



Every other week at the City Council Business Meeting, I deliver a City Manager’s Report to Council and the public. The reports highlight the incredible work being done by you, the City staff. I want to share this report with you in a biweekly email. It’s important for all of us to stay connected on what is going on in the City organization, including the great work of your colleagues and the City Council.

Vision & Values and Priorities – In the summer of 2022, the Council adopted Vision & Value statements for the City. These statements served as the launching pad for Council in identifying priorities and objectives for us for the upcoming 2023-2025 Biennium budget process and the next six years!

The Council then sought feedback on the priorities and objectives from the community at a Town Hall Gathering in late January. In person and online voting took place. You can view the results *and* public comments at ashland.or.us/COAtownhall. The Council adopted the below statement, and we will be using these adopted priorities to help us with the 2023-2025 Budget:

- *Wildfire risk reduction and CEAP (Climate Energy Action Plan) execution*
- *Economic Development including development of eco-tourism like trails, ensuring City processes such as planning are supportive of attracting new business and supporting those already here*

- *Affordability including attainable housing, and review of our rate structures for progressiveness in their livability*

All with the underlying supporting principles of equity of access, and strong supportive City services with a customer service focus.

City Budget Process – At the April 27, 2023, Council Study Session, I will present, “Strategic Choices–City Manager’s Recommended Budget.” This will be the first presentation for the 2023–2025 Biennium Budget. The City operates on a fiscal year that runs from July through June. The 2023–2025 Budget we are preparing now will take us through to June 30, 2025. To view the budget review and adoption calendar visit, ashland.or.us/23-25Budget (Special thanks to **Sabrina Cotta** and **Alissa Kolodzinski** for outlining this process so thoroughly) .

Our Citizens’ Budget Committee will begin meeting weekly on April 27 and will continue through the end of May. This committee will discuss the budget, review public comments, deliberate and finally approve a budget that will be presented and voted on by City Council.

It’s not unusual during budget time for staff to have concerns about future funding and staffing levels, especially in today’s economy. I do not see the necessity for reductions in staff. The overall goal in the coming budget process is to maintain currently authorized staffing levels so we can provide the best service possible to the citizens of Ashland. In addition, the 2023–2025 Biennium Budget will include funding for COLAs (for all staff) that have already been approved by City Council for FY2024 and FY2025.

The Citizens’ Budget Committee Meeting schedule is as follows:

- Meeting 2 | April 27 | Proposed Budget Enterprise Funds
- Meeting 3 | May 4 | Presentations of Administration and Finance
- Meeting 4 | May 11 | Presentations of Innovation & Technology and Public Safety
- Meeting 5 | May 18 | Presentations of Parks & Recreation, Community Development and Public Works
- Meeting 6 | May 25 | Deliberations/Approval

The meeting will be located in Council Chambers, 1175 E Main St and streamed on rvtv.sou.edu.

Quick Notes – What’s a Budget?

- The budget provides a financial plan for the Biennium
- The budget is a policy document indicating the priorities of the City
- The budget is a legal document making lawful appropriations giving the authority to spend public money
- The budget is a public communication tool
- The budget is an internal control document ensuring compliance by an annual outside audit

What’s Coming up?

The annual Rogue Valley Bike Swap will once again be at The Grove, 1195 E Main St, on Saturday, April 29, 12 to 2:30 p.m. Buy, sell or donate a bike, parts or accessories and this festive and long-standing event. Test ride an e-bike, register your bike with our Police Department and more! A portion of each sale will help fund youth bike education programs in local public schools. More information at RVTD.org/bikeswap. This event is co-sponsored by APRC.

Below is an update from our departments:

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- We are revitalizing our communications--- We have a new brand, a new Q&A feature on our website (check it out at ashland.or.us/Curiosity), and we are cultivating new relationships. Our top communication priorities are:
 - Bringing back the City newsletter--- Watch for the first edition in April
 - Sending you this biweekly email/reportOur new Communications Officer, **Dorinda Cottle**, will be overseeing our communications.
- Under the guidance of **Kelly Burns**, our new Emergency Management Coordinator, we are working on a partnership with SOU (Southern Oregon University) and ASD (Ashland School District) to create an EOC (Emergency Operations Center) on the SOU campus. Also, watch for ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) trainings in April that Kelly is organizing with APD (Ashland Police Department) Officer **Bon Stewart** (wow, that is a lot of acronyms!)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Emergency Shelter Update:
 - Between January 1 and March 15, 2023, the Emergency shelter has been open for a total of 30 nights. In that time, the shelter hosted a combined total of 741 guests (not unduplicated individuals). The number of guests each night ranged from a low of 11 and a high of 34, with an overall average of 25
 - For each round of shelter, Avram Sacks, OHRA's Volunteer Coordinator, reached out to a total of 40 community volunteers. (20 hosts, 5 kitchen helpers and 15 people who volunteered to provide meals)
 - And we have authorized Mar 23-27

