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MEMO

DATE: May 31, 2023
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Spencer Nebel, City Manager

SUBJECT: Status Report for the Four-week Period Ending Friday, May 26, 2023

I appreciate the effort that the City Council and citizen members of the Budget Committee put into reviewing the annual budget for the City of Newport. This is the financial plan that outlines the fiscal operations for the coming twelve-month period. Newport is fortunate to have an active Budget Committee that thoroughly reviews and approves a budget for City Council consideration each year.

I want to especially express my appreciation for the time and commitment that Finance Director, Steve Baugher, has put into this budget process this year. As you know, Steve has been operating without an Assistant Finance Director for more than a year. This coupled with the additional time to complete the audit due to GASB87 requirements has placed a lot of responsibility on Steve to get through this past year. We have candidates for the Assistant Finance Director that we are interviewing this week. We hope this will be a better outcome than previous efforts.

Filling Finance positions has been a challenge for a number of nearby communities and in the valley, as well. I want to express my thanks for all of Steve's efforts during this very challenging year.

Highlights of activities over the last four weeks include the following:

- Held a routine Department Head meeting.
- Met with new Budget Committee member Rick Hixon to give an orientation on the budget processes.
- Participated in a City Council work session to discuss write-off policies, utility billing policies, and to schedule an executive session for labor negotiations.
- Participated in the May 1 regular City Council meeting.
- Rob Murphy, Tom Sakaris, Barb James and I met to review a memo from the IAFF regarding a number of department policy issues. A response was provided to those inquiries.
- Held bi-monthly meetings with Derrick Tokos, David Powell and Barb James.

- Participated in the first Budget Committee meeting with Council members on Tuesday, May 2.
- Met with staff to review ongoing concerns from a resident in Agate Beach.
- I was on “staycation” from Thursday, May 4 through Wednesday, May 10.
- Prepared agenda items for the City Council meetings held on May 15.
- Met with Mark Wolf, Barb James, Rob Murphy and Tom Sakaris on an IAFF negotiations proposal. An executive session with the City Council was held May 15 on these matters.
- Met with office staff on allocation of office space in the City Manager’s office. We are running tight on space in this building as we fill the Urban Renewal Agency position and the part-time HR Assistant. In addition, the Police Department is looking for additional space to deal with new requirements under Measure 114. The Department will need to have a secure place for applicants of gun permits which will now include demonstration of safe gun handling skills.
- Met with David Powell and Barb James to discuss workload commitments for the Public Works Operations Administrative Assistant. We are looking at shifting responsibilities to better balance her workload.
- Jason Malloy, Rob Murphy, Jovita Ballentine, and I met with a resident, Mike Walas, regarding complaints he has on a couple of homes in his neighborhood. Mike has been frustrated by the fact that the City does not have a maintenance code which addresses things behind basic building structural safety. He noted that there are other violations that are addressed in the City's nuisance code. Police Chief, Jason Malloy, indicated that they would send an officer out with Jovita to do a more detailed inspection of some of the concerns outlined by Mr. Walas.
- Held a regular Department Head meeting.
- Participated in a Council work session where we discussed a community leadership program, airport hangar/lease issues, and a report on ARPA funding. Additionally, had an Urban Renewal meeting that included an executive session to discuss property transactions.
- Participated in the regular City Council meeting held on Monday, May 15.
- Participated in various activities with our visit from our Sister City, Mombetsu. I appreciate all of the efforts of Assistant City Manager/City Recorder, Erik Glover, coordinating and covering the various activities beginning on Tuesday evening and running through Friday morning. Overall, the delegation appeared to have a good and meaningful exchange. Mayor Sawyer gave a special honor to two of the delegation members who have been participating in exchanges for more than thirty years. Motoko Otake has been interpreting for groups coming to and from Newport for over 30 years. Motoko has been directly responsible for sharing communications between our two cities during this time, and many friendships have been built between people in our two cities. In addition, Yoko Kato has been participating in exchanges for over 40 years. A multigenerational relationship has been established between Yoko Kato and the Hanrahan family. Over the past four decades, the exchanges began with Julie Hanrahan’s parents, then Julie, Julie's kids, and now Julie's grandchildren. Mayor Sawyer conveyed honorary citizenship to both Motoko and Yoko. Overall, it was a great event. I also appreciate the support from the

