

Our Town

A Publication of The City of Coburg

July/August 2021 Issue

Mayor's Corner Providing Good and Stable Service

Ray Smith, Mayor

Why is Coburg's utility bill so high? This is one of the most often asked questions I hear as Mayor. I think one of the most fundamental elements of our utility billing is the fact that the monthly fee covers the ENTIRE cost of providing that specific service.

Coburg basic residential monthly utility fees:

Water	\$53.00
Wastewater	\$86.70
Street trees	\$2.00

The \$2 Street Trees fee helps pay for city-wide leaf pickup program as well as the care and maintenance of trees in the city parks and rights-of-way (streets). A severe winter storm can deplete this fund in one day, but Public Works and our citizen's Parks and Tree committee have managed to achieve good progress on a city-

wide tree plan.

The Residential Water bill is set at a base rate of \$53 per month (additional fees for usage beyond 5,236 gallons or 700 cubic feet. This fee covers current operation and maintenance of the two city wells, storage tanks and piping system. It also covers projected future upgrades to our water system. We are currently in the middle of some significant upgrades and additions to the water system. The city has recently purchased land to add a third well. We have completed the placement of a large conduit under Interstate 5 in order to connect services to Coburg businesses on the East side of the freeway, and we are building a new elevated water reservoir on the east side. These upgrades will help to modernize and add disaster resilience to a water system that hasn't seen significant upgrades in decades.



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City Council Brief

Highlights of actions and topics the Coburg City Council has recently addressed and issues likely to be discussed in the next couple of months.



MAY 2021

- Approved Resolution 2021-06 to Transfer of Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020-21
- Approved Resolution 2021-07 Authorizing Grant Funding Application to the State Historic Preservation Office for Preserving Oregon Grant Program
- Transportation Utility Fee Discussion
- Approved Lease Agreement for the IOOF Hall
- Authorized 15K of the American Rescue Plan funds to go to the Chamber of Commerce

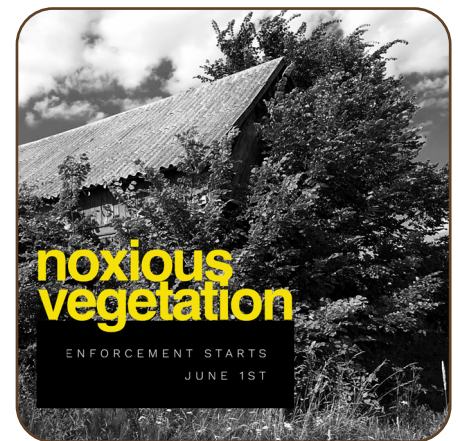
JUNE 2021

- Appointed Linda Kroeger to 3 year term on Budget Committee
- Ordinance A-163-R Criminal Code, First Reading and Public Hearing
- Ordinance A-252 Transportation Utility Fee, First Reading and Public Hearing
- Approved Resolution 2021-08 Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues
- Approved Resolution 2021-09 Declaring the City's Certification of Eligibility for State-Shared Revenues
- Approved Resolution 2021-10 Adopting the Salary and Classification Schedule for FY 2021-22
- Approved Resolution 2021-11 Adopting the City Budget for FY 2021-22 creating appropriations, setting tax and imposing the tax and categorizing the tax
- Approved Resolution 2021-13 Authorizing the City to seek State Transportation Funds Through the 2021 Small City Allotment Grant Program
- Approved Intergovernmental Agreement with Lane County Sheriff for Dispatch Service
- Approved Intergovernmental Agreement with Lane Council of Governments for IT management



URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

- Approved Resolution 2021-01-U Adopting the Agency Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22



Committee Vacancies!

There are current vacancies on both the Budget Committee and Planning Commission. If you are interested in participating in the community, Contact City Hall for more information.



Coburg Committee Highlights

Updates on what the Coburg Committees have recently accomplished or are currently addressing.

Planning Commission

May/June

- Received training on Oregon Land Use Law & Process
- Progress report on Transportation System Plan (TSP) updates and current land use applications

Park/Tree Committee

May/June

- Held two work parties: landscaped at Jacob Spores Park and pulled weeds at Johnny Diamond Park

Heritage Committee

May/June

- Selected preservation award recipients
- Undergoing Certified Local Government (CLG) review

Budget Committee

May/June

- Public Hearing for input on possible uses of State Revenue Sharing Funds
- Approved the City and Urban Renewal Agency (URA) Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22. Recommending them to Council & URA for adoption.
- Recruitment for two positions on the Budget Committee. Received one application, the Budget Committee interviewed and recommended to Council that Linda Kroeger be appointed.
- Adopted URA and City budgets for FY22

Finance/Audit Committee

May/June

- Began reviewing Fiscal Policies and Accounting Procedures manual

Events at Norma Pfeiffer Park

Work Party July 19 at 9am

We are facilitating a Parks Work Party on Monday, July 19th at 9am. Plan to join us at Norma Pfeiffer Park.

