

MAYOR'S REPORT MAY, 2017

“Economic Development creates the conditions for economic growth and improved quality of life by expanding the capacity of individuals, firms and communities to maximize the use of their talents and skills.”

This definition really emphasizes the attempt to accomplish a general improvement in living standards for all. The bottom line is jobs of all kinds. The City has been on this mission for the last 3 years and continues with the Assistant to the City Manager, Matthew Klebes, assisting Planning Director Steve Harris who also serves as our Economic Development Manager. They will work with City Manager and myself, as well as any new potential business opportunities and all existing businesses to gain new financial successes.

Now that the transportation system plan, the housing assessment and the parking studies have been completed and accepted by the city council, steps will be taken to implement them through the city's comprehensive plan.

First, the planning department will look again at the city's vision statement to see if it needs to be updated. Second, it will look for public input on each of the transportation, housing and parking issues. Finally, the vision statement review and the development of a new comprehensive plan will also invite opportunities for citizens, businesses and interested parties to have input.

The message here is that if you are concerned about growth in The Dalles, about improving the living standard for all citizens and improving the livability of our community, please look for opportunities to be involved in the above efforts.

The budget for 2017-18 has been approved. If you are curious, you can go on the city's web page and review the budget, the goals of city council and how it plans on implementing those plans. This is a good time to be an interested citizen in The Dalles. Make sure your voice is heard as we go through this process in the next year.