Host Committee which included Peggy Hawker, Julie Hanrahan, Veronica Lundell, Mark and Cindy McConnell, Matt Harner, and Richard Brodeur. I also appreciate the active involvement of the City Council with the various dinners held and the special Council meeting that occurred. The special Council meeting was a highlight for the delegation leader, Makino Masanori, who was particularly pleased to be named as honorary Mayor of the City of Newport! Members of the City Council participated in the special City Council meeting to recognize the delegation from Mombetsu.

- Participated in the Rotary meeting where the delegation leader and co-leader made presentations to the Rotary Club. The Rotary Club of Newport played an important role in establishing the Sister City agreement 57 years ago. Rotary also made a \$4,500 contribution to help offset the student delegation heading to Mombetsu this year.
- Participated in bi-monthly meetings with Mike Cavanaugh and Richard Dutton.
- Met with the Jason Holland regarding updates with the OCCA.
- Mayor Sawyer and I met with Keira Morgan, former chair of the Grace Wins Haven board and Raymond Erickson of the Salvation Army, regarding the announcement of Grace Wins Haven closing. Keira indicated that they lost their executive director that was hired after Tracy Flowers stepped back from that role. The members of the board voted to close Grace Wins Haven following that resignation. Keira has had discussions with the Salvation Army about picking up a number of services that Grace Wins Haven was providing to the community. Unfortunately, there are number things that will not fall into the Salvation Army wheelhouse. Staffing for Salvation Army in Lincoln County is two people. They are limited in the extent of services they can provide. Grace Wins Haven has provided many basic services for the unhoused community. This has always been a labor of love for Tracy Flowers, but Grace Wins Haven has not had the capacity to move beyond those services. We will be looking at various options through the Homeless Coordination Office operated by Lincoln County Housing Authority.
- Held a workplace culture meeting with Department Heads. We will be preparing an updated report for the City Council on a number of recommendations.
- Dave Powell, David Allen and I met to discuss a number of contracts impacting the wastewater treatment plant. With Dave Powell's upcoming departure, and Wastewater Plant Superintendent, Andrew Grant's, earlier resignation, we are shifting responsibilities for contractual services relating to the operation of the wastewater treatment plant. In addition, we discussed the agreement we have with Crestmont Farms for disposal of our biosolids waste from the plant. This agreement will need to be modified.
- Held bi-monthly meetings with Rob Murphy and Lance Vanderbeck. Along with David Powell, Andrew Grant, Clare Paul and David Allen, participated in the meeting with the DEQ addressing the findings and penalties relating to our wastewater discharges dating back to 2019. We have initiated discussions on a consent agreement between the City and the DEQ which would require us to make certain improvements to the wastewater treatment plant, which we plan to make as part of the master plan. This would provide

some relief from future fines. We can also work on a local environmental project to divert a portion of these fines to help with a Lincoln County project. We indicated to the DEQ that is an option we want to pursue.

- Met with Dave Powell to discuss transition changes in Public Works with his June 9 departure from the City of Newport. This was followed up with a meeting with Public Works staff to understand what some of their needs will be going forward. I plan to put together an interim operating plan for review this week.
- Participated in the second Budget Committee meeting with members of the Council to reconcile the various modifications that were proposed by the Budget Committee during the first meeting.
- Participated in a Public Works luncheon for staff for National Public Works week. This was also an opportunity for folks to express their appreciation of Dave Powell's tenure as Public Works Director for the City of Newport.
- Along with members of the Water Conservation Committee and Council, participated in a tour of various Pacific Seafood plants. Steve Moody coordinated this trip for the Water Conservation Committee and City Council to better understand their operational processes and water use for these processes. I appreciate the detailed tour offered by Pacific Seafood. On the day of the tour, unfortunately, they had no fish to process. Steve wants to invite the Committee and Council back, in a month or so, when they will be in full production. I will let Council know when that tour will take place.
- Took a vacation day on Friday, May 26, to catch up with deferred projects at home.