We will be weeding so bring gloves and appropriate hand tools. A volunteer form needs to be completed in advance. Forms can be obtained from City Hall or we will have forms available at the work party.

Free Meals for Youth

Open to all children 2 to 18 years old, Food for Lane County will provide free meals beginning June 28th.

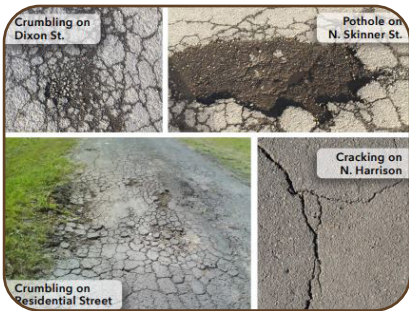
Lunch will be served daily at Norma Pfeiffer Park, Monday through Friday, at 11:30am.



Transportation Utility Fee: A TUF Discussion

“Another \$7 on my utility bill!” This may be happening soon. The Coburg City Council has been contemplating adding a \$7 to \$10 Transportation Utility Fee to our monthly utility bill to cover street repairs throughout Coburg.

This has been discussed for nearly two years now. The City Council has directed staff to get the message out to our community so the Council can hear from our citizens. Honestly, it has been eerily quiet. What does that mean? Do the citizens accept that this is the



best way to fix our street problems? Is the message being received?

The street issue has been vetted through a citizen’s committee and the City Council

has acted on recommendations from this committee. The committee relied on a survey of Coburg to help determine how best to pay for the street repairs. The survey indicated citizens preferred an increased gas tax and a Transportation Utility Fee. The City

Council referred a gas tax increase to the ballot which was approved by an 80% margin. The next recommendation was the previously mentioned TUF to businesses and residents.

It looks like the Council will consider a \$7 monthly base fee for residents to help pay for street repairs and upgrades. Businesses would be billed at a higher rate using a national “per trip” standard.

We are trying to give our constituents every opportunity to give input on this issue. The Council and staff have studied this issue and believe this is the best solution to one of Coburg’s biggest problems, our dilapidated streets.

The Council held a public hearing and first reading of the TUF ordinance on June 8, 2021, a second hearing and reading of the ordinance is scheduled for July 27th, 2021. Council may consider adoption at this meeting. There are several options for providing testimony to the City Council, contact City Recorder sammy.egbert@ci.coburg.or.us or call 541-682-7852.

As always, City Council and our staff want your input. Now is the time to voice your concerns.

Volunteers Needed at Serenity Lane

COVID-19 does not stop the life saving work of drug and alcohol treatment we do inside our gates here at Serenity Lane. In order to help our patients continue to focus on the work of recovery, we have service opportunities that we invite our neighbors to be a part of.

We need to be sure that everyone coming onto our campus is free of COVID symptoms. Any and all persons(staff, patients and vendors) entering our campus are asked a series of health questions and are having their temperature taken.

We have several Coburg community volunteers working in this essential function and could use

more. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer greeter and screener, please visit serenitylane.org/volunteer.

For questions about these opportunities, please email Stephanie Edwards, Alumni and Community Relations Manager at sedwards@serenitylane.org.



A New Potential Emergency

J. Bell, City of Coburg



After last Septembers' historic forest fires, the electric power companies

in Oregon are now authorized to shut down major electrical grids during windy and dry forest weather conditions. By shutting down a major electric line going through a forested area, the hope is you can avoid causing forest fires from downed electrical lines. Before the electric line is reactivated, crews will go out and check it for safety. These electric shutdowns could last hours (or longer).

Power companies will usually provide some kind of warning to the public and their customers as severe fire danger approaches. We can likely count on warnings about 24 to 48 hours ahead of time.

During power shutdowns there will be no electric power for air conditioning, water heaters, freezers, refrigerators, stoves, microwaves, lights, or cell phones. Some stores and gas stations may not be able to operate.

Since this coming summer is already promising to be drier than normal, now is the time to prepare for the possibility of a power shutdown.

