

City of Newport Annual Report of City Council Actions for 2019



Back row: Council President David Allen, Councilor Ryan Parker, Councilor Cynthia Jacobi,
Councilor Beatriz Botello.

Front row: Councilor CM Hall, Mayor Dean Sawyer, Councilor Dietmar Goebel.

MEMO

DATE: January 3, 2020
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Spencer Nebel, City Manager

SUBJECT: Annual Report of City Council Actions for the 2019 Calendar Year

Each year, it is important to take some time to reflect on the accomplishments and issues tackled by the City Council and staff over the previous 12 months. I have outlined the highlights of these accomplishments by Council and staff during 2019. I have also identified what I believe are 20 issues that had, or will have, a significant impact on the City of Newport in 2019 and beyond.

The calendar year 2019 was very busy year for City staff, various advisory committees, task forces, work groups, and for City Council. This also was a year of transition with a new Mayor being elected and four Council seats being filled by new members of Council. Through the course of this year, we have had a number of staffing transitions. While we lose the wealth of experience and organizational history from those leaving, we gain new perspectives, ideas and energy on the operations of our various City services with this turnover. I would like to recognize, congratulations and thank those 2019 retirees:

Stacy Mathis, Mike Eastman, Dave White and Ted Smith.

GENERAL ISSUES IN 2019

1. On January 7, a new Mayor and four new Councilors were administered the oath of office to serve on the City Council. Mayor Dean Sawyer was elected to fill a two-year term, and Councilors Parker and Hall were elected to fill four-year terms. In addition, Councilors Botello and Jacobi were appointed by the newly elected City Council to fill vacancies caused by the resignation of Councilor Swanson in 2018 and Council seat vacated by Mayor Sawyer. The Council expressed its appreciation for Mayor Roumagoux, and Councilors Engler and Saelens, who opted not to run for re-election in 2019. This is the most significant turnover on the Council in a number of years. The new Council has worked hard to address a number of controversial issues through the course of this calendar year.
2. The Library kicked off a year-long celebration of its 100th year of service. The festivities began in September 2019 with a celebration that included something for everyone from A-Z. Actors, bubbles to baubles, and other fun events. Events and activities will continue through September 2020 to celebrate one century of service at the Library to the Newport community.



*Library Centennial
Celebration*

3. A new operating agreement for the Performing Arts Center (PAC) and the Visual Arts Center (VAC) was approved. The City Council entered into a new operating agreement with the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts (OCCA) to manage and operate these two important facilities in the City of Newport. The new agreement realigns the responsibilities of both the City and the OCCA so they are consistent at both facilities. The City has enjoyed a long operating relationship for these facilities with OCCA. The new agreement further cements this long-standing relationship. This will be important as OCCA continues its efforts to raise funding for major renovations to the PAC. Work will initiate in 2020.
4. The City of Newport E-Blast. The City initiated a newsletter that is e-mailed twice a month covering current events in the City of Newport. The E-Blast has been well-received with subscribers growing each month. At the end of 2019, there were nearly 800 subscribers. Creating a bi-monthly newsletter helps build on our communication with the public.

ORDINANCES ADOPTED

During the course of the year, the Council adopted 13 ordinances amending the Municipal Code. These ranged from a new floodplain development code, the geological hazard codes in landslide areas, modifications to code language regarding accessory dwelling units, implementation of a new tree ordinance, and others.

5. The Council took a leadership role in passing an ordinance regulating the use of single-use, plastic, carryout, bags in the City. The ordinance was implemented for large retailers on July 1, with small retailers impacted on January 1, 2020. Following the Council's action, the state legislature approved similar legislation regulating the use of these bags effective January 1, 2020. Staff developed informational materials to work with the large retailers to prepare them for the July 1 implementation date. I am pleased to report that the City has not received any complaints from retailers during the first six months of this implementation. Overall, there appears to be less litter from plastic bags with the implementation of this ordinance, and our citizens have been quite accepting of the new requirements.



