In January, our Mayor and City Council met with community members and staff for three days for their Strategic Planning Session.

There was an amazing amount of preparation and participation. The Council sought input from all of its boards, commissions and committees as well as citizens. The Council identified 101 ideas to discuss and prioritize.

Strategic Planning is critical to the long-term success of our community as it helps our elected officials answer important questions such as:
- Where should City government focus its priorities?
- What is City government’s role in addressing the communities most pressing challenges?
- How well is our City government meeting those challenges?

Strategic Planning is not a static document or process - it must change to reflect our changing community - so the Council reviews its goals every year. The adopted goals are:
- Keep Citizens Safe
- Provide Cooperative Shared Leadership Involving Council, Staff and Community
- Encourage Economic Opportunities
- Facilitate Sustainable, Manageable Growth
- Maintain, Operate and Expand our Infrastructure to Meet Community Needs.

The top nine objectives of the Council are:
- Build a new Water Treatment Plant
- Encourage an adequate supply of affordable housing opportunities
- Reduce homelessness/vagrancy in the downtown
- Enhancement of Riverside Park
- Develop a parking management plan
- Improve hiking/biking access to Dollar Mountain
- Develop landscape amendments focusing on xeriscape, planter strips and reducing landscape strips
- Perform a comprehensive citywide pavement condition assessment to assist in prioritization of future street reconstruction projects
- Develop Hillcrest Park

City Manager Aaron Cubic (left) discusses timelines for upcoming projects with the Mayor, Council and City Staff.
Do you own your home? Are you elderly, disabled, or on a limited income? Are you in need of financial assistance to complete energy-saving weatherization improvements? If so, you may qualify for assistance from the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The City of Grants Pass is partnering with United Community Action Network (UCAN) to administer $85,000 in CDBG funds citywide for eligible weatherization projects. The home must be located within the Grants Pass city limits and adhere to the following eligibility requirements:

Applicants must own their home, not be subject to foreclosure and meet income limitations.

Weatherizing services typically include:

- A home-energy audit;
- Insulating attics, walls, floors, heating ducts, and water pipes;
- Air-sealing the exterior shell of the home;
- Air-sealing heating and air conditioning ductwork;
- Installation of bath and kitchen exhaust fans venting to the exterior; and
- Restoration of finished surfaces disturbed during the weatherization process.

If you think you might qualify, please contact UCAN at 541-956-4050 for more information. Funding for the City’s CDBG program is provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The goal of the CDBG program is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, especially for low- and moderate-income persons. Additional information about the City’s CDBG program can be found online at www.grantspassoregon.gov/886/CDBG-and-Consolidated-Plan.

Street Sweeping Enhances Quality of life

On July 1, 2017, the City of Grants Pass extended its agreement with Advanced Maintenance Services to provide street sweeping services within the City limits. Street sweeping is an effective tool to not only keep the City clean and neat, but to protect our creeks and rivers. Debris that is left on the streets will eventually be washed down a storm drain line and end up in one of our many waterways.

This year, the City Council expressed an interest in having a fixed sweeping schedule. This will provide residents an opportunity to remove parked vehicles from the street in advance of the sweeper passing by their house, allowing Advanced Maintenance Services to clean more effectively.

Residential areas have been divided into ‘sweeping zones’ and will have a scheduled sweeping day. Visit the City’s website at www.grantspassoregon.gov/sweepingschedule to find an interactive map, which shows the various sweeping zones as well as the current schedule. The map has a search function in the top left corner where you can enter your address and find your sweeping zone.

Public Works is encouraging residents to sign up for NewsFlash updates through the City’s website. You will be notified when the sweeping schedule has been updated and be directed to the sweeping schedule page. This page will have a calendar showing sweeping dates and the proposed hours of operation for each area.