Upcoming Events:

- I will be taking a few days off during the week of June 12 (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) to host friends visiting Newport from the East Coast.
- On June 16, there will be a fundraising event to host David's Chair (beach access) in Newport at 6 PM at the Elks Lodge. Please contact Mike Cavanaugh for more details.
- City offices will be closed on Monday, June 19, in observation of Juneteenth. The Council meetings will be scheduled for Tuesday, June 20.
- Newport will be sending a student delegation to Mombetsu from June 26 through July 1.
- City offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observation of Independence Day.
- I plan to attend the OCCMA Annual Conference taking place in Pendleton from Tuesday, July 18, to Friday, July 21.
- In late July or early August, a student group from Mombetsu will be hosted in Newport.
- City offices will be closed Monday, September 4, in observation of Labor Day.
- I plan to attend the ICMA Annual Conference in Austin, Texas, from Saturday, September 30 through Wednesday, October 4.
- The LOC Annual Conference will be held in Eugene from Wednesday, October 11 through Friday, October 13. Please contact Erik if you plan to attend.

- City offices will be closed Friday, November 10, in observation of Veterans' Day.
- City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25, in observation of Thanksgiving.
- City offices will be closed a half day on Friday, December 22 and a full day on Monday, December 25 in observation of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Attachments:

- Attached is an article from the Oregonian indicating that US 20 from Boston to Newport is proposed to be named the "National Medal of Honor Highway". The effort on this process began 10 years ago with Oregon Veteran, Dick Tobiason, who founded the Bend Heroes Foundation. He lobbied the states along US 20 to adopt the name of "Medal of Honor Highway". In 2017, Oregon became the first state to name its section of US 20 as the Oregon Medal of Honor Highway. The article indicates that by the end of last year, all states along the route had passed similar measures. The bill to adopt the federal designation was introduced in the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 9 and is awaiting a hearing.
- Attached is the first part of the article (this is a subscriber exclusive article so I did not have access to the full article) indicating that, like the City of Newport, nearly one-fifth of jobs at Oregon state agencies are vacant. That is a total of 8,643 state jobs the state has not been able to fill

It is hard to believe that June is right around the corner. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer season!