6. City Council adopted an ordinance making fundamental changes in the way STRs are allowed in the City of Newport. The final ordinance was a result of receiving public comment at numerous public hearings, work sessions, and regular Council meetings through the first part of 2019. The new ordinance provides an overlay zone where a limited number of vacation rentals can *Short term rentals* be licensed. It incorporated provisions allowing existing VRDs outside the overlay zone to continue operating until the sale of the property, and provided revenue to increase the enforcement activities regarding vacation rentals in the City. The Community Development, Police, and Finance Departments have worked closely together to implement significant changes to the licensing and enforcement process for STRs in the City. The Council appointed a committee to review and report to Council on implementation of this ordinance.

The City has contracted with a third party, providing monitoring and call services for complaints of vacation rentals. As a result, a number of non-compliant vacation rentals have been discovered, and the City has been involved in a variety of issues of these vacation rental owners, as well. Overall, this has been a significant effort by Council and staff to make fundamental changes to the way that STRs are operated in the City.

7. The Council approved a new tree plan relating to the management of trees and other vegetation located in the rights-of-way and on public property. The ordinance has been in the works for several years as part of the City's commitment as a Tree City USA.

HOUSING ISSUES

8. The City worked closely with Lincoln County to secure a grant to fund and complete a regional housing strategy plan. Throughout the process the City helped facilitate certain aspects of this county-wide planning effort. This effort has come from a series of meetings held of local, county, and tribal representatives over the past few years. The plan outlines various options that can be pursued on a regional basis to help develop Lincoln County's overall housing supply. As part of this process, it was understood by all communities that expansion of housing in Lincoln City, Waldport, and Toledo benefit the county as a whole. The plan provides the basis for possible joint efforts to address the housing crisis throughout the Lincoln County region.
9. Perhaps, most importantly, the process has brought together elected and appointed officials together to focus on housing needs throughout Lincoln County. The City has played an active role in facilitating the development of a 110-unit affordable housing development which is currently under construction. The overall construction value for this project is \$24 million dollars. This project took advantage of a number of the housing incentives that were created by the Council over the past two years. This is in addition to several small, new subdivisions and a couple of private multi-family projects helping to address the housing shortage in Newport. The City also continues to work with Oregon State University to address student housing needs to assure that the housing needs can be met without impacting the local housing market.
10. The City Council created a task force to review various issues relating to the homeless community in Newport. Issues ranged from services for this community to impacts on both public and private properties. The task force was comprised of a group of social service agencies, private property owners, and citizens to collect information and to provide reports to the City Council. Council identified five priorities for this fiscal year which included placing portable toilets for homeless use after hours, consider obtaining a portable shower facility, coordinating the creating of a standing, non-governmental group to continue discussions on homelessness, create a car-camping area and utilize the City's construction excise tax for funding efforts for solutions to homelessness.

As of the end of the year, progress has been made on the first four items on this list with the excise tax funding discussions planned for later this fiscal year.

Homelessness is an issue that will challenge communities for years to come. It was very beneficial to bring together various interests to identify specific things that could be done to move forward in addressing these challenging issues.

PROJECTS/DEVELOPMENT

11. Big Creek Dam replacement project took a number of major steps forward during the 2019 calendar year. A significant milestone was reached with the State Legislature approving \$4 million to offset preliminary design and permitting costs for this project during the 2019 legislative session. We appreciate the roles that Senator Arnie Roblan and Representative David Gomberg played in working with our team to secure this funding. We also faced the Governor's announcement of her intent to veto this funding following the conclusion of the legislative session. A heroic effort was quickly put into place to convince the Governor that a veto of this funding would jeopardize other potential funding necessary to complete this project. We are very appreciate to the Governor for listening to these concerns and reversing her initial decision to veto this funding.



OSU Marine Science Building

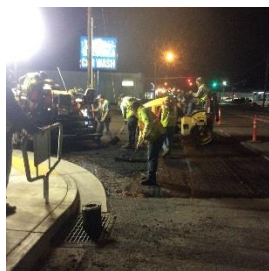
A delegation that included Mayor Sawyer and Public Works Director/City Engineer Tim Gross traveled to Washington, D.C. to continue efforts to educate, inform, and identify potential sources of funding for the dam construction. This will be a multiyear process, but significant steps were accomplished during 2019.

