

Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

August 2024

Hello Selah Community! Here are the highlights from August for the City of Selah.

I and City Administrator, Rich Huebner, started the month by attending a two-day budget training session in Wenatchee put on by the AWC and MRSC to get the basic needs for establishing a good City budget. We both gained valuable insights not only from the training sessions; but also, from interaction with other Cities' staff.

On August 4th, we participated in the National Night Out at Wixson Park where we both took a turn in the dunk tank. We were out paced by Police Chief Dustin Soptich and Detective Ryan Maybee whom were dressed as some type of super heroes and were the stars of the show. (I think they were just trying to keep warm in the cold water). A huge shout out goes to all law enforcement, fire department, the training center, vendors and car enthusiasts that made this such a special event. The fire department did claim that they once again had to bail out the PD by providing medical assistance to Missy Maki. The City's new Community Outreach Specialist, Michelle Damron, was on hand all evening meeting and greeting the attendees. It was a great evening for all.

The 4th was also election night and the voters passed by 62.5% the Bruce Buchannan Memorial Aquatics Center Maintenance and Operations Levy. This allows them to operate the pool for the next 6 years. THANK YOU, SELAH VOTERS.

At the first Council Meeting, Dustin Soptich was named permanent Police Chief with a promotion and pinning ceremony. He is already displaying a strong leadership skill set and I am confident he will transition the police department to the next level.

The Council also awarded a contract to Northwest Striping and Sealing to do the 2024 Crack Seal Project. They also held the public hearing for the Selah Transit Development Plan for 2024-2029 and set the public hearing for the Southern Hill Annexation for the next meeting.

The SAFE group presented the final mural design and it was approved. They have begun the painting on the retaining wall on N 1st Street near the High School. It should be completed over the next few weeks and will become one of the largest murals in the state.

At this meeting, it was announced that Community Development and Planning Manager, Jeff Peters, has resigned effective the end of the month. He is making a career move to work for a private engineering firm. His expertise will be missed and staff indicated they would bring a transitional plan back to the Council.

At the second Council Meeting, a staff report was given indicating the transition plan was to utilize HLA Planning Division to work with the City until a permanent plan was put in place to fill Jeff Peters; position.

The Council approved the Selah Transit Development Plan 2024-2029. They also conducted the Southern Hill Annexation Hearing and approved sending it forward to the Yakima County Boundary Review Board.

The Wixson Park Pathway project was assigned to Capture Energy and will be completed in October. This will provide paved pathways to the features of the park. It will require closure of the park during construction; but when finished will offer equitable access to everyone in the community with mobility challenges. This will require some temporary closures during the construction phase.

The second Council Meeting saw the promotion of Mick Gause from Police Sergeant to Police Lieutenant with a promotion and pinning ceremony. This fills the senior leadership team for the Selah Police Department. We will be moving ahead with filling his Sergeant position in the next few weeks.

I presented a Selah Community Pride Award to Adam Smith for his hard work in bringing our community to the residents through his publishing and distributing the Selah Journal as our local monthly newspaper. His articles continually keep the community engaged in the life of the City. If you don't know Adam, get in touch with him, as he is always looking for news worthy material. You might want to even run an ad in the paper. He has very reasonable pricing.

Looking forward, there is lots of opportunity to participate and enjoy Selah. You can play bingo the 3rd Thursday each month at Civic Center; Chamber meetings the 4th Wednesday each month; Spirit Week October 7th thru 11th; Wine Dine and Beyond October 12th; Halloween Downtown Businesses October 31st; and this is just a sampling of the fun that awaits for all.

That's all folks for this month.

If you wish to be added or removed from the Mayor's Monthly email please send a message to michelle.damron@selahwa.gov

Roger Bell, Selah Mayor