



# Tradin' Crows

March 2021 Edition



## City of Rogue River

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Rogue River, Oregon 97537

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[www.cityofrogue river.org](http://www.cityofrogue river.org)

## City Hall Staffing Hours:

*The doors are still closed but staff is available by appointment.*

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 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: Wayne Stuart

## City Council Members:

- Bob Pascalar
- Pam VanArsdale
- Ricki Kempa
- Barb Hilty
- Don Daugherty
- Barb Gregory

## Planning Commission Members:

- Jay Chick
- Dee Copley
- Dean Stirm
- Sherri Moss
- Jack Bird

City Administrator: Mark Reagles

Chief of Police: Curtis Whipple

Public Works Director: Michael Bollweg



Welcome  
**SPRING**



## City Council Update



The January 2021 City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Wayne Stuart who delivered the Invocation and leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. After hearing the committee reports the following agenda items took place:

### OLD BUSINESS:

1 Approved the second reading of an Ordinance amending Rogue River Municipal Code Chapter 17, Zoning regulations for the City of Rogue River, Oregon.

### NEW BUSINESS:

2 Approved the first reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 11-372-Q pertaining to Rogue River Municipal Code Chapter 15.15, Flood Damage Prevention for the City of Rogue River, Oregon.

3 Continued the first reading of an Ordinance amending Rogue River Municipal Code Chapter 18.10, Annexation procedures for the City of Rogue River, Oregon, to March 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

4 Approved a Resolution establishing a fee schedule as provided in Rogue River Municipal Code Chapter 13.10, the City of Rogue River Sewer Ordinance and rescinding Resolution No. 20-1360-R.

5 Approved a request from the Rogue River Greenway to hold the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride the Rogue event September 17-18, 2021 and waive the reservations fees for Palmerton Park Arboretum.

6 Approved a request from the Pacific Northwest

Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture to hold the Southern Oregon Regional Professional Tree Climbing Competition for October 15-17, 2021 in Rogue River's Palmerton Park Arboretum.

7 Approved a request from the Rogue River Chamber of Commerce for the City to pay 50% or up to \$200 of their monthly cost for a tourism campaign social media management and marketing services.

8 Approved the reappoints of Budget Committee members John Bond to Position No. 5, Don Collins to Position No. 6 and Darren Jahn to Position No. 7.

9 Met in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(d) allowing the City Council to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

10 Approved a contract between the City and Teamsters Local #223 for the period ending June 30, 2023.

11 Approved to provide the city's non-union employees with the same benefits included in the Teamsters Local #223 contract for period ending June 30, 2023.

12 An item was added to the agenda to accept a resignation from City Councilor Bob Pascalar effective March 28, 2021.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** We are still looking to fill three citizen positions on the Budget Committee. The first meeting is being held on Thursday, April 8th at 3:00 p.m. We are also taking applications for openings on the Planning Commission and Sign Review Board.



**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions the Rogue River Kiwanis sadly announces the CANCELCATION of their 2021 Annual Easter Egg Hunt and wishes you all a Happy Easter**



## ARBOR DAY IS COMING!!!

Rogue River's celebrating 38-Years of being designated a "Tree City USA"

Check next month's "Tradin' Crows" for the times of celebrations at the John F. Fleming Memorial Park for a tree planting ceremony with the Rogue River Elementary School students!




# march

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

## Scheduled Events March 2020

2nd	8:30 am	Safety Committee	
3rd	10:00 am	Sign Review Board	
4th	9:30 am	Personnel Committee	
	10:00 am	Council/Staff Workshop	
9th	10:00 am	Planning Commission Workshop	
10th	6:30 pm	Tree City Committee	
15th	2:00 pm	Finance Committee	
16th	10:00 am	Police Commission	
17th	10:00 am	Sign Review Board	
18th	10:00 am	Council/Staff Workshop	
23rd	6:00 pm	Planning Commission Meeting	
25th	5:00 pm	Council Advisory Committee	
	6:00 pm	Council Meeting	
30th	2:00 pm	Finance Committee	

## First Week of April

1st	9:30 am	Personnel Committee	
	10:00 am	Council/Staff Workshop	

**AVISTA reminds you safe digging is no accident;  
Call 811 Before You Dig**



Before beginning any outdoor digging project, call 811 at least two business days before you dig. Calling 811 will get a professional locator to your site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines. There is a two-foot tolerance zone on each side of the line, and it is required to hand dig to determine the precise location of the utility in this tolerance zone. This service is free. Remember, you may have your own utilities that require a Private Locate request at 811.

Knowing where underground utility lines are buried before you dig will help protect you from injury, prevent damages to utilities and service disruptions, and avoid potential fines and repair costs. Underground utility lines can be just about anywhere, so keeping your shovel in the shed or garage and calling 811 first is a smart move (and it's the law).

Every digging job requires a call - even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Here are just a few examples of when to call:

- Installing a rural mailbox • Putting in a fence • Planting a tree or shrubbery
- Building a patio or deck • Excavating a new garden area

Call 811 or go to [www.digsafelyoregon.com](http://www.digsafelyoregon.com)

## MAYOR'S CORNER

While we're still in the middle of winter our flowers are blooming and our spring time daffodils are growing.

With the advent of spring our Public Works Department staff are sprucing up our City and monitoring our water system with new upgrades so we'll have water when we need it.

I also want to thank the people who volunteer their time to serve on the Planning Commission, Budget committee, Sign Review Board and the Tree City Committee. I also want to the citizens of Rogue River that give back to our City.

Please continue to be safe by wearing your mask, social distancing and washing your hands.

I wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

*Mayor Wayne*



*May your day be touched  
by a bit of Irish luck,  
brightened by a song in your heart,  
and warmed by the smiles  
of the people you love.*

## Utility Department Update:

**SEWER:** You will see a 2.15% increase to sewer on the water and sewer bill that you are receiving now. That is a total increase of \$.65 cents for a single family household base rate. The increase was determined by the November 2020 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 few months or hearing on the street, the City is preparing to make some needed improvements to the City's water system.

The water system improvements will consist of two new reservoirs: one will replace a 500,000 gallon reservoir built in 1974 located on the hill above the city, and the other will be built across from the water treatment plant off of Classick Drive. Other aspects of the project include fire hydrant installation in areas in town with inadequate fire protection. We will be replacing the water meters in town with new 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. The City Council will be discussing these projects at the Council Workshops over the next few months, but due to COVID-19 and limited space in the City Council Chambers we ask that you please phone or email your questions or concerns about the projects. 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 \$22.36 in 2022. What this means to a single family home is a net \$6.56 increase in your monthly base rate by 2022. 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 email comments and questions to [mreagles@cityofrogueriver.org](mailto:mreagles@cityofrogueriver.org) or call (541) 582-4401.