The City of Grants Pass would like to ask for your help and cooperation in keeping our streets clean by moving parked cars off the street during your scheduled sweeping day. Routine sweeping keeps our streets and gutters free of dirt and debris which in turn helps keep the storm drainage system in optimal condition. Clean streets and storm drain systems enable us to keep our community’s creeks and drainages pristine.
When It Rains It Drains

Rain often soaks our region and with it comes responsibility from all of us to ensure that drainage ways adjacent to our homes are maintained, free of debris and ready to operate as intended. Section 8.56.030 of the Grants Pass Municipal Code states: “...owners of properties adjoining any existing stream, canal, ditch, pipeline, culvert or other facility for carrying off surface water shall keep such drainage way open and free from growth and other obstruction through the property of each respective owner...” Why is this issue so important that City Council adopted this ordinance back in the early 1950s?

Water is critical to our well-being and quality of life in Grants Pass. We cherish our local creeks and the Rogue River. But water can also be a devastating force when uncontrolled. Urban flooding caused by excessive stormwater runoff can cause traffic delays, property damage and even injury. Each of us has a responsibility to our downstream neighbors to ensure that we eliminate uncontrolled runoff from our properties. Part of that responsibility includes ensuring that ditches and creeks are unobstructed and that water can run off without debris, trees, brushes and grass causing backups and flooding.

The Grants Pass Public Works Department encourages homeowners to contact the City for advice on any drainage way improvements prior to beginning any clearing project. The Streets and Drainage Division is happy to instruct homeowners on the importance of keeping the waterways unobstructed and free-flowing as well as the potential resources that are available to assist in their efforts. Drainage way clearing should be undertaken after the end of irrigation season (generally early October) and before the onset of the rainy season.

Street Lights

Our days are getting longer and darkness is arriving later, but we still rely on our extensive network of streetlights to help keep our environment well-lit and safe. It is easy to notice when one of the 1,835 streetlights is not functioning properly. But how do you report a broken streetlight, and who is responsible for its repair?

The vast majority of the streetlights within the City of Grants Pass are owned and operated by Pacific Power and Light. Any failures should be reported directly to them so crews can be mobilized to repair the faulty fixture. The exceptions to this rule are the roughly 185 decorative streetlights that you see downtown and on the bridges. Those fixtures are owned and maintained by the City of Grants Pass.

There are a number of ways in which a citizen can report a failed streetlight. The easiest way is to use Pacific Power's online tool: www.pacificpower.net/ed/streetlights.html. The form is quick to fill out and notifies Pacific Power of the location of the light and the nature of the problem. You can also report streetlight issues by calling their customer service line at 1-888-221-7070.

To report issues with City-owned decorative lights, simply call the City's Public Works Division and we will make sure the light is fixed. Public Works can be reached by calling 541-450-6110. You can also report an issue with a downtown light by using our web form which is accessible from our Streets and Drainage Department at www.grantspassoregon.gov/281/Streets-Drainage-Division.
Strategic Planning

Continued from front page

A Work Plan will be created from the prioritized goals and adopted by the City Council. The Work Plan is a tool that is used to evaluate the process of our City government during the next 18 months.

The final step in the Strategic Plan is the City’s operating and capital improvement budgets. The budget process allocates City resources needed to implement the Council’s strategies and Work Plan activities.

The Council will provide many more opportunities for community participation in the Strategic Planning and budgeting process and looks forward to the strength of the community making Grants Pass great.

For further information about Strategic Planning or other City news: www.grantspassoregon.gov

COFFEE Talk

City Councilors are interested in your opinion. They would like you to join them at one of their sessions of Coffee Talk. Up to two City Councilors are available every Friday morning to answer questions or address concerns. Visit them at Rogue Roasters, 610 SW 6th Street, from 7:45 to 9:00 am.

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Councillor Roy Lindsay 541-291-0346
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Councillor Jason Anderson 541-659-5957
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City Council Meetings
1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6 pm
City Council Workshops
Mondays at 11:45 am
Holidays will alter schedule
City Council Chambers, 101 NW A Street

Meetings are televised on Charter Cable Channel 183 and posted on our website at www.grantspassoregon.gov.

Listen live to City Councilors and staff discussing local issues on KAJO (1270 AM) the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays each month at 9:30 am

City of Grants Pass
Local Government

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