



# THE FLASH City of Talent

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works and Police Departments

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## From the Mayor's Office

"So, how do I get on the Agenda or at least bring something before City Council?" is a question I am frequently asked. I think it may be helpful to discuss how our City Government is outlined in the Talent City Charter



before responding to this question. In its basic form, our City Government is quite simple. The City Council makes policy through ordinances, resolutions, etc., and the City Manager carries out the operations of the City within the scope of these policies. I know this is quite a broad definition, but understanding this organization may help you direct your questions or concerns to the right individual. Questions or concerns regarding policy should be directed to Council; questions regarding City operation should be directed to the City Manager (541-535-1566).

The simplest way to address the City Council is to just show up at a Council meeting and address the Council during the "Citizens heard on non-agenda items" portion of the meeting. Each person has five minutes to address the Council on most any subject that is not an agenda item. Because the item presented during this portion of the meeting is not an agenda item, the Council cannot take any action, but could decide to put it on a future agenda. Except for emergencies, the City Council does not make decisions that affect the City unless it is an agenda item.

So, this brings up the question "how do I get on the City Council Agenda?" Because the majority of the items placed before the City Council are operations oriented, the City Manager is tasked with developing the City Council Agenda. Either the Mayor or the City Manager can place items on the agenda. City Councilors can also request that an item be placed on the agenda through consensus of the council. So if you are looking to get on the City Council agenda contact me (the Mayor), the City Manager, or one of the City Councilors to champion your cause. I recommend you do this in writing to insure there is no misunderstanding as to the scope of your request or concern.

**Bill Cecil, Mayor**  
541-535-1566

[mayor@cityoftalent.org](mailto:mayor@cityoftalent.org)

News from the Community Development Department

## Submit Building Permits Online

The City of Talent has joined the State of Oregon's full-service e-permitting program. Beginning January 2, 2014 you will be able to apply for

permits, check the status of your permits, and schedule inspections online by going to [www.oregon-epermitting.info](http://www.oregon-epermitting.info).

Licensed contractors can access many City of Talent permitting services anytime online. The full-service e-permitting program includes:

- Purchasing a full range of permits that do not require plan review
- Track permit progress
- Print permits
- Receive correction notices
- Receive a Certificate of Occupancy

Scheduling an inspection couldn't be easier! By submitting your permits online you will be able to schedule an inspection either by phone or via the e-permitting website.

Talent is one of many jurisdictions statewide to use this program. Other pioneering cities include Springfield, Cottage Grove, Lebanon, Jefferson County, Milwaukie, West Linn, Lincoln City, Florence and Junction City. The program is administered by the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division. The program has the capacity to serve all 134 local building departments in Oregon.

The e-permitting system was developed using software from Accela, Inc., which facilitates shared services approaches for state and local governments.

The City of Talent is striving to make more services accessible online 24/7. Such services limit the need for contractors, developers and citizens to make a trip to City Hall during the hours we are open, providing more flexibility to the community. Residents or contractors without online access will still be able to use the system by submitting permits directly to Community Development during normal permit hours. Permits can be submitted in the office Monday – Friday from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

- 24/7 services include:
- ONLINE e-Permitting
  - Apply for Permits ONLINE
  - Schedule Inspections ONLINE
  - Check the status of your permit ONLINE
  - Search for permits ONLINE

## 'Firelines' The Chief's Report

### Apparatus and Equipment Update

The fire district's Apparatus and Equipment Bond Measure was narrowly defeated at the November 2012 General Election. As a result, the Board of Directors, Budget Committee and Staff have continued to review and develop options in order to update an aging fleet. Options included reducing the amount of the bond and resubmitting to voters, resubmitting original measure to voters, utilizing lease purchase borrowing programs and applying for local, state, and federal equipment grants.

At the May 2013 Budget Hearing/Board Meeting, the Directors made the decision to authorize a 15-year lease purchase for the acquisition of two new fire engines. This March, the district will receive two new engines and replace two 1980 fire engines. The new 2014 Pierce Saber Engines are equipped with 1250 gpm pumps and 1,000 gallon water tanks specifically designed to operate in both urban and rural environment. The cost of the new engines total \$755,559.

**Budget Planning FY 2014-2015**

The first Budget Committee Meeting will be held March 17, 2014, 7pm, at our headquarters Fire Station 1, 5811 South Pacific Highway. The Budget Committee is comprised of five Board of Directors and an equal number of citizens at large. The citizens are appointed by the governing body and serve terms of three years. Budgeting in Oregon is a joint effort between the people affected and the appointed and elected officials responsible for providing service. So, please feel free to attend and provide input. The budget is driven by our mission "to provide customer-centered fire and emergency medical services that save lives and property" and it also supports our vision "to consistently provide outstanding service that exceeds our customers' expectations".

