

COMMUNITY

# Stanfield preparing for Main Street redesign

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

As the date nears for submitting an application for grant funding through the Oregon Department of Transportation, Stanfield city officials have many decisions to make about how to approach their Main Street redesign.

Stanfield City Manager Blair Larsen talked briefly with Stanfield City Council members Tuesday night during their regular meeting about his goals this year with the project and how he wants to specifically handle the redesign of Highway 395, which doubles as the city's Main Street.

"I told you before I met with (Oregon Department of Transportation) on the potential for getting funding to make improvements to our Main Street," he told city council members. "Applications for that round of funding are going to be open soon. From now until the spring, I'll be working on that."

During a Main Street revitalization planning process with ODOT last year, officials presented the city with options for possibly incorporating medians, curb bulb-outs and other improvements to liven up the city's Main Street.

Larsen said the council members should start thinking about whether they want to apply for funding to support some conceptual drawings for the project now, or if they want to wait to see if they can get some funding for that portion of the project when they go to

## Getting sworn in



Stanfield Municipal Court Judge Rose Emerson swears in Councilman Jack Huxoll, from left, newly elected Councilman Delwin Manley and Councilman Jason Sperr Tuesday night during the Stanfield City Council's regular meeting.

MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

apply for funding for the overall project.

Larsen said they could wait and see if they could secure funding for the conceptual drawings, but then their application would appear lackluster compared with those of other cities applying for funding.

"The problem being (is) that then our application isn't as attractive as other cities' applications," he said. "You need to put some pretty wrap-

ping on it to get it noticed before you can get the funding."

Larsen said he has spoken with a gentleman who runs an architectural firm, who would be able to draw up three different variations of a plan and drawings for about \$2,500 to \$3,000. He said the firm has done some work for La Grande, Baker City and a couple of other cities in Oregon.

Larsen said he is currently reviewing the

city's budget to see if there is funding to pay for those plans. He said he will probably have some information to present to the council at its Jan. 20 meeting.

"I think it would be a wise investment to see if we can afford to get something like this done," he said.

Larsen said after the city gets the variations of the drawings, it can have meetings to get public feedback on the pro-

posed ideas, which is an ODOT request. He said ODOT wants to make sure the community is on board before it pursues any large redesign of the city's Main Street.

"In particular, they pointed out that in Umatilla, they did a bunch of improvements on their Main Street, putting in medians and different improvements that way," he said. "They found that after they put all the work in, and they put all

the expense into doing it, they then had complaints from the public about the medians and requests to rip them out. They want to avoid that as much as possible to make sure that what we are putting in are things that the public will actually support."

The city's Main Street Revitalization Committee will next meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Stanfield Public Library. The public is welcome to attend.

# Trott returns as Umatilla mayor, encouraging changes

## Plans to focus initially on neighborhoods, Code Improvement

BY SEAN HART  
HERMISTON HERALD

Former Umatilla Mayor Dave Trott returned to the position again this year and said he plans to encourage a few changes.

At the first Umatilla City Council meeting of the year Tuesday, Trott and three council members took the oath of office. Mary Dedrick and Melvin Ray were reelected in November, and former Umatilla Planning Commission member David Lougee was elected to

the council.

One change was already evident during Trott's first meeting. He presided over the proceedings using highly ordered parliamentary procedure.

"We're going to operate a little bit differently in terms of our meeting decorum," he said. "We are going to try and be a little more parliamentary in what we're doing in terms of the conduct of the meetings."

Trott said he plans to present ideas he believes the council should focus on in the future.

"We talk a lot about Umatilla as a community," he said. "I know there is a lot of energy and the like in terms of downtown beautification. That's always seemed to have been something we've talked about,

but we must not forget that the building blocks for the community are really the neighborhoods, and if we don't have a strong sense of neighborhood and a strong infrastructure, then we're not going to succeed, in my opinion, as a city."

Trott said he also plans to bring "some specific energy" to the Code Improvement Board.

"I'd like to see some revitalization, maybe some restructuring, and I'll have some recommendations there," he said about the board. "I know that when we hired our code enforcement officer, I don't think we hired her to be an animal-control person in the manner in which she has ended up over the years, and I think that subtracts considerably from her hav-

ing the opportunity to do some other types of code enforcement."

Trott also recommended applicants to the council to fill committee vacancies, and the council accepted all of his recommendations and appointed members to five committees: Magdalena Bombela, Code Improvement Board; Arnell Eynon, Christine Harding and Judy Simmons, Library Board; Heidi Sipe and Lyle Smith, Planning Commission; Arnell Eynon, Dave Meade and Hasmukh Mistry, Transient Room Tax Committee; and Valerie Garstad, Budget Committee.

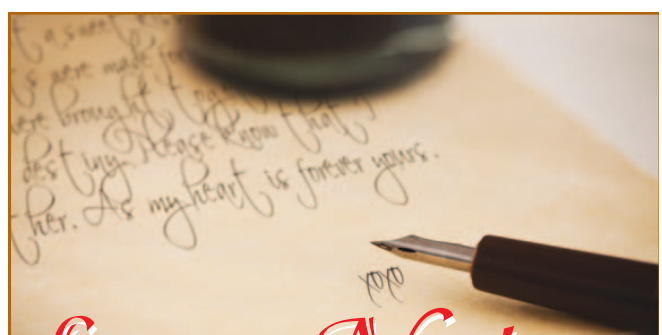
Lougee said he would miss the Planning Commission, which was "a good group ... doing good work," but he was looking

forward to the "new and exciting challenge" of the City Council.

Dedrick said she believed 2015 was going to be a "good year for all of us."

"If we work together, things can improve in Umatilla, but we all have to work together and get

over our frustration with others," she said. "There's a lot of positive things happening in Umatilla, and a lot of us only look at the negatives, and when we do that, it kind of puts people off and they shut down. Umatilla is a great town to live in. That's my personal belief."



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