

City of John Day Newsletter

December 2011

Snowplowing Priorities Reminder

For the past several years the City has been faced with decreasing street revenues; mainly due to the loss of timber forest receipts from the County and stagnant State gas tax revenues. The City has tried to maintain the same level of service with fewer funds; unfortunately, the time has come to make tough decisions on how the City will continue to maintain its street system. With winter upon us, the City would like to remind our citizens of the following priorities:

SNOWPLOWING PRIORITIES

The City Council agreed with the recommendation that the hills will be the City's top priority for snowplowing with Ford Road going up to the Blue Mountain Hospital as the number one priority. Depending on the situation, Valley View Assisted Living would be next and then the airport. A smaller truck will take care of the smaller hills such as SE Elm Street, Franke Drive, Highland etc.

The State Highways will continue to be plowed as in the past as per the City's agreement with ODOT. We want residents to know that the side streets will not be plowed until there is at least 6" of snow. Public Works Director

Street Maintenance Priorities continues on back page

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Street Maintenance priorities set, Fire Station update, Development Code update ordinance; Supplemental Budget public hearing scheduled.

Visit our website at www.cityofjohnday.com; send us

your comments at grayp@grantcounty-or.gov.

**Would you like to become a volunteer fire fighter?
Please contact Fire Chief Ron Smith for more
information at 541-575-0028.**

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday!

Fire Station Update

At their September 13, 2011 council meeting, the John Day City Council voted to proceed with negotiations with Pinnacle Architecture, Inc. for an architectural/engineering services agreement for the planning and design of a new fire station.

The City of John Day proposes to construct a new fire station that will house the John Day Volunteer Fire Department and the John Day Rural Fire District with good access and parking and meet all OSHA, ADA requirements. The current fire station was built as a temporary structure in the 1950s; does not meet OSHA requirements; and does not meet seismic standards for public safety buildings in order to provide for continuation of operations. The current fire station is located at the intersection of Hwy. 395 and SE Dayton that creates a bottleneck during any activities at the station; non-existent parking and staging areas creates a need to completely close the intersection during a fire emergency. The new fire station will be significantly larger than the existing facility to accommodate the modern trucks, office space, and space for training. The present station misses the mark on all three points and because the station is located in a very congested area downtown, there is no room of expansion. The City was fortunate enough to purchase the land to house a new station. The new site is centrally located, accessible and large enough to house the new station. The City expects to erect a steel structure with slab on grade construction. The building will have sufficient space for maintaining the vehicles and equipment year round and have sufficient space that it can serve as an emergency coordination center depending on circumstances.

The Citizens Advisory Committee met with Peter Baer of Pinnacle Architecture on November 17, 2011, November 30, 2011 and again on December 13, 2011. Items discussed were project goals, project budget, funding options, site findings and reports, design issues and schedule.

informed the Council that the City can no longer afford to plow all of the flat streets in town and it is something that has to go away; however, he stated, if we start having safety issues on the flat streets, we will lay sand down in specific spots, such as in front of the post office or at the intersections as needed.

SNOW PLOWING PRIVATE ROADS, DRIVEWAYS AND APPROACHES

The City of John Day will no longer be able to sand private roads and driveways. In the past the City periodically sanded Ferguson Road and some private driveways as a courtesy when the roads or driveways became a safety issue. As the City is prioritizing snowplowing and sanding on city streets due to funding constraints; the City can no longer justify sanding private roads and driveways without compensation (reimbursement) from the property owners for time and materials. The City will sand upon request and compensation from property owners; however, the special sanding would depend on the availability of the sander and property owner's need to be aware that the City streets are our priority.

In the event of snowfall, property owners and residents are reminded the City of John Day Ordinance requires you to clear snow and ice from the sidewalk abutting your premises. Please remember your elderly or handicapped neighbors who would appreciate your assistance with snow and ice removal. The ordinance reads as follows:

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL ON SIDEWALKS 8-2-4-3 of the John Day City Code states no owner or person in charge of property; improved or unimproved, abutting on a public sidewalk may permit:

- Snow to remain on the sidewalk for a period longer than the first two (2) hours of daylight after the snow has fallen.
- Ice to cover or remain on a sidewalk, after the first two (2) hours of daylight after the ice has formed. Such person shall remove ice accumulating on the sidewalk or cover the ice with sand, ashes or other suitable material to assure safe travel

Leaves in City Streets: Public Works Director David Holland would like to remind citizens not to put their leaves from their property into the city streets. The City will not be picking up leaves this fall or winter. Please be a good citizens and dispose of your leaves as necessary in order to keep sidewalks and streets safe and clean.

The John Day City Council appreciates the community's patience, understanding and the importance of the implementation of these street maintenance priorities. If you have any questions or concerns, please call City Hall at 541-575-0028.

Public Notice

John Day Development Code Update Joint Public Hearing of the John Day City Council and Planning Commission

The John Day City Council and Planning Commission will be holding a joint public hearing regarding the adoption of Ordinance No.12-151-01 an ordinance adopting text amendments to the City of John Day Land Use and Development Code on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 7 p.m., John Day City Council Chambers, 450 East Main Street, John Day, OR.

The purpose of the meeting is for the John Day Planning Commission to make a recommendation to the John Day City Council on the number of animals that can be kept within the city limits of John Day; determine that a time limit be placed on nonconforming development (Single Family Dwelling in Downtown and General Commercial District); and deem it necessary to allow the Planning Official to waive the notification and meeting procedures in certain cases for Neighborhood Meetings.

Ordinance No. 12-151-01 can be found on the City of John Day's website at <http://www.cityofjohnday.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=iw5ed%2ftFKs%3d&tabid=5080&mid=10533&language=en-US>.

Notice of Public Hearing on Supplemental Budget scheduled for January 10, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

At their August 23, 2011 Council meeting, the John Day City Council unanimously voted to act as the fiscal agent for the Grant County Safe Communities Coalition for the 2012 fiscal year. As this was not included in the City's adopted budget for fiscal year 2012; the City will need to hold a public hearing on a supplemental budget to establish a fund for the Safe Communities Coalition in the amount of \$34,587. The public hearing is scheduled for January 10, 2012, 7:30 p.m. John Day Council Chambers.