



CITY OF JACKSONVILLE



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JACKSONVILLE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

Mayor

Paul Becker

Council

Brad Bennington

Criss Garcia

David Jesser

Jim Lewis

Ken Gregg

Steve Casaleggio

City Administrator

Jeff Alvis

City Hall

Monday-Friday

8:30 am-4:00 pm

Police

Office 541-899-7100

Dispatch 541-776-7206

Fire

Office 541-899-7246

Dispatch 541-776-7206

Jacksonville Fire Department firefighters and neighboring agencies had a great opportunity to do a number of training exercises Saturday at the home on W. California St. The home was beyond repair, so homeowners offered the structure up to Jacksonville Fire Department to do a Burn-to-Learn event. The benefit of these Burn to Learn events is that firefighters get the opportunity to train in realistic conditions. We get to train on a real house fire, but we can do it under controlled conditions. On

this Burn-to-Learn we were able to do several of what we call interior attacks, which is where we start a fire inside and let it build up and then knock it down. It's a great teaching method with so many new students, volunteers, and staff.

Firefighters train on fire attack and fire behavior, watching it grow from the outside and build up, and how it

heats up the gasses and the smoke. We were able to watch all that and conduct different methods of fire attacks and fire streams. About 57 personnel from 4 different agencies all participated in the training exercise Saturday. For seven of those volunteer firefighters it was their first experience with a home on fire and this type of training. This is the most realistic, valuable training that we can provide our personnel under a controlled environment. Thank you to our community for your patience, and allow us to provide this type of training.



Committee for Citizen Involvement

Applicants for the Committee for Citizen Involvement were interviewed at a Special City Council Meeting on February 22, 2018 and the following applicants were appointed to the CCI:

- Andrea Thompson
- Jason Reilly
- Jason Williams
- Linda Graham
- Martin Bishop
- Tom Pratum
- Whit Parker

Welcome to the Committee for Citizen Involvement!

On February 20th, the City Council received the final audit of the City's finances for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The good news: for our small size and limited resources, we are in decent shape. This was because of careful budgeting and limiting expenses to ensure availability of essential services, including police, fire and emergency.

The less good news: the costs of maintaining those services will continue to increase faster than our income. While our growth is modest, in keeping with the nature of our community, police services absorb most of our general tax revenue. The prudent budgeting that has sustained us dictates that we now consider alternative funding sources.

A February 8, 2018 *Wall Street Journal* article reported that cities across the nation are increasingly turning to fees to offset weak tax revenues. This was particularly true where, like Oregon, there are legal limits on raising property taxes. Consistent with our own experience, fees have successfully helped fund fire services and are now being considered to help with funding our police department.

The City's Budget Committee has recommended that the Council consider a \$20 per month surcharge on the water-utility bill for police services. It was felt that this approach more fairly spreads the cost of an essential service across the entire community service area. Further, it can be efficiently collected without County fees and subject to relief for hardship cases. Finally, deductibility of property taxes may not be an issue under the recent changes in federal tax law.

The Council will hold a Town Hall Meeting at Jacksonville Elementary School on Saturday, March 31st at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the proposal and hear from members of the community. Written comments may also be sent to Angela Watson, City Recorder, City of Jacksonville, P.O. Box 7, Jacksonville, OR 97530 or e-mail to recorder@jacksonvilleor.us.



Public Meeting Schedule	Date	Time	Place
City Council	Tuesday, March 6th	6:00pm	Old City Hall
HARC	Wednesday, March 7th	6:00 pm	Jacksonville Elementary School
Planning Commission	Wednesday, March 14th	6:00 pm	Old City Hall
City Council	Tuesday, March 20th	6:00 pm	Old City Hall
HARC	Wednesday, March 28th	6:00 pm	Old City Hall