12. The City of Newport continues a robust level of construction in the community. The ongoing Pacific Communities Health District Hospital expansion, the new \$61 million Marine Studies Initiative Classroom and Research facility constructed by the Oregon State University, the \$24 million dollar 110-affordable housing development, as well as a number of commercial and residential projects going on in the community. 2019 ended with approximately 160 building permits issued for \$24.1 million dollars in construction value during the calendar year.



SW 9th and 10th Street Project

13. With staffing issues being stabilized in Engineering, we have seen a significant amount of public infrastructure projects completed or underway this calendar year. These projects include the Nye Beach Pump Station screen and grinder, replacement of storm sewers at Sunwest Honda and Power Ford, construction of sidewalk on NE 10th Street, including fence construction, Oceanview Drive shoulder and fog line improvements, the skate park expansion, placement of street lighting on Angle Street, SW 40th Street water and sewer main extension, Agate Beach wastewater improvements, NW 6th Street storm sewer and street upgrade, Agate Beach State



Power Ford Project

Park/US 101 stair/trail, Yaquina Heights Drive water line, and SW 9th and 10th Streets sidewalk improvement project.

14. The City Council adopted, and incorporated into the Newport Comprehensive Plan, the 2019 Parks System Master Plan. The Parks System Master Plan process involved a



Agate Beach Project

year-long effort to meet with various community stakeholders, collect information regarding the existing parks system, and develop a plan for the future investment and development in parks over the next 20 years. The Parks System Master Plan will be an important tool as the City transitions with a new Parks and Recreation Director to have specific direction and guidance as to what the community's priorities are regarding



NW 6th Street Project

the management of the parks system over the next couple of decades.

15. Over the past three years, the Parking Study Advisory Committee, established by Council, worked with consultants to develop a parking management plan for the Bayfront, Nye Beach, and City Center. This Committee completed its work with the report being forwarded to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendation for City Council. The Plan addresses parking issues both on a City-wide basis, as well as on a localized basis, for the three primary commercial parking areas. The most controversial issue relates to the recommendation to utilize parking meters to provide adequate turnover of parking spaces in the Bayfront area. The Committee also recommends establishment of one permanent parking advisory committee to oversee parking issues throughout the City, instead of having the three local parking advisory committees. This effort would allow for a more robust, ongoing analysis of parking issues and can be better supported administratively than the former structure of three committees. The future direction for parking is an issue that will carry over into the 2020 calendar year.
16. The Committee has been working closely with The Ford Family Foundation to secure additional support to address its mandate by Council to track, report and keep the 2040 Vision as a guiding document for stakeholders throughout the community. The City is recruiting a person to fill this role.

FINANCE

17. The City Finance Department and Public Works implemented a complete restructuring of utility rates during 2019. This included the creation of separate classes of property rates for residents, multifamily, and all other commercial institutional water and sewer users within the City. Each of these rates were based on the impact that the classes of properties have on the cost for water and sewer services. In addition, the Finance Department implemented a low-income water and sewer rate that is being administered by the Community Services Consortium on behalf of the City. The final significant change in utility billing relates to storm water fees. In the past, every utility customer paid the same rate storm water, whether a single-family home or major commercial property. Under the new rate

system, property owners' rates are based on impervious surfaces of their property. Overall, these were implemented with a relatively small number of complaints or appeals. It has been a very busy year for utility billing.

18. The City Council established a second Finance Work Group to build on the efforts that were completed in 2018, consisting of developing a model for projecting future revenues and expenditures for the City. As a result, it was determined that the General Fund (and funds supported by the General Fund) are in a "structural deficit." The growth of the expenditures for these funds will outstrip the growth of revenues causing a fund deficit if not corrected. This year the Finance Work Group met to identify approaches to addressing this structural deficit to avoid putting the City in a financial hardship in future years. These recommendations have been sent to the City Council with Council acting on this report early in 2020.

