
June 14, 2024

To: City Council
From: Mayor Gary Vegar
Re: Weekly Report



Upcoming Events approved by the City:

- Prosser Scottish Fest & Highland Games | Saturday, June 15th | Port of Benton | 9am – 6pm
- City Wide Yard Sale | Saturday, June 22nd | Train Depot | 8am – 2pm
- Prosser Wine Musical Festival | Saturday, June 22nd | Vintners Village | 5pm – 10pm

Recreation:

- On Thursday June 13th, we welcome the Prosser Boys & Girls Club back to the Aquatic Center. They will be doing their summer swim program every Tuesday and Thursday for the entire pool season.
- The Prosser Piranhas Swim Team's first swim meet of the season was this past Tuesday. They have a big youth swim program this year. It has been a pleasure to work with them this year in finding ways to make their program transition very smooth with our public open swim.
- The Prosser School District reached out this week about their fall girls swim team. We have now put them on the schedule for the fall after the pool season is over. We will be working with Sunnyside and Grandview high school team on a facility use agreement as they will be joining in the fall as well.
- Prosser Youth Baseball season is in full swing now!

Public Works:

- Streets/Parks – Current project/tasks include: mowing, vegetation spraying, HMA patching, janitorial at all facilities, pool maintenance
- Water – Current project/tasks include: city meter replacements, development meter installs, irrigation repairs, hydrant maintenance and flushing, sanitary survey with DOH
- Wastewater – Current project/tasks: WWTP maintenance, pump maintenance, jet rodding mainlines, lab audit
- Chardonnay/Merlot Sidewalk Improvements, HLA Project No. 24035E – all work complete, scheduling project walk thru
- Lower Valley Pathway Connection to Merlot, TIB No. P-E-923 (P02)-1 – all work complete, scheduling project walk thru
- Prosser Entrance Sign, Project No. 2023-11 PW – poured base, sign installed
- Almanza Heights Development – sewer system installation

Community Development:

- Some residents within the Urban Growth Area (UGA) have recently been sent notices inquiring about their interest in annexation. Details are included in those notices however if anyone has questions about their property or has an interest in annexation please contact Steve Zetz, Community Development Director, at (509)786-8212 or szetz@ci.prosser.wa.us.
- There has been a growing interest in providing additional recreation opportunities along the Yakima River. The City of Prosser is currently in the process of engaging with the public to solicit feedback as we work on a Prosser Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS). This planning effort is critical in order to draft a 6-year plan that will allow Prosser to seek funding and direct its efforts

towards community needs. There are approximately 33,000 lineal feet of river frontage in Prosser city limits, however there is only about 1500 of that which is accessible by the public. Much of this is a result of private ownership of frontage which was granted when Prosser was first founded. There are opportunities to improve river access, however it requires public input and money. Please consider participating in the PROS surveys when they become available this summer and provide feedback on draft plans. Your participation helps show funding agencies that projects such as river access are wanted and supported by the community.

City Hall/Police Station Replacement Project Update:

At the Tuesday, June 4th City Council Work Session, Mayor Vegar and Department Heads presented 14 locations with varying configurations of potential sites for the City Hall/Police Station Replacement Project. Following the presentation, Council directed staff to eliminate seven options, leaving a total of seven configurations at three locations for further discussion and exploration.

During the meeting, the staff presented estimated construction costs and financing options for each of the locations with built-in assumptions. These assumptions were prepared by utilizing project estimates from studies presented to the City by MKA Construction and KDA Architects, in 2022 and were supplemented in some areas by staff estimates. In addition to these resources, staff used a formula for debt service terms of 30 years at a 4.5% interest rate and an average home value of \$350,000 to determine the property tax impact and operational costs of \$20/sq ft. The assumptions allowed staff to develop a project summary to reflect their findings. Each project results in either positive funds remaining or negative amount to fund.

In the report, the impact of the various projects ranges from an estimated \$6,442,529.33 of surplus funds (or funds remaining) that could be used for other projects and needs, up to an estimated \$11,689,325.67 of funds required to complete the project which would necessitate the City seek out additional support from grants, loans, and/or property tax levies for the taxpayers.

In short, based upon the current information available and estimates, it may be possible for the City to complete the project without having to seek additional funding from the taxpayers and could recognize a savings to be reallocated for other projects and services for the community's benefit. The remaining locations and estimated project costs are:

1. (#1) – Old City Hall/PD
2. (#2) – Old City Hall and PD 7th & Bennett to include the Heard property
3. (#10) – Benton County Courthouse (just City Hall)
4. (#10A) – Benton County Courthouse (City Hall/PD)
5. (#12) – 7th & Bennett to include the Meat Lockers
6. (#13) – 7th & Bennett to include Heard property & Roller Rink
7. (#14) – 7th & Bennett to include Meat Locker, Roller Rink, Heard property & Quonset (PGG building)

Currently, the City pays \$1,500 per month in rent to Benton County to lease the current City Hall at 1002 Dudley Ave., and \$6,895.85 per month to the Port of Benton to lease the current Police Department at 205 Hagarty Lane. In addition, the City pays approximately \$255,000 in annual operation costs to maintain three buildings: City Hall, the Police Station and the Building & Planning Department at 1109 Meade Ave. Through negotiations with the County, the City could continue to pay rent to Benton County for leasing a portion of the Court House; however, there could be significant savings of City operational costs that could be realized by sharing building and government operational costs with Benton County by relocating City operations to the Courthouse.

For more information regarding this project please visit the City's website at: [CH/PD Project - City of Prosser, Washington](#)