The budget supports 28 career firefighters and 35 volunteer firefighters responding to over 2,300 calls for service each year and protecting over 115 square miles in the unincorporated areas of Phoenix, Talent, Ashland, as well as the cities of Talent and Phoenix. The district also provides automatic aid to the cities of Medford and Ashland and mutual aid to fire agencies throughout Jackson and Josephine counties on a request basis.

## "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery"

And finally a quick heads up. The National Fire Prevention slogan "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" (March 9<sup>th</sup>, daylight savings time) may not apply to all residents who have purchased smoke alarms. For example, ionization only smoke alarms that are solely battery powered come with a hush feature and a 10 year battery. We want to remind everyone to make sure you have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home, in each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.

Remember at Fire District # 5 "We Still Make House Calls".

Dan Marshall, Fire Chief

## News From Talent PD By Chief Mike Moran

Daylight Savings time will be here very soon and the official first day of Spring. Expect to see an increase in the number of pedestrians and bicycles on the roadways.

We continue to receive complaints from residential streets near schools and quiet side streets about speeding cars. Please slow down not only around schools but also in all residential areas. We often find the speeders are the residents of that very area.

Another continuing serious traffic issue is the threat of distracted drivers. Most distracted drivers are those illegally using a cell phone while driving.

The fines for that violation have increased but it seems the violators are more in number instead of less. Talent PD will be focusing on traffic enforcement via the use of some grant money and will target cell phone violations. Those who are stopped for illegal cell phone use while driving should expect a citation.

One other sign of Spring is Yard Sale signs. Please don't post them on public right of ways on poles or street signs. A good rule of thumb regarding posting signs of any sort is, if it is not your property don't post it.

Talent PD officers Moulin, Carnighan

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and Lorenz worked on a case involving a potentially violent person who was a suspect in three crimes involving violence or threatened violence. They put together an investigation that led to a search warrant, and arrest of the suspect. Their excellent police work made our city safer.

If you ever do need police assistance, the number to call is 911 for emergency immediate response calls. For all other police response to non-emergency situations call 541-776-7206 and you will get to our dispatch center who will send the appropriate agency. Please call dispatch as our office is not a 24/7 office. Our officers are on duty 24/7 but at night and weekends we rely on Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon dispatch to help you contact us.

## WANTED- COMMITTEE & COMMISSIONER MEMBERS!

### Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission Openings

Currently the Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission has an opening for a Talent Resident! The Commission meets as needed every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday every other month during the day. If interested you can get an application at City Hall or the City website: [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org)

### Budget Committee

Currently there are 3 openings for the Budget Committee. Members serve 3 year terms and meet primarily in April and May each year.

### Planning Commission

There is currently Alternate Planning Commission vacancies. The Commission meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday.

### Parks and Recreation Commission

There is currently 1 vacancy for a Parks Commissioner and 2 vacancies for alternates. The Commission meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month.

### Together For Talent Committee

Interested in becoming a **Talenteer**? This is a great Committee to be involved in if you have a passion for trees, trails, forums and want to help make Talent a better place.

### Talent Public Arts Committee

Interested in bringing more beauty into Talent with art? This would be a great place to start! The Committee is currently looking for more members.

For more information for any of these vacancies please contact Me-

lissa Huhtala at City Hall: 541-535-1566 or email: [Melissa@cityoftalent.org](mailto:Melissa@cityoftalent.org). You can stop by City Hall for an application or find one online at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org)

### Together for Talent Honors Bill Cole

This month T4T initiates a program to recognize people of Talent who go out of their way to help others. If you know someone who helps without asking, just giving of themselves, please contact Charles Roome at: [charlesroome@gmail.com](mailto:charlesroome@gmail.com)

We start by shining a light on William Edward (Bill) Cole. For 16 years Bill has watched out for his neighbors at Patio Village, always ready to help. "He'll know if you need something," one says. "If he can't find it he'll find someone who can." For years he's set up community potlucks, bingo nights and yard sales and helped at a local food pantry. Health permitting, you'll still find him planting a shared garden, clearing leaves, or salting sidewalks for neighbors. Or he's rescuing usable discards to pass on, or garden tools to repair and lend out. Kindhearted, involved, with a friendly word for all, Bill Cole makes life easier and more joyous for everyone around him.

Thank you Bill!