PERSONNEL

19. 2019 included the retirement of Ted Smith as Library Director and hiring of Laura Kimberly. Laura brings solid experience working for Jackson County Library in Medford. She brings a high level of energy and enthusiasm to continue keeping the Library a focal point for this community.
20. The City of Newport lost one of its key appointed officers with the passing of Steve Rich this year. Steve served as City Attorney from December 2014 to shortly before his passing. During his time with the City, Steve was a very stabilizing force in addressing issues both at a staff and Council level. Steve had significant legal expertise and a solid knowledge of local government rules and regulations. This helped keep the City on an even keel. Steve is certainly missed by his wife Robin and family and his extended family here at Newport City Hall.

2019 COUNCIL ACTIONS BY THE NUMBERS

Regular City Council Meetings	22
Urban Renewal Meetings (URA)	5
Special City Council Meetings	2
Work Sessions	28
Executive Sessions (Council and URA)	8
Town Meetings	2
Total Hours of All Council Meetings	144
Council Tours	1
Holiday Dinners	1
Proclamations Issued	20
Presentations/Recognitions	16
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) graduations	2
Minutes Approved (Council and URA)	66
Committee Minutes Received	73*
Councilor Reports	102
Oregon Liquor Control Commission Licenses Issued	14
Appointments to Boards, Committees, Work Groups & Task Forces	60
Public Hearings and Continued Hearings	51

Ordinances Adopted	13
Resolutions Adopted	39
Supplemental Budgets Approved (Council and URA)	7
Monthly Financial Reports Received	12
Local Contract Review Board Contracts Awarded	22
Local Contract Review Board Change Orders Approved	4

*Partial year including Committee minutes on Council agendas.

PROJECTS AWARDED BY THE COUNCIL IN 2019

Through the course of 2019 a number of projects were awarded and change orders approved by the Local Contract Review Board. These are typically projects in excess of \$50,000. I've included several smaller projects that included significant Council involvement that were awarded administratively, since they were under the \$50,000 limit, as well. These projects include:

- Development of modifications to requirements for pretreatment of high-strength industrial sewage.
- Sanitary sewer televising for 2019.
- Contract for the NW Grove Street sewer extension project.
- Approval of an engineering agreement for environmental compliance permitting of fish passage mitigation for the Big Creek Dam project.
- Replacement of the City's network server and storage infrastructure.
- Approved insurance renewals for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.
- Awarded the NW 6th Street Sidewalk and Sewer Improvements projects.
- Awarded the Yaquina Heights Water Line project.
- Approved task orders for general services of Big Creek Dam funding, public outreach and legislative outreach.
- Rejected bids for SW Harbor Drive Roadway Improvements, with the projects being re-bid in early 2020.
- Approved a water treatment facility backup generator purchase and installation.
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the State of Oregon for airport pavement maintenance.
- Purchase of materials and labor through Central Lincoln PUD for the Ferry Slip line undergrounding project.
- Awarded bids for the SW 9th and 10th Street Improvement project.
- Purchased a Bobcat Compact Excavator.
- Replaced carbon from the granular activated carbon vessel at the Water Treatment Plant.
- Expanded SCADA to include the Yaquina Heights Pump Station
- Awarded the Agate Beach Stairway Improvements project.
- Approved a preliminary design agreement for rehabilitation to the Yaquina Heights water tank.
- Awarded a bid for the South Beach conduit upgrades to underground utility lines.
- Authorized improvements to the Newport State Park.
- Authorized the purchase of a submersible pump from Xylon Water Solutions.
- Authorized funding to advocate for the Big Creek Dam.

- Authorized engineering work for the Highway 101 and Golf Course Drive Water System Improvements.
- Approved an amendment of the timetable for the intergovernmental agreement with ODOT for the US 101/SE 32 through 35th Streets STIP project

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES OF CITY COUNCIL DURING 2019

Throughout the course of 2019, City Council was engaged in a number of significant issues.