Respectfully submitted,



Spencer R. Nebel, City Manager

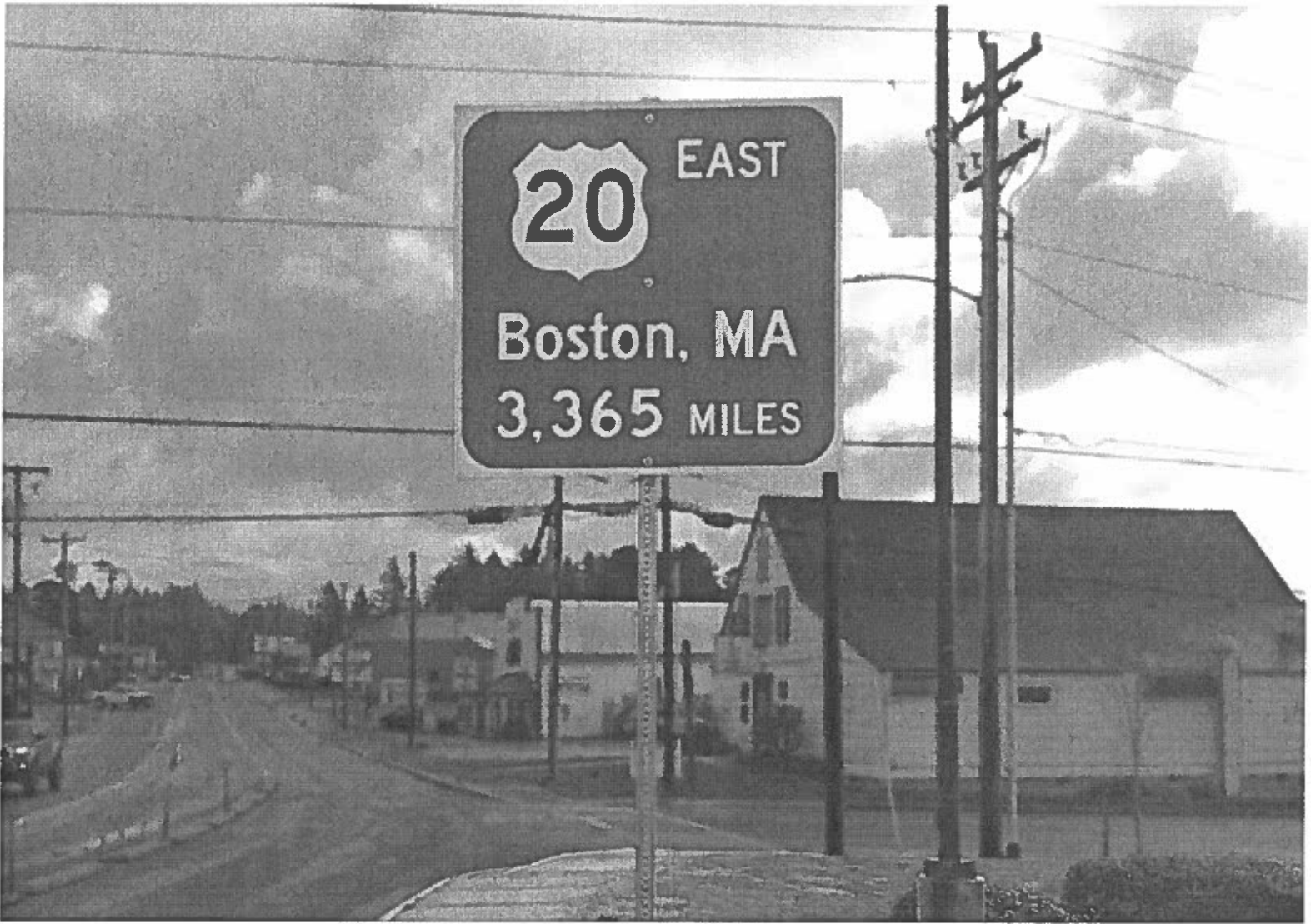
cc: Department Heads

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COMMUTING

Nation's longest highway, 3,365 miles from Newport to Boston, could be renamed in honor of veterans

Updated: May. 18, 2023, 9:37 a.m. | Published: May. 18, 2023, 6:00 a.m.



Highway officials in 2016 placed this sign in Newport, and another in Boston, to mark the distance of U.S. 20, the nation's longest continuous road. Oregon Department of Transportation

By Jayati Ramakrishnan | The Oregonian/OregonLive

The nation's longest road, which reaches its western end at the Oregon coast, could soon get another special designation.

A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers, among them Oregon Republicans Rep. Cliff Bentz and Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer, have sponsored a bill to rename U.S. 20 as the "National Medal of Honor Highway," a tribute to U.S. veterans who have received the nation's highest military award.

The 3,365-mile road runs from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, connecting Boston to Newport, and passes through 12 states: Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Oregon.

In 2016, highway officials in Oregon and Massachusetts placed signs at the east and west ends of the road, marking it as the longest continuous highway in the U.S.

The highway has already been designated in honor of Medal of Honor recipients in Oregon.

The movement to rename the highway began 10 years ago with Oregon veteran Dick Tobiason, who founded the Bend Heroes Foundation and lobbied states along U.S. 20's length to adopt the Medal of Honor Highway name.

In 2017, Oregon became the first when then-Gov. Kate Brown declared U.S. 20 as the Oregon Medal of Honor Highway.

Other states followed. By the end of last year, all states along the route had passed similar measures, according to Cleveland.com.

The bill to adopt the federal designation was introduced in the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 9 and is awaiting a hearing.

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Nearly one-fifth of jobs at Oregon state agencies are vacant, report shows

Updated: May. 24, 2023, 6:02 p.m. | Published: May. 24, 2023, 5:57 p.m.



The Capitol Mall, stretching North from the Capitol building. An analysis released Wednesday by the Service Employees International Union Local 503 found that 8,643 permanent state jobs were vacant last month. (Michael Lloyd/The Oregonian) LC- THE OREGONIAN

By [Jamie Goldberg | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#) and [Noelle Crombie | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

Nearly a fifth of jobs within Oregon's state agencies were vacant as of April, according

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