Draft 2018 Budget Priorities

Recap of Goals for 2017

City Administrator:

1. New Fire Hall:
   a. Prioritize land choices for a new fire hall and procure a suitable site.
   b. Develop a financing plan for construction of a new fire hall, including applying for grants. Select an architect (Qualifications Based Selection process) and start on final design.
2. Work with Public Works to review our water provision policies. Consider allowing water to be sold to residents outside of City limits.
3. Upgrade City Hall telephones and phone system.
4. Implement forest management practices as recommended in the 2015 forest management plan.
5. Improve nuisance enforcement activities. Work with the City Attorney to elevate cases to the next level of formal enforcement when necessary.
7. Explore adding a Health Care Reimbursement Account (HRA) option for City staff.
8. Work with the Public Works department to consider revising evening and weekend coverage schedules.
9. Analyze current water and sewer rates; consider rate increase.

Public Works:

1. Construction of the Kanaka Creek Road Improvements project
2. Complete the update to the general sewer plan
3. Complete the update to the water master plan
4. Continue safety program to avoid injuries to employees and damage to equipment & property
5. Acquire City operated well from Skamania County
6. Repaint internal equipment at waterplant
7. Maintain equipment at or above manufacturers recommendations
8. Maintain transportation system at level commensurate with public expectations and budget allowances
9. Continue Grease Trap enforcement and with additional visits to ensure compliance
10. Continue to contract with OMI for operations of Sewer Plant
11. Hire new full-time employee to assist Public Works with landscape maintenance and other semi-skilled tasks.
12. Work with developers to finally complete Phase 1 of Chinidere.

Planning:

1. Initiate and finalize a code update to add flexibility to the land division process, including allowing Planned Unit Developments. (CP 1.16-2, 2.2-4, 2.5-4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.7-1, 9.2-3)
2. Coordinate land division flexibility with the Public Works Department through a joint long-range transportation goals, designs, and standards. (CP 7.1)
3. Initiate a Zoning Code update to facilitate in-fill development (CP 2.13-1).
4. Continue ensuring development review processes are prompt, predictable, open, and uncomplicated (CP 2.14);
5. Continue providing opportunities for citizens to participate and express their views to City officials (CP 1.2);
6. Continue partnering with the Stevenson Business Association and the new Stevenson Downtown Association on downtown revitalization, especially evaluating different tax district options to fund revitalization (CP 4.11);
7. Initiate a Downtown Parking & Design program update (CP 4.1, 7.12);
8. Initiate and finalize state-mandated update to Critical Areas Ordinance.

**Draft Goals for 2018**

**General/Administration:**

1. *New Fire Hall:  Develop a financing plan for construction of a new fire hall, including applying for grants. Select an architect (Qualifications Based Selection process) and start on final design.
2. *Upgrade City Hall telephones and phone system
3. *Work with Public Works to review our water provision policies. Consider allowing water to be sold to residents outside of City limits.
4. *Explore adding a Health Care Reimbursement Account (HRA) option for City staff.
6. Create a Financial Policy (recognized need when filling out loan application)
7. Review Front Office staffing needs for possible reorganization with future retirements.
8. Hire additional front office staff in fall for crossover/training in anticipation of Deputy Clerk retirement.

**Public Works:**

1. *Continue safety program to avoid injuries to employees and damage to equipment & property
2. *Maintain equipment at or above manufacturers recommendations
3. *Maintain transportation system at level commensurate with public expectations and budget allowances
4. *Continue Grease Trap enforcement and with additional visits to ensure compliance
5. *Continue to contract with OMI for operations of Sewer Plant
6. Conduct inspection and replace roof at Base Reservoir
7. Grind and pave lower Russell Avenue and install new waterlines
8. Pressure Relief Valve installations
9. Telemetry Upgrade, initial fix for continued operations
10. Contract for Geotech assessment for I&I Repairs to wastewater collection system
11. Continue to make minor upgrades/process changes to WWTP to stay in compliance until new plant is constructed

**Planning:**

2. *Finalize state-mandated review and update to the Critical Areas Ordinance. (Anticipating $2-5k for new mapping)
3. Procure consultant support to prepare the City’s first Transportation Plan. (Anticipating $80-150k)
4. Evaluate whether to adopt locally-tailored buffers for marijuana businesses.
5. Initiate housing affordability planning.
6. FOR DEBATE: Develop a Safe Routes to Schools proposal to connect Del Ray Avenue between the Elementary School and Kanaka Creek Road.
7. FOR DEBATE: Initiate Local Improvement Districts and similar tools to provide and/or enhance public infrastructure in established residential areas (focusing on Del Ray Avenue, Lakeview Street and other streets with identified deficiencies).
8. FOR DEBATE: Coordinate with the Public Works Department to update regulatory requirements for septic systems within the sewer service area.

* Indicates items that are a continuation from 2017

**Future Goals-Next 5 Years**

**General/Administration:**

1. Construct new Fire Hall
3. Research tools for improved communication with public such as automatic notifications for Public Hearings, emergencies, various meetings, etc.
4. Server upgrade

**Public Works:**

1. Wastewater Plant will need to be upgraded to accommodate additional loadings
2. Decision will need to be made regarding upgrading the waterplant or drilling a well in the City watershed
3. Relocate City equipment service building when sewer plant upgrade takes over existing location, might require purchase of land.
4. Expand sewer service along Loop Road and Frank Johns Road (Upper”V”), combined with upgrading waterlines and possibly adding sidewalks.
5. Continue to seek grants and apply for funding of street and utility projects.
6. System wide telemetry upgrade
7. Remote read water meter feasibility
8. School St. Waterline upgrade

**Planning:**

1. **Urban Area Development:** Creating a deliberate and feasible growth strategy for this area is important as Stevenson prepares for the next wave of population and housing growth. The process should require 1) coordination with Skamania County through a possible subarea plan, 2) development of clear annexation policies, and 3) coordination with the Public Works Department to ensure municipal utilities are available to serve new growth in now-fringe areas.
2. **Addressing:** The City’s system of addressing is…unique. As the world becomes more integrated, our unique system becomes more and more visible and results in frustrations for emergency responders, the US Postal Service & other delivery services, and the average user of Google Maps. Skamania County is currently identifying the problems that exist in the way our
communities assign addresses and recommending pathways forward to ensure solve issues. As their effort moves forward the City may be asked to partner with them on solutions.

3. FOR DEBATE: **Septic/Sewer Issues**: The comprehensive plan encourages urbanization through expansion of the sewer system and discourages installation of new septic systems in areas that can be served by the expanded City sewer. This effort is frustrated by the City’s current lack of regulatory provisions, operational issues with the City sewage treatment plant, and funding for sewer system expansion. Implementing the Comprehensive Plan will require the coordination of the City’s various capital improvements, land use regulations, and financing programs. The Public Works Department’s completion of the General Sewer Plan in 2017 provides justification to coordinate these programs over the next few years.