Highlights of those activities are as follows:

- Heard a report on the activities for the 2018 calendar year.
- Recognized Mayor Roumagoux, Councilors Saelens, and Engler for their service as Mayor and Councilors for the City of Newport.
- Administered the oath of office to Mayor Sawyer and Councilors David Allen, Ryan Parker, and CM Hall.
- Appointed and administered the oath of office to Councilors Botello and Jacobi.
- Elected Councilor David Allen as Council President for 2019.
- Designated councilors to serve as liaisons to boards and committees, as voting members on internal committee, and voting members on certain external committees.
- Established a meeting schedule for the 2019 and 2020 calendar years.
- Acting as the Urban Renewal Agency, elected Dietmar Goebel as chair, and David Allen as vice-chair of the Urban Renewal Agency for the 2019/2020 calendar years.
- Approved an agreement with Proud Ground to utilize City housing funds as a match for homeownership down payment assistance grants administered by Proud Ground.
- Approved the 2017/2018 fund exchange agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation.
- Contracted for professional services to administer a low-income utility service assistance program.
- Named the Performing Arts Center box office as the Carlson Family Box Office, and the concession stand as the McEntee Family Concession Stand.
- Held a series of meetings and public hearings following the request from the Newport Chapter Surfrider Foundation to regulate single-use, plastic, carryout bags.
- Entered into an agreement with Airrow Heating for the extension of public water and sewer mains adjacent to property on SE 40th Street.
- Amended the list of capital improvement projects eligible to be funded with SDC charges.
- Approved an application process and processing fee for the City of Newport's multiple unit housing property tax exemption program.
- Approved a fee waiver for active military personnel and their families for the use of the Newport Recreation and Aquatic Centers.
- Approved legislative priorities for the 2019 Oregon legislative, including a response to the possible assumption of appointment of Port Commission members by the

governor. The state legislature backed away from the house bill that would have made this change.

- Conducted a bus tour of City facilities for the City Council.
- Issued a letter of support to the Port of Newport for federal EDA funding to replace the pier at Port Dock 5.
- Heard an update on the impact that China's recycling policy has had on recycling programs in the United States.
- Heard an update from Councilor Allen on the public/private climate change partnership.
- Approved funding changes for the SE 32nd through 35th Streets project on US 101 to include the relocation of traffic signals.
- Held a joint work session with the Lincoln County Commission.
- Held a series of meetings and work sessions to work through the various details to finalize fundamental changes to how vacation rentals are administered in the City of Newport.
- Held a series of public hearings and work sessions relating to parking regulations within the City of Newport, including the possibility of establishing metered parking on the Bayfront.
- Made an application to the Department of Aviation for funding for passenger service to Newport. This grant was not approved by the ODA.
- Approved the deaccession of the former Visual Arts Center carved doors.
- Held various meetings focusing on efforts to obtain funding for the replacement of the Big Creek Dams.
- Vacated a portion of SW 62nd Street.
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement with ODOT to fund the Newport Transportation System Plan update.
- Approved a matrix limiting the types of emergency medical responses that the fire department responds to.
- Issued a letter of support for state funding for the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The State legislature approved \$5 million dollars to the aquarium.
- Held a day-long work session and approved goals for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.
- Adopted the State Parks 2019 Master Plan into the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- Accepted the 2017/2018 annual audit.
- Authorized discussions with the Newport Rural Fire Protection District on exploring possible consolidation with the Newport Fire Department.
- Adopted a number of procedural changes with the Council, including Council members submitting written reports, and addressing local contract review board issues on a consent calendar.
- Extended the franchise agreement held by Wave Division VII, LLC.
- Reaffirmed the City of Newport's Emergency Operational Plan.
- Adopted a low-income water and sewer utility payment assistance program and designated funding to maintain the program.
- Approved a regional infrastructure fund grant agreement for the Big Creek Dams Replacement project.
- Received confirmation that Newport has been re-designated as a Coast Guard City.

