We encourage public input as the criteria for eligibility for funding will require a rate increase; we want the public to have as much information as they might wish to best understand and support the projects. The lending agency is Business Oregon's Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (SDWRLF). In order for the City to be eligible for this 1% loan rate and \$350,000 grant the city's water base rate for 1,000 cubic feet must meet the states affordability base rate which is \$38.90 for 1,000 cubic feet. In order to be at this rate when construction starts the City plans to increase the base rate of the first 500 cubic feet from \$15.80 in 2020 to \$19.80 in 2021 and \$22.35 in 2023. What this means to a single family home is a net \$6.56 increase in your monthly base rate by 2023. The rate per additional 100 cubic feet over 500 cubic feet will remain at \$3.30 per 100 cubic feet. For multifamily units the increase will be \$6.56 for each unit and for commercial it is based on meter size. Again if you have questions or comments please call or email comments and questions to [cweir@cityofrogueoiver.org](mailto:cweir@cityofrogueoiver.org) or call (541) 582-4401.

## Mayor's State of the City Message

February						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13		15	16	17	18
19		21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4

Scheduled Events		
February 2023		
1st	10:00 AM	Sign Review Board
2nd	9:00 AM	Personnel Committee
	10:00 AM	Council/Staff Workshop
7th	9:00 AM	Safety Committee
8th	6:30 PM	Tree City Committee
14th	10:00 AM	Planning Commission Workshop
15th	10:00 AM	Sign Review Board
	2:30 AM	Finance Committee
16th	10:00 AM	Council/Staff Workshop
20th	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>IN OBSERVATION OF PRESIDENTS' DAY</b>
23rd	4:30 PM	Council Advisory Committee
	6:00 PM	City Council
	4:30 PM	Council Advisory Committee
First Week of March		
1st	10:00 AM	Sign Review Board
2nd	9:00 AM	Personnel Committee
	10:00 AM	Council/Staff Workshop



**Do you want to get involved with City Government. We are currently accepting applications for the positions on the City Council, Budget Committee, Planning Commission and Sign Review Board. If you have any questions regarding these positions please contact the City Recorder. Applications are available at City Hall.**



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

January: After 13-years of service we said good bye to Reserve Officer John Foster. Funds from the American Recovery Act Plan were awarded to the Live Oak Grange and to the Rogue River Community Center to help rebuild their ACCESS Food Pantry.

February: The City Council approved the LED Street Lighting Program with Pacific Power. Councilor Jack Bird was appointed to the Sign Review Board and Police Commission and Pam VanArsdale to serve as Chair to the Finance Committee. With the passing of City Councilor Don Dougherty during the recent holidays his seat on the City Council was declared vacant.

March: Officer Ty Darr was promoted to Corporal. The City purchased property to expand the Second Street Maintenance Yard. The City was sadly informed that former City Councilor Bob Pascalar had passed away peacefully at his home in Arizona. The school sidewalk projects were completed. And, regrettably longtime Finance Officer/Planning Assistant Bonnie Honea resigned.

April: The City Council started the recruitment process for the City Administrator position. One of the City's new patrol units was totaled during an incident on Interstate-5. Rooster Park's pre finished grade of the walking paths, and installation of electrical and plumbing infrastructure were completed. The Planning Commission sent out a Strategic Plan Survey to assist them with their land use code review.

May: The Budget Committee approved the 2022-2023 Budget which was forwarded onto the City Council. A 5-year Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Public Works Director Mike Bollweg. After the lift of the COVID-19 Pandemic it was nice that the local Pastor's brought back the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. A replacement vehicle for the police department was ordered. The City entered into an agreement with ACCESS to provide our citizen's with water bill assistance until the end of 2023. A resignation was regrettably accepted from City Councilor Jack Bird from the Sign Review Board and Police Commission. Sherrie Moss was appointed to the City Council to fill the vacancy of Don Daugherty and Sharie Davis was appointed to fill Sherrie Moss's vacated position on the Planning Commission. An award was made to install new radio read water meters and equipment to Central Pipeline out of Central Point.

June: The 2022-2023 Budget was adopted by the City Council. David Marshall was appointed as an Alternate to the Planning Commission. The IRT arrived back in town to continue their work on Rooster Park placing the Copper Rooster in its forever home, along with laying a portion of the walking path pavers, working on the restrooms, installing the wind vane on top of the pavilion, and installing new playground equipment at Anna Classick Bicentennial Park. Finishing out the month and in preparation of holding the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Rooster Crow the IRT were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for all their hard work and dedication to our community of Rogue River and joined the City in its weekend long celebration. The 2022 winning rooster was Chris Rock with 81-crows and the winner of the Human Crow was Trisha Cromwell of Rogue River.

July: Paige Chick was promoted to Finance Officer/Planning Assistant and Stephanie Madtson was hired to fill her position in the front office and Archie Lidey was hired as a Reserve Officer. Work was started on the pickleball courts. And, a public notice was issued declaring the election of the Mayor and City Councilors for the on November 8, 2022 General Election.

August: An order was placed for a new F-150 police patrol unit. Brian and Austin were hired as 6-month seasonal workers in the city parks. A public hearing was held to hear comments from the public regarding a ballot measure declaring a temporary ban on Psilocybin Service Centers and Manufacturing in the city until December 31, 2023. With deep regret a resignation was accepted from City Councilor Jack Bird who passed away shortly thereafter.

September: City Administrator Mark Reagles retired and the City successfully held a surprise retirement picnic with over 100 family and friends in attendance and where his replacement Ryan Nolan was publicly introduced. An Ordinance was approved and the ballot measure for the temporary ban of Psilocybin Service and Manufacturing was placed on the November 8, 2022 General Election ballot along with the Mayor and three City Council positions on the ballot.

October: Sharie Davis was appointed to the fill the vacancy of City Councilor Jack Bird. City Councilor Rick Kempa was appointed to the Police Commission. A public hearing was held to discuss a request to hook up to utility services in the urban growth boundary. And, once again the City pulled yet another surprise on former City Administrator Mark Reagles by sending him to the League of Oregon Cities conference where he thought he was receiving an award for the city but it was really for him to receive the Herman Kehrl Award for small cities. My wife and I along with invited staff attended the "Mayor's United" festivities put on in support of ACCESS.

November: Debbie Kenny was appointed to replace Sharie Davis's vacant position on the Planning Commission. Since installing the LED Street Lights the City has saved approximately 64% or \$7,352. The building plans of the new reservoir were deemed 60% completed, and new water meter boxes arrived for the meter replacement project.

December: A joyous Christmas was enjoyed in Rogue River with the Winter Wonderland festivities where the official lighting of the "Tree of Hope" took place, and the City decorated Rooster Park. And, we saw new businesses filling up some of the downtown store fronts. It's been an honor to serve and represent Rogue River. I want to thank the City Council, police department, public works and city hall staff, for their support in helping me run our City. But most of all I want to thank the citizens of Rogue River who elected me to be Mayor.

**Respectfully, Mayor Wayne**