Here are some of the things that might help you if this happens:



- Purchase a solar panel to recharge cells phones and small appliances,
- Purchase a small gasoline powered generator to power important household electrical appliances (along with power cord and fuel),
- Have spare lights, flashlights, and batteries around,
- Maybe use your outdoor barbecue for cooking or heating water (spare fuel?),

- Register with your power company online so you get email or text warning messages before a shut-down,
- Do not use propane or kerosene heaters or camp stoves indoors, they are designed only for outdoor use,
- Freezers that are left closed should stay frozen for around 2 days,
- If someone in your home is on electrically powered medical equipment, get a back-up power source,
- Have a stock of extra food/ drinking water (2 weeks' worth) as an emergency back-up,
- Since ATM's do not work during power-shutdowns, consider having some spare cash around.

During any future electrical shutdowns, you can still get help for an emergency by contacting 911.

Proposed Mural Design

Come check out the City of Coburg proposed mural design. It is hanging on the bulletin board on the Gazebo in the park and in the lobby at City Hall.



Coburg Chamber Update



Summer is upon us with plenty of sun and activity and the Chamber is busy planning for the return of several events that we missed last year. Clutter Days, Concerts in the Park, Coburg Farmers Market, Classic Car Show and the Coburg Antique Fair are all in the work of committees who hammer out the many details it takes to bring you these events.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions regarding your place as a volunteer please contact Katie Brushett, owner of Coburg Fit Club (503.860.4334). She will direct you to the right person who can answer your questions. Whether you have two hours or two days we need volunteers. It is a great way to learn more about your community and meet the movers and shakers of Coburg.

We're keeping our fingers crossed that we will move

forward with fun times in Coburg.

The Chamber would like the community to welcome Tracey Pugh as the new Coburg Antique Fair and the Coburg Farmers Market director! Tracey and her husband hail from Santa Rosa where Tracey ran their 100-vendor Farmer's Market. She has lots of experience, ideas, and energy to move both events to new heights. We are really excited to have her as part of the team.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage you as a business or private citizen to join us at the Coburg Chamber of Commerce. Our meetings are every third Wednesday at noon. Check out our website for the application to join us. At this point, we are meeting via Zoom. It should be a short time before we gather in person at City Hall again.

If you have any questions feel free to call Sharyl Abbaspour at 541.521.1717.

Thursdays in Coburg

Weekly Market & Concerts Return!

We are excited to announce that Thursdays in Coburg are back for 2021!

Starting July 22nd and going through August 26, shop local and unique crafters and artisans at Coburg's own Market in the Park beginning at 4pm. Plus, live music kicks off at 6pm!

Bring a blanket or a lawn chair, pack a picnic or grab something delicious from any of our local restaurants, and come enjoy the sights and sounds of summer here in Coburg!

We can't wait to see you there!



Live Music Schedule:

July 22nd: The Hank Shreve Band

July 29th: Inner Limits

August 5th: Teresa Cunningham and Anything Goes

August 12th: Riffle

August 19th: Outlaw Shine

August 26th: Greg Nestler

Coburg Community Foundation Update

We hope that all you fathers out there enjoyed a relaxing Father's Day with your families after cleaning out your attics for the previous day's Coburg Colossal Clutter Clearout!

We are so thrilled that the Coburg Chamber of Commerce recently announced that many events will resume this summer, starting with the Clutter Clearout! We look forward to seeing community



members out and about for the Farmers Markets slated to begin in July, the Coburg Car Classic in August, and also the Antique and Vintage Fair in September. And for music lovers and kiddos of all ages, come on over to Coburg Community Foundation's booth for

frozen treats during Thursday evening's Concerts in the Park in August! Thank you again, Coburg Chamber, for helping to bring these beloved events back to us!

If you haven't already, please take special notice of the beautiful flower pots being displayed in front of many businesses around town. A special "Thank you" goes to Caleb Johnson and Johnson Brothers Garden Market for supplying the stunning baskets, and our thanks also to each of the local businesses that are proudly displaying these lovely and unique pots for all of us to enjoy!

Our local Coburg Food Pantry is a community partner that supports local families, and you can help. Food Donation bins are located at the local Dairy Mart, or you may go to CCF's website, coburgfoundation.org, to make a monetary donation to the Pantry.

Coburg Community Grange

The Coburg Community Grange is up and running again. First Friday Texas Hold Em poker is back with a \$20 buy in. Registration is at 6:30pm and the game starts at 7pm.