- Designated a Project Advisory Committee for the City of Newport Transportation System Plan update.
- Issued \$4.5 million dollars in water revenue bonds for various water projects.
- Approved an application by Surf View Village, LLC, for a multi-unit housing property tax exemption.
- Heard a report on the upcoming 2020 US Census.
- Authorized the City Manager to enter into negotiations with the Chamber of Commerce regarding Destination Newport Committee responsibility and funding. With the change in staffing in the Chamber, these discussions were initiated but not brought to any conclusion.
- Received accreditation for the Police Department from the Oregon Accreditation Alliance.
- Heard a report from PERS Solutions for public services.
- Heard a report from Thompson's Sanitary Service that it was not requesting any adjustments for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.
- Approved an amendment increasing the clean water state revolving and loan fund for the Agate Beach Waste Water Improvement project.
- Created a Short-Term Rental Ordinance Implementation Work Group
- Approved a resolution citing the purpose and review times for municipal reserve funds.
- Approved a cooperative agreement with ODOT, Lincoln County Transit, and Commonwealth Development Cooperation to facilitate improvements necessary for the Surfview Village Apartment project.
- Reviewed a report on the implementation of storm water utility rates which became effective July 1, 2019.
- Approved a budget, fee schedule and tax levy for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.
- Created a Finance Work Group to identify recommendations to address the structural budget deficit in the General Fund and funds supported by the General Fund.
- Heard reports relating to the Rogue Ale vacation rentals.
- Entered into a contract for short-term rental compliance support services.
- Entered into a contract extension for auditing services.
- Heard a presentation on tobacco retail licensing by Lincoln County.
- Accepted the Lincoln County Strategy Housing Plan.
- Contracted with the Newport News-Times for tourism promotional services.
- Accepted the final report from the Homelessness Task Force.
- Discussed electric vehicle charging stations in the City of Newport.
- Approved an ordinance and resolution regarding the pruning and removal of trees and adoption of a City Tree Plan.
- Consented to improvements on City property by the Oregon Coast Aquarium.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing the use of eminent domain for right-of-way acquisition for the US 101/35th Street Signalization project.
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to update the Lincoln County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.
- Authorized the use of contracted legal services in the absence of the City Attorney.

- Entered into a new operating agreement for the Performing Arts Center and Visual Arts Center with the Oregon Coast Council of the Arts.
- Heard a report on possible changes to the Municipal Code regarding taxicabs. Council opted not to make any changes.
- Prioritized the recommendations from the Homelessness Task Force.
- Approved a resolution to create a formal Sister City Committee.
- Heard a report on the plans for holiday lighting and placement of a holiday tree on City grounds.
- Incorporated the 2019 Parks System Master Plan into the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- Discussed the possible regulation of expanded polystyrene foam.
- Approved new regulations regarding flood hazard areas.
- Approved an ordinance regarding additional requirements for geological review in certain hazardous areas and established a fee for peer review for geological reports in active landslide areas.
- Annexed property located at 4263 S. Coast Highway in South Beach.
- Authorized an agreement for catalyzing entrepreneurship in the Yaquina Bay region.
- Received a letter of resignation from City Attorney, Steve Rich, as a result of health issues. Steve subsequently passed away.
- Heard a report on the Rogue Brewery Transient Room Tax resolution.
- Heard a report on the recruitment for the Parks and Recreation Director position.
- Received a report on the proposed budget calendar for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.
- Heard an update on OMSI's Camp Gray and OMSI's 20-year vision for the future.
- Had a discussion regarding dialogue with Corvallis on creating electric vehicle charging station in both communities.
- Authorized a letter to Oregon State University addressing concerns regarding the unresolved issues related to student housing.
- Authorized travel by Mayor Sawyer to represent the City of Newport in Washington, D.C. to advance legislative policy supporting possible funding for the Big Creek Dam project.
- Heard an update on the Habitat for Humanity completion of the homes on property conveyed to Habitat by the City.
- Initiated a partial street vacation for undeveloped portions for NE 31st Street to further the development of private housing for that location.
- Authorized a letter requesting the advance of the Big Creek Dam project funding from the State of Oregon.
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the State of Oregon through the Office of Emergency Management for the deployment of City fire personnel to California.
- The Newport Urban Renewal Agency purchased an easement which was accepted by the City Council for storm drainage located south of 40th Street in South Beach.
- Head an appeal of the room tax determination and delinquency issue from Mona Linstromberg and Carla Perry.
- Authorized submission of an application for the Oregon PERS employer incentive fund.