### TREES WANTED

The Community Tree Nursery would like your extra tree seedlings or saplings. Just pot them and call Kelly Lamb at (541) 944-8509. Ask her about extra pots if you need them. Once the seedlings have grown a bit, they are given away to the residents of the community. If you're interested in helping out at the nursery call Sharon Anderson at (541) 535-9055. .

### T4T coming events:

Work Party at Talent Tree Nursery – Saturday, March 8th at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine!

Help lay cardboard and top mulch expansion area, reorganize and cull existing trees and plant decorative grasses. Bring gloves, tools and any spare cardboard. Kelly Lamb (541) 944-8509

### Talent Trails Meeting:

March 16th, 1:00 pm at Talent Library. Walking and hiking around Talent, from improved sidewalks and crossings and safer roadside walking, to access paths and connections, recreational trails at Chuck Roberts and other parks to hiking trails out of town, we'll look at what's wanted, what's possible and what we can do. Elizabeth Zwick, (541) 499-2264.

### Arbor Day is Coming In April

Get ready to celebrate Arbor Day in Talent on April 19th at Lynn Newbry Park with a Tree City presentation, a special tree planting, children's activities and more. Watch for details in the April Flash.

### Green Up & Clean Up in May

Plans are in the works for a week's worth of activities from May 10th to May 17th to green up and clean up the community ranging from recycling options to work parties that will clean up designated areas around town. If you have suggestions or are interested in helping, call Sharon Anderson at (541) 535-9055.

### Utility Billing News

Just a reminder to all Utility customers, your Utility bill is now a full sheet (8 ½ x 11) bill. Make sure you look for an envelope instead of the postcard. Please be sure to get your bill paid by the due date. A \$10.00 late fee will be assessed to accounts with outstanding balances after the due date. If you are unable to make your payment by the due date, contact the Utility Billing Clerk @ 541-535-

1566 for payment plan options. Utility customers have the following service options available for paying their monthly utility bill:

- Monthly AutoPay option- Forms available at Talent City Hall
- Online Payment option- [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org) click of GovTeller link
- Credit Card over the Phone Payment 541-535-1566
- Counter Payment at City Hall 110 E. Main St Talent
- Post Office Box 445 Talent, OR 97540
- Drop Box at City Hall 110 E. Main St Talent
- Drop Box at Medicap Pharmacy 205 N Pacific Hwy Talent

We hope these options make it easier for you to pay your utility bill each month. If you have questions, please call Utility Billing at 541-535-1566

### Minimize Community Wildfire Risks

Fire season is here, and it is time to enforce the City's Weed Abatement Ordinance to minimize fire hazards. In the spring and summer, the City enforces the Obnoxious Vegetation Ordinance (#716) as a preventative measure against fire hazards and to keep weeds from spreading. The Talent Municipal Code prohibits the growth of any obnoxious weed or high grasses over 10 inches on property located in the City.

#### What is considered Obnoxious Vegetation?

Obnoxious vegetation includes items such as Poison Oak, Poison Ivy, or blackberry bushes that extend into a public thoroughfare or across a property line. It also includes weeds or grass that has grown to more than 10 inches high and grass that is going to seed and vegetation that impairs the view of a public thoroughfare or makes a thoroughfare hazardous or dangerous. Obnoxious vegetation does not include agriculture crop unless it becomes a health, traffic, or fire hazard.

#### Who is responsible to remove Obnoxious Vegetation?

It is the duty of an owner or person in charge of property to cut down or to destroy obnoxious vegetation.

#### To make a complaint:

To make a complaint about a property within the City limits of Talent, please visit the City's website at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org) and download the Weed Abatement Complaint Form. Please provide detailed information including the address you are reporting and what you have observed. Be sure to include your name and number so we can call you back if we need more clarification about your complaint.

#### How the abatement process works:

After our staff has observed a violation of either tall grass or obnoxious vegetation we will immediately notify the property owner via letter. They will then have ten days to remove the obnoxious vegetation.

#### What if they don't respond to the first letter?

If they do not respond to the first notification letter, City staff will post a sign on the offending property and mail a certified letter via the U.S. Postal Service notifying the property owner that they must abate the obnoxious vegetation within seven days. If after the seven day waiting period, there has been no action, the City will hire a licensed contractor to bring the property under compliance. The property owner will be charged for the work at the per/hour rate of the contractor hired to remedy the violation.

#### For more information?

For other questions or concerns please call the City's Code Enforcement Officer at 541-535-7401, leave a detailed message with contact information your call will be returned.