

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

June 26, 2002

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.
Vol. 5 No. 6

GET INVOLVED IN CITY GOVERNMENT

Registered voters in the City of Talent are invited to get involved in how their government operates. In addition to the Mayor's position, there are four open positions on City Council that will be decided at the November election. In order to have your name placed on the ballot, you are required to file for a nonpartisan nomination and circulate a petition to obtain at least 17 signatures from registered voters who reside in Talent.

To obtain more information about the duties and responsibilities of the positions and what is involved in becoming a candidate, please contact Betty Wheeler, City Administrator/Recorder, at 535-1566, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Petitions have to be filed no later than August 27, 2002 so it is not too early to be making a decision to get involved. Other than being a registered City voter the only other requirements for becoming a candidate are care and concern about the future of the community.

City Council Vacancy

The City of Talent is now accepting applications to fill a vacant City Councilor position. The term of office will begin at the time of appointment and expire on December 31, 2002. Applicants must be registered voters within Talent city limits. The monthly compensation for a City Councilor position is \$125.00. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, 204 E. Main Street, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Monday through Friday), or on our website.

Completed applications are due to Talent City Hall by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16th. Applicants will be interviewed by the City Council on Wednesday, July 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Weed Abatement

The City's weed abatement ordinance (Ordinance No. 716) is now in effect, and will remain in effect until the end of fire season. The ordinance prohibits the uncontrolled growth of grass, weeds, or other vegetation. Violators will receive a written notice allowing 10 days in which to comply with the ordinance. If, at the end of those 10 days the violation still exists, the City would abate the property and bill the property owner for costs related to abatement. The property owner would also be cited into court for noncompliance.

City Projects Update

Talent Avenue

From the Wagner Creek Bridge to Arnos Street, Talent Avenue will be upgraded to a city standard, similar to the portion completed near downtown.

The upgrade will include curbs, sidewalks, stormwater facilities, bike lanes, and bus shelters to improve accessibility and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and RVTD transit riders. Bids for qualified contractors will be released in September with construction tentatively starting in February 2003.

Main Street

The Urban Renewal Agency (URA) of the City of Talent is managing the rehabilitation of Main Street. Main Street is slated for new curbs, sidewalks, street trees, and stormwater improvements in 2002-2003. However, upgrades to the railroad crossing, as required by state law, have presented budgetary challenges. Railroad crossings are prohibitively expensive and require close coordination with Rail Tex and the ODOT Rail Division. An analysis of these costs associated with an upgraded crossing will be forthcoming. If you would like more information on the Main Street project, please contact Marla Cates, Executive Director of URA, at 535-7061.

Transportation Depot

The Talent Transportation Depot is slowly progressing. Phase III of the Talent Transportation Depot project has received \$177,000 in funding from state transportation funds and matching funds from RVTD. Construction is anticipated to begin by next spring. To be completed in this phase is a portion of the parking lot (to be used for both parking and for park-and-ride) as well as extensive landscaping, picket fence, walk-through arbor, and benches. Grants for the funding of Phase IV have been sought and the City should hear in

Planning Department News

Approved:

Site Plan Review of four manufactured units on four lots for individual lease, Applicant: Doug Vargas, 597 Rapp Road. The Planning Commission denied the application on April 25, 2002. Applicant appealed decision to the City Council on June 5, 2002. City Council reversed decision on June 19, 2002 and approved the application with conditions as recommended in the original staff report.

Applications Under Review: These applications are pending before the City Planner and/or the Planning Commission:

A pre-application conference was held with Gregg Adams to discuss the subdivision of 1737 Lithia Way. Applicant is proposing 20-lot subdivision with a street connection from Alpine Way to Summer Place and a new street connecting further north on Lithia Way. A public hearing before the Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled for July 25, 2002.

A pre-application conference was held with Craig Stone and Associates to discuss the development of a recently annexed light industrial property located off Rapp Road.

Fort Wagner Townhomes: George Cota Homes, LLC of Ashland is proposing to reduce an approved 18-unit condominium project at 226 Talent Avenue to 16 units of individual townhouses with a request for 34 parking spaces and a one-way private access drive. An existing house was renovated and partitioned from the subject property and will not be affected by the proposal. This project was originally approved in 1994 as condominiums and given multiple extensions to submit a final plat. The most recent extension was for six months from the end of the moratorium in January 2002.

Policies Under Review:

the next month the level of funding to be awarded.

Cop Talk

By Officer Shane Wilson

Now that summer is here, I'd like to take a moment to talk about *dogs*. In the past two weeks alone we have handled over ten complaints pertaining to dogs— dogs barking, dogs biting people, and dogs running at large.

I realize with the nice weather and increased outdoor activity (kids out of school) that dogs may get a little anxious being inside all day. However, when they are allowed to go out and play, they “must be confined by fence, leash, or obedience training” (Ordinance No. 718). They are also not allowed in City parks or on the WAGNER Creek Greenway.

ORS 609.095 is a state law that pertains to dogs as a public nuisance. If a dog bites, chases, menaces persons, or chases vehicles, owners can receive a fine of up to \$500 for a first offense. If the offense happens again, it would then be classified as a misdemeanor which can be punishable by a fine and time in jail. The law also speaks to dogs barking, trespassing, and damaging property for which an offense is punishable by a \$250 fine.

For your information as well: if we find a dog running at large, there is a good chance we will call animal control to pick it up and the owner may receive a fine. Bottom line, be a good owner—keep dogs on leashes or keep them in your yards.

If you have comments, please call me at 535-1253 ext. 380 or email wilsontpd@hotmail.com.

Talent Harvest Festival 2002

This year's festival will be held on Saturday, September 14th, in the downtown area of Talent. The day's festivities will start with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Talent Lion's Club. There will be a 5 & 10 km run or 1.1 mile walk starting at 8 a.m. A parade will follow at 10 a.m. and, afterwards, festival-goers will gather for entertainment in Talent's Library Park. Vendor, craft and food booths will line “I” Street and a skateboard/BMX exhibition will take place at the Downtown Park. It's a day of fun for the whole family so mark your calendars and plan to attend!

If you would like to be in the parade or are a vendor and would like a booth, please contact Allison at City Hall, 535-1566, or e-mail allison@cityoftalent.org.

The Architectural Review Committee and the Planning Commission have recommended adoption of the amended sign ordinance to the City Council. After a first reading on June 19, 2001, the City Council will consider adoption on July 3, 2002.

The Planning Commission is considering amendments to the Planned Unit Development Ordinance (Article 21 of the Talent Zoning Ordinance). A study session was held on June 27, 2002 to discuss potential changes.

The Planning Commission is considering the issue of how to acknowledge neighborhood associations. Article 27 allows neighborhood associations to be included in the land use application review process. A study session was held in June 27, 2002.