- Heard a report from Public Works Director/City Engineer Tim Gross on the efforts in Washington to lobby for funding for the Big Creek Dam project.
- Read an update from the Visual Arts Center Committee.
- Approved an ordinance amending the building codes.
- Approved an amendment to the intergovernmental agreement between the Pacific Communities Health District and the City of Newport relating to intersection realignment adjacent to the hospital.
- Approved an extension to June 30 of the Memorandum of Understanding with Proud Ground.
- Accepted funding from The Ford Family Foundation for a Vision 2040 coordinator position.
- Authorized applications for funding from State Homeland Security for a regional Listos program, and for the development of a mass care and shelter plan for the City of Newport
- Authorized an amendment to the City code provisions regarding single use, plastic, carryout bags to make the City ordinance compliant with state provisions which became effective January 1.
- Held two town hall meetings. One meeting focused on the Big Creek Dams, and the second meeting focused on the transportation system planning efforts now underway.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES OF CITY DEPARTMENTS DURING 2019

City Recorder/ Special Projects:

- Working through the Public Arts Committee added five new murals to the City’s inventory
- Supported efforts of the Homelessness Task Force with installation of two port-a-potties, provision of a portable shower trailer through Grace Wins Haven
- Initiated discussions on a coalition of an NGO to continue work started by the Homelessness Task Force
- Supported Sister City activities this summer, and a creation of a new Sister City Committee.
- Hired the City’s first landscaping technician



