

State of the City Address: Mayor Mike Cassinelli

March 2016

City Council members, fellow residents, business owners and guests thank you for joining me tonight.

During the course of the last couple years the Council and I have really focused on infrastructure upgrades, water plant improvements and street maintenance.

In 2015, the city implemented a new utility billing service upgrade:

- Customers can now chose the option of going “paperless” and just receive their bill via email.
- Payment options are extended to process credit cards online and set up a reoccurring charge, customers can also chose to pay via ACH pull with same day debit.
- Invoice Cloud gives customers the flexibility and accessibility that was lacking with the old credit card payment system at no extra charge to the customer.
- The city has received positive feedback from customers and has about 30 customers who utilize the paperless system.

Ilwaco Parks and Recreation Commission:

- In 2014 the Parks and Recreation Commission revised the Trails Plan, which includes multiple improvements over the years.
- One of these improvements is to transform City Park, which the City received a 50% match grant for. This project will begin in early 2016 and hopefully be completed sometime this year.
- The Parks and Recreation in conjunction with city staff continue to host the annual Black Lake Fishing Derby.
- Worked with staff to manage a six-year \$75,000 grant awarded by Department of Ecology to remove invasive weeds on Black Lake.
- Continued maintenance and work on the Black Lake Trails to clear new/improved trails.

These projects will help attract visitors and expand recreational opportunities within the city. The commission continues to improve the city’s recreational areas, promote tourism and seek grant money for future projects.

In 2015, the Ilwaco Fire Department made several upgrades to ensure the health and safety of citizens and visitors:

- Through donations, the association is working to complete the upstairs of the Fire Hall, which will provide for potential living quarters for volunteers.
- The department continues to work on policies and guidelines to ensure the safety of the volunteers and citizens of Ilwaco.
- The department is currently preparing the 1988 Peirce truck given to the fire dept. by the Department of Natural Resources for service.
- Calls for 2015: Fire – 41 EMS – 219 Rescues – 4
- Total community service hours - 1092

The fire department members attend the annual American Legion Safety Awards annually, and continue to show support to this very worthy organization.

In the future, the department will continue efforts to recruit volunteers, and I encourage you to get involved.

Maintaining city roads and sidewalks and improving storm drainage still seem to be areas of concern among citizens, city staff remains diligent on applying for grant funding to improve these areas.

Street and sidewalk improvements throughout the last couple years:

- During 2014 Elizabeth Avenue was reconstructed, along with a new water line between the Port and the City mains. This project improved drainage, vehicle access and pedestrian safety to the Port of Ilwaco and was funded through a grant provided by the Transportation Improvement Board.
- Various sidewalks throughout the city were also replaced as a part of the TIB grant.
- TIB applications are typically submitted annually, the city continues to apply in hopes of reconstructing other portions of streets and sidewalks.

Storm water Improvements:

During 2015 the city crew repaired and installed an improved storm water system at Lakeview Estates. This issue was something that the citizens of Lakeview repeatedly requested. During a recent rain storm where 4” of rain accumulated, the system worked as designed.

Annually the council reviews and updates the streets plan. In the future, I encourage all of you to participate as the council prioritizes these projects for future funding.

Planning for the future:

- In 2015 the city completed the amendment to the Water Source Protection document. To ensure the safety of the city's watershed for the future potential purchase of land and/or timber rights.
- The city also completed a revised comprehensive plan to be compliant with the Growth Management Act.
- During the last couple years, the City has been working on the revision of the Shoreline Master Program document. The Watershed Company has been contracted to complete this living document and the final draft will be before Council in mid-2016.

The city is also committed to ensure water quality through bi-monthly discussions with the Department of Health to prioritize **improvements to the water system**, while utilizing existing resources to their full potential. Several projects that received funding in 2013 were completed in 2014/2015:

- The 160,000 gallon reservoir was constructed near the water treatment plant, the backwash basin at the plant was upgraded and expanded, and a new 500,000 gallon reservoir was constructed near the current city center reservoir site. **These projects, were funded by 1-1/2 percent low-interest loans with a 30 percent loan forgiveness, these improvements increase the capacity of the city's water system, replaced an outdated old wooden reservoir, and upgraded and expanded the city's backwash basin to increase capacity and improve filtering.**
- Logging road culverts in the city's watershed were repaired. **This project was 100% federally funded and repaired three large deteriorating culverts.**
- Two water filter units original to the plant were replaced in late 2015, and a new up flow clarifier unit was installed at the Water Treatment Plant. **This \$1,020,000 majority grant-funded project now provides a fully-functioning automatic water treatment system.**
- The city continues to update the cross-connection program. **This program is vital to ensure the safety of the city's water distribution system.**
- This year, the city has budgeted funds to paint the steel reservoir, **which will address the concerns of neighbors in the area.**

During the past year, the council approved a low-interest loan through DOE, which will provide much needed infrastructure upgrades to the Sahalee sewer system in 2016 and 2017. This will hopefully be in conjunction with a low-interest loan through the state revolving fund to improve the water infrastructure at the same time.

Low-interest loans were also secured for several sewer improvement projects.

- Replacement of the First Avenue North sewer line was completed in early 2014. **The project replaced badly deteriorated 50 plus year old sewer lines.**
- In preparation for the Sahalee sewer improvements pre-design was completed in 2013 provide planning, environmental assessments and public participation. **This project will begin the construction phase in 2016.**
- In conjunction with the Sahalee sewer project, new sewer mains were designed for Nesadi to relocate failing lines. **This project will reduce the annual costs of continual replacement or repair of broken pipes in the area.**

In the future, the city will continue to work with the Department of Health, Department of Ecology and others to ensure our water quality and improve our water and sewer systems.

As I conclude this look back at the progress that has been made and plans for the future, we see many new upcoming projects. As these projects, plans and events move forward, I encourage you to participate and get involved. In addition, your patience and understanding will also be needed as we experience road construction, traffic reroutes and other impacts. However, with these changes we can all look forward to long-term improvements to our utility services, parks, streets, sidewalks, storm drains and more, which will provide for our current residents and attract new residents in the future.

Sincerely,

Mike Cassinelli, Mayor of Ilwaco Washington