The Grange has been working hard in the Dari Mart parking lot trying to make the two large planters on the south side look good again. The weeds just weren't cutting it. Both planters now have rock, thanks to



Vern Egge and Coburg Road Quarry and some young men who are helping out in the community. Thank you very much.

Later this fall some drought resistant plants will be added and they

will be finished.

The City-Wide garage sale was held over Father's Day weekend and the Grange rented out tables for those who had stuff to sell but didn't want a full-blown sale.

The Car Classic will be back August 7th and so will the Chicken Dinner. As in years past, don't wait too long to get your dinner as we may be sold out.

Along those same lines I am looking for volunteers the day of August 7th to help with serving the meal. Time would be 10am until about 2pm. You get paid with a free meal and it's just fun to visit. If you're interested call Terri at 541-521-2467.

Our meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm and held downstairs and last about an hour. We would love to show you what we are all about. We're not your usual Grange. Hope we hear and see you soon.

Terri Morneau Secretary/ Treasurer

Coburg Police Update



Arrest Notifications

On Sunday June 6, 2021 officers with the Coburg Police Department encountered a suspicious vehicle unattended and running at Hamilton Construction. While investigating the suspicious vehicle, officers located a male inside the fenced property of the business and attempted to engage the subject who fled on sight of the officers. Investigation revealed the male subject was actively burglarizing the business and had damaged multiple vehicles on the property when forcibly entering them.

Multiple agencies responded to assist in attempting to locate the male subject that fled the scene. Efforts in locating the subject were unsuccessful.

Investigative efforts afterwards led to the identity of the offender as Brandon Bowers. An arrest was made following these investigative efforts and multiple items of stolen property were recovered. Investigation showed that substance abuse was a contributing factor in the case.

Brandon Bowers (of Myrtle Creek, OR) was arrested and charged with multiple counts of Burglary

II, Criminal Mischief I, Criminal Trespass II and Unlawful Entry into Motor Vehicle.



Coburg Officers Investigate Assault

Coburg Officers investigated an assault that Waszkiewicz hit a family member in the head with a gun in Coburg just prior to the stand-off. Shortly after the assault, authorities were able to make phone contact with the suspect and determine his location.

Waszkiewicz was seen with a blue Chevrolet pickup stopped in a gravel pull-out at the intersection

of Diamond Hill Road and Powerline Road in Harrisburg, armed with a gun. Waszkiewicz refused to surrender and made statements that he intended to provoke deputies into an armed confrontation.

Using armored rescue vehicles deputies were able to safely contain the scene and keep Waszkiewicz from harming anyone else. The use of these armored rescue vehicles allowed deputies much needed time to negotiate with Waszkiewicz and de-escalate the situation.

After a long, intense stand-off, Waszkiewicz eventually agreed to surrender and physical force was not used during the arrest. A firearm and multiple knives were recovered from within his vehicle.

Coburg Officers transported



from previous page - Police Update

Waszkiewicz to the Lane County Jail and lodged on charges including second-degree assault, menacing, interfering with police and felon in possession of a firearm.

CCCS Ice Cream Social

On June 15, 16, & 17, 2021 officers with the Coburg Police Department catered an ice cream social for the students of the Coburg Community Charter School in conjunction with their field day activities.

This was done to continue efforts in fostering positive



relationships with our area youth. COVID restrictions have prevented many of the annual activities the police department share with the youth at the charter school and we wanted to have a small, but fun interaction event with our youth before the summer break.

The police department partnered with Arthur aka “Bubz” with Bubz Grub Hub Street Treatz to provide ice cream for all students during field day activities. The police department takes pride in our positive interactions with our youth and building lasting relationships.

The police department wish to thank “Bubz” for his cheerful presence in helping us with this event and wish our youth a great summer break!

Contact:

Please call Chief Larry Larson at 541-682-7853.

from page 1 - Mayor's Corner

The wastewater fee is \$86.70 per month for residents. Again, this fee covers current operation and maintenance costs with future projected upgrades and expansions. Future plans include: expansion of the treatment facility as growth occurs, replacement of expensive biological filters every 10 to 15 years, and possible recycling of water for irrigation use.

Years ago, the City Council made a policy of including ALL costs into our utility billing. That includes future needs. Our utilities each have a master plan that includes projected capital improvements needed to maintain a safe reliable service. These improvements are then given estimated costs and are built into our operation projection review. The City Council and staff convene this review once a year. That review determines whether the City Council needs to adjust

any of the rates for the services the city provides.