FIRE & RESCUE:

- **Todd Stubbs** has been promoted to Battalion Chief, **David Roselip** was promoted to Captain and **Jake Kyle** was promoted to Engineer
- **Todd Beck** has announced his retirement on May 1, 2023, and we are pleased to announce **Daniel Caples** will be promoted to Captain on May 1 and **Shawn Gallagher** will be promoted to Engineer
- **Nick Peters** and **Derek Pecolatto** have made their probationary year and are now firefighters for Ashland Fire and Rescue
- In call volume has increased 9.97% over last year at this time, and overlapping call volume is at a 17.19% increase over this time last year (overlapping call means there are multiple calls occurring simultaneously and there are no available resources)

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- Landmark Staff Anniversaries for March:
 - **Steven Burkhalter** (Electric) – 35 Years
 - **Rick Spence** (Police) – 25 Years
 - **Larry Giardina** (Conservation) – 20 Years
 - **Marshall Rasor** (Fire) – 20 Years
 - **Molly Taylor** (HR) – 15 Years
 - **Jess Hawkins** (Electric) – 10 Years
- HR has been busy this past month as we strive to increase City staffing levels. We currently have seven positions posted, interviews are currently being held for several positions and offers extended for others.

We also have positions in the queue that will be posted in the coming days. So far in 2023, we have had a 67% reduction in resignations/terminations/retirements from this same time last year

- New hires so far in in our current fiscal year:
 - **Chad Woodward** – Climate & Energy Analyst
 - **Cobi Glick** – Administrative Analyst
 - **Ed Walker** – Water Distribution Utility Worker II
 - **Kendall Escuin** – Permit Technician
 - **Leon Cavalli** – Water Distribution Utility Worker I
 - **Lisa Evans** – Code Compliance Specialist
 - **Noah Hurley** – Police Records Supervisor
 - **Pearl Briggs** – Utility Billing Senior Financial Clerk
 - **Zachary Hansen** – Firefighter Paramedic
- **Feel free to give our new staff a shout out by sending them a quick email to welcome them!**
- New promotions so far in in our current fiscal year (*excluding staff promotions from Fire & Rescue, who are listed above*):
 - **Chad Sobotka** – AFN Operations Manager
 - **Dana Smith** – Administrative Analyst
 - **Dorinda Cottle** – Communications Officer
 - **Jason Wegner** – Director of Innovation & Technology
 - **Judy Hedgpeth** – Customer Service Supervisor
 - **Kelly Burns** – Emergency Management Coordinator
 - **Lea Richards** – GIS Manager
 - **Liz Beckerich** – Administrative Assistant
 - **Molly Taylor** – HR Manager
 - **Ron Ramsey** – Utility Technician

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY:

- The RFP (Request for Proposal) for upgrades to the HVAC in the data center closes at the end of the month
 - AFN (Ashland Fiber Network) is scheduled for a business plan presentation to the City Council on April 3
-

The picture below is a screenshot of a mid-March post on our Facebook page. It's the post with the most engagement this month:


70 LIKES | 11 COMMENTS | 21 SHARES | 29,158 Impressions | 28,374 Reach | 1,087 Engagement

Impressions = The no. of times our content is displayed (lands in a newsfeed)


Reach = The no. of people who see the content (lands in a newsfeed and the user hovers over)

Engagement = The no. of interactions our content received (likes, comments, shares, saves, and so on)

Thank you to our **Streets Division** for maintaining our City streets during inclement weather. And thank you to **Lea Richards**, our GIS Manager, for updating our Snowplow Priority Map.

 **City of Ashland Oregon**
Published by Dorinda Mahan-Cottle · March 14 at 4:25 PM · 🌐


Check out Ashland's priority snowplow route map. #Ashland #CityofAshland #CityofAshlandOregon #BetterTogether


 ASHLAND.OR.US
Snowplowing in Ashland - City of Ashland, Oregon
The City has four trucks equipped with snowplows and trained staff to operate the plows. Snowplowing will be done according to pre-established priority routes. For example, routes to the Ashland Hospital and major...


[See insights and ads](#) [Boost post](#)

👍 70 11 comments 21 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

 Write a comment... 🗨️ 😊 📷 📺 🗑️

 **Katharine Lockwood Lang**
I'm so grateful for the people who plow our streets! I am on a fairly low-priority street but it was already plowed by 8:30 AM!
Like Reply Hide 1w

 **Anita Bicskei**
Katharine Lockwood Lang yes I feel the same way. I live up on the hill in West Ashland and it would have been super slippery if rocks have not been put to the road this morning.
Like Reply Hide 1w

[View more comments](#)

Final Thoughts

Have a great weekend everyone and "Go Team City!"

(Special thanks to **Dana Smith** in Legal for our new 'Go Team City' cheer, and the name for this inside the City report.)

**Best,
Joe L.**