Historic Mural on Nye Beach Pump House



~~~~~ *Surfer's Memorial Sculpture*

Human Resources:

- Finalization of all job descriptions with new salary ranges and formatting review
- Management training and development conducted (Transgender Issues in the Workplace, Labor Relations Day-to-Day training)



- Compliance with volunteer background checked finalized with the Library
- Cultural Competency Survey was completed and sent out
- 724 applications screened for recruitments
- 62 requisitions processed for new hires

Finance:

- Implemented significant changes to the utility rate structure, starting with the separate rate structures for residential customers, multifamily customers, and all other customers utilizing water and sewer services in the City
- Implemented a new storm water rate system that is based on impervious surfaces for all customers except single-family households
- Established a contract and implemented low income water and sewer utility rates
- Submitted the City’s CAFR to the Government Finance Officers Association for a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Information Technology:

- Implemented CivicRec Software which is an online catalogue for the Parks and Recreation Department
- Implemented a new network core, servers, and storage area network
- Implemented a mobile device management system
- Upgraded firewalls

Police Department:

- Received the third accreditation award from the Oregon Accreditation Alliance
- Hosted the second National Night Out with over 800 attendees
- Added a Community Service Officer to meet the needs of vacation rental enforcement, and full-time Parking Enforcement Officer to take over the parking enforcement responsibilities with internal staffing
- Established a new street crimes position which has led to dozens of narcotic-related search warrants resulting in numerous arrests



2019 National Night Out

Fire Department:



3211 Heavy Brush Rig

- Implemented a new EMS response matrix to reduce responses to non-critical medical calls
- Purchased and outfitted a heavy brush engine retrofitting this vehicle to deal with grass and brush fires
- Deployed personnel to the Kincade Fire.

The department is also dealing with reduced responses from volunteers and off-duty paid staff. This trend is an issue that will need to be reviewed to

determine how to assure we have adequate personnel responding to emergency events. Fortunately, Lincoln County has a solid mutual aid program where added resources are available to help supplement local forces.



Kincade Fire

### Emergency Preparedness:

- Conducted five separate Listos classes (Spanish) with 56 students attending this training
- Conducted a Big Creek Dam tabletop exercise simulating a failure of the Big Creek



*Listos Graduation Class*

Dam and evaluating the emergency action plan for the response of the City for this type of event

- Continued to develop the Emergency Management Volunteer Program with 575 hours being committed to this program in 2019
- Purchased, and placed at City Hall, a 40-foot Conex box for emergency disaster supplies

### Library:

The Newport Library is under the leadership of a new Library Director, Laura Kimberly. Laura started her employment as Library Director April 1, 2019. The Library kicked off its 100-year celebration with centennial festivities in September 2019.

- Applied to and was accepted by Libros for Oregon for the purpose of acquiring more Spanish-language books for the use of Oregon Libraries. This included attendance at the Guadalajara International Book Festival where books were purchased will appear in eleven Oregon Libraries, including Newport.



*Amelia, winner of the Centennial Book Challenge*

- Participating with Oregon Coast STEM Hub (OCSH) to provide a Wee Engineering professional development program for early childhood teachers.

### Community Development:

- Facilitated efforts resulting of a final adoption and implementation of an updated short-term rental ordinance
- Completed a new parks system master plan
- Coordinated with ODOT and Newport Public Works on various aspects of the utility undergrounding project, and plans for the urban renewal funded 32<sup>nd</sup> to 35<sup>th</sup> Streets signal relocation project in South Beach
- Dealt with various aspects of the geologic hazards code issues
- Updated the City's land use rules as it relates to construction of Accessory Dwelling Units, easing size limitations and eliminating owner occupancy, shared utility, and off-street parking requirements
- Partnered with Lincoln County to secure a grant to fund and complete a Regional Housing Strategy Plan

### Parks and Recreation:

- Transitioned into a new online recreation software, bringing better customer service to patrons by expanding electronic registration and payments of programs offered

- Expanded swim lessons at the Aquatic Center
- Held the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Agate Beach Surf Classic including over 120 contestants competing from five different states and Canada

#### 60+ Activity Center:

- Partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and the Toledo Girls Scouts to provide 200 meals to seniors the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving

#### Public Works:

- The Facilities Maintenance crew completed a record number of “fixits” this year.
- The Water division has continued efforts to implement new meters that will lead to automated meter reads across the City of Newport
- The Sewer crews have overseen the construction and implementation of the new lift stations and force mains to address the City’s compliance issues with the DEQ for wastewater discharges
- The Streets division was involved in many maintenance activities throughout the course of the year, and was involved in securing a holiday tree at City Hall which so far has withstood wind challenges
- The Wastewater Plant has been busy refurbishing the thermal blender augers and trough, utilizing primarily staff, and they have been producing excellent water quality all year, while exceeding permit requirements for the discharge of effluent produced by the plant
- The Water Plant experienced the highest production activity in May and June, to date
- Parks Maintenance continues to work with a small crew to maintain various park facilities, as well as public buildings and grounds
- Engineering has successfully overseen significant levels of construction activities in 2019, including the following:

##### Completed Projects:

- Nye Beach Pump Station Screen and Grinder
- Storm Sewer Repairs at Sunwest Honda and Power Ford
- NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalk and Fence
- Oceanview Drive Shoulder and Fogline
- Skate park Beautification and Safety Improvements
- Angle Street Lighting
- SE 40<sup>th</sup> Street Water and Sewer Main Extension

##### Close to Completion:

- Agate Beach Wastewater Improvements (February)
- NW 6<sup>th</sup> Street Storm Sewer Upgrade (January)
- Sanitary Sewer Televising Program (CCTV) (April)
- Agate Beach State Park to US101 Trail (January)
- Yaquina Heights Drive Waterline (March)
- SW 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets and sidewalk Improvement (January)

Overall, it has been a busy year for all City departments. I appreciate the level of commitment that the departments have in meeting the needs of the citizens of Newport. In addition to these highlights, our staff is responsible for thousands of transactions with our residents on a day-to-day basis. A vast majority of these transactions are handled in a satisfactory manner. I appreciate all the employees in serving the needs of the citizens and visitors to Newport.

I would also like to express my appreciation and respect for the role that the Mayor and Council play in committing significant time with no compensation to help direct the City. The Council often has to make difficult decisions in the course of performing their responsibilities. The Council provides the overall direction and final decisions on matters that impact the residents, businesses, and visitors. I look forward to working with staff and Council to continue to move the City of Newport in a positive direction in 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Nebel", written in a cursive style.

Spencer Nebel  
City Manager