We must look at the numbers and make them work. Raising the fee is not taken lightly because it affects us all personally, and we must be accountable to the citizens and businesses.

The original cost projections for wastewater service started the monthly fee at \$85 and showed the need to increase that an additional \$5 per month every year for several years. If that held true, our wastewater fee alone would be about \$115 per month!

Fortunately, that did not occur. Through the hard work of our staff, and assistance with grants and loan relief programs, the City has been able to stay close to the original fee.

from previous page - Mayor's Corner

I think the City of Coburg has made some good decisions with some tough issues regarding our utility billings. We have committed to assuring the revenue from monthly fees pays for the service provided. Not just current operations, but also future needs.

We are currently in the middle of a \$3 million upgrade to our old water system. Our goal from the beginning is to not have to come back to the citizens and businesses and ask for money to do these desperately needed upgrades. They have been planned for years, and we are in good standing financially to implement our plan and finish these projects.

Keep in mind, that Coburg businesses pay a significant amount in Coburg utilities. Some businesses pay thousands of dollars per month! The City uses nationally based standards as we try to provide fair billing for the use of our utilities.

While there is no guarantee that fees will not change, the City has worked very hard to provide full accountability and set solid fiscal planning policies to prevent surprises. So many things affect our fees: inflation, interest rates, personnel costs, state and federal regulations, and always something unexpected. Our staff works hard to find every possible savings. We continue to look for grants and work to lower costs that can keep our fees stable. Over the last few years the City has refinanced our debts, received loan relief and grants that have saved us over \$2 million.

The annual review of our utility billing is one of the City Council's most important actions. Water and wastewater services are critical elements of public health and safety. We tend to take these services for granted until they are not available and seriously interrupt our lives. Our goal is to maintain a high

standard of health and safety as efficiently as possible, without causing disruption to the homes and businesses of Coburg. A

lot of work goes into providing these services, and I'm proud of the staff and our elected officials for the work they have done to provide stability in these basic services.

An additional note, as the City seeks to tackle the street repairs needed to local streets we must consider a street utility fee that addresses the costs of the street repairs. The Council are taking this decision with as much concern as we do any other changes in utility fees. More information on the anticipated Transportation Utility Fee may be found on page four of this newsletter.




Mayor Ray Smith, City of Coburg

541-729-7045, mayor@ci.coburg.or.us



***Our Town** is a publication of the City of Coburg. If you'd like to be added to our newsletter mailing list, email Megan Winner (megan.winner@ci.coburg.or.us.)*

Calendar



STANDING MEETINGS

2nd Mondays

CCCS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

6:00 pm

4th Mondays

COBURG FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

7:00 pm, Fire Hall

2nd Tuesdays

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 pm, Coburg

Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder

541-682-7852

3rd Tuesdays

PARKS/TREE COMMITTEE

6:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Brian Harmon, Public Works Director

541-682-7857

4th Tuesdays (or as scheduled)

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

6:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder

541-682-7852

2nd Wednesdays

GRANGE MEETING

7:00 pm, Coburg Community Grange

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

6:00 pm

Contact, Megan Winner

541-682-7862

3rd Wednesdays

PLANNING COMMISSION

7:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Megan Winner

541-682-7862

3rd Wednesdays

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Noon, City Hall

1st Thursdays

METROPOLITAN POLICY

COMMITTEE

11:30 am (usually at the Eugene or
Springfield library)

Contact, City Administrator

541-682-7871

2nd Thursdays

SEW 'N SEWS QUILTING GROUP

6:30 pm, Coburg Community Grange

1st Fridays

POKER NIGHT

6:30 pm Registration, 7:00 pm game begins

Coburg Community Grange

541-746-8655

3rd Saturdays

ODDFELLOW MEETING

11:00 am, I.O.O.F Hall

Do you have a community event to share?

Call 541-682-7850

or email megan.winner@ci.coburg.or.us



Our Town

*A Publication of
The City of Coburg*



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coburgoregon.org*

Address Correction Requested

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Questions About City Happenings?



We work for you! The City wants you to get the information you need and care about. Currently, Our Town, the Coburg website coburgoregon.org, the 'City of Coburg, Oregon' Facebook page, 'Coburg Police Department' Facebook page, monthly utility bills, the Post Office (Dari-Market), and City Hall are all places to get information about what is happening in and around Coburg. Council and committee meetings are also great resources.

What do you want to hear about? How do you like to get information? Let us know.

- Coburg City Staff