



City of Maupin Newsletter

By Frank Kay
February 2015

In last month's mailing, we all received a "new" water/sewer billing statement. This happened because the previous computer software program was "obsolete" and no longer technologically supported by the software company. The new program is more versatile and will fill our water/sewer billing needs for years to come. We will also have the ability to modify/improve/clarify statements that we did not have with the previous program. If you have any questions or comments, please share them with Candy Barnett, our Utility Billing Clerk. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all adjust to this billing format change.

In this month's mailing, you'll find an Internet Access Survey from the South Wasco Alliance (an economic & community development agency that represents Maupin, too). The survey data is important to build a case for better internet capacity in our area (to CenturyLink, Gorge Net, Google, whomever).

Thank you in advance for completing it by mid-February and returning it with your water/sewer bill to City Hall (in person or by mail). You can also fill out online at: gorgebroadband.org/survey.php. See the survey cover letter for a full explanation of this survey.

The City's ISO rating, used for calculating your homeowner's insurance rates, was recently up-graded for Maupin residences & businesses. Thanks to our volunteer Fire Department and City Staff for doing the work, training, and improvements to reduce our risk. You should see a modest reduction in your next annual homeowner's insurance bill.

Lastly, you'll notice a new feature as part of this monthly mailing. Each month will feature a more in-depth examination of a facet of our City (On the back of this letter). Hope you find it informative, interesting, annoying, provocative, amusing, etc.

<p>Phone Numbers & Email Addresses</p> <p>Mayor Frank Kay 541-395-2811 Office</p> <p>City Hall 541-395-2698 maupincity@centurytel.net</p> <p>Visit our City of Maupin Website @ www.cityofmaupin.org</p>	<p>Meeting Schedules</p> <p>Council Work Session @ the City Park Community Building 9:00 A.M. 2/7/15</p> <p>Council Meeting @ the City Park Community Building 6:30 pm 2/25/15</p>	<p>Public Meetings Law ORS192.640(2)</p> <p>Executive Sessions ORS192.640</p> <p>Notice of Meetings</p>	<p>Holiday Office Closures: Feb.16th - President's Day</p> <p>"We are a safe, progressive community that cares for all our citizens and visitors while protecting our natural resources and maintaining our rural heritage."</p>
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Did You Know....?

About a hundred years ago, some citizens just like you set up a City government for Maupin. They chose a fairly standard model for the times (1920's!): an elected six-member Council and a Mayor, then crafted a City Charter that outlines their duties, powers, and responsibilities.

The Charter is only a few pages long, but has profound consequences for how we govern ourselves and run the City. For example, here's what it says about the Mayor:

- a) Preside over deliberations of the Council
- b) Preserve order
- c) Enforce Council rules
- d) Determine the order of business under the rules

Sounds simple, doesn't it? In civics classes, this form of government is described as a "weak mayor system". The Mayor has limited powers and few duties and responsibilities. The Mayor is not compensated or paid for his/her services. There is no established "job description" or "skill set" for a Mayor.

Over the past hundred years, our City has gotten more complex, and the expectations of citizens are certainly different and more sophisticated. Back then, there were no employees, no water or sewer system, no paved roads, few regulations/ laws etc.

That is not the case today. The job of Mayor is just that- a "job". We expect the Mayor to do the four tasks described above in our Charter. But now, we expect (and need) the Mayor (or someone) to be the "Chief of Staff" directing, supervising and managing 8-10 city employees. These employees have widely different professional expertise- from accounting & financial management, to waste water treatment & equipment repair, to librarian & street maintenance. And all of them must have some formal training and some certifications. If you ask any manager of people, they will tell you that the manager's skills and time are significant in effectively directing the work of the organization. The consequences of mistakes or mismanagement can be huge, both financially and in the quality/ quantity of services the City provides.

We also expect the Mayor to "get things done," such as write grants, attract new businesses, field/respond to complaints, etc. We expect the Mayor to be a "cheer leader" for Maupin and its projects. And finally, we expect the Mayor to represent our City in numerous county and state agencies, committees, associations, etc.

In short, your Mayors now work "full-time" for you, marshalling all their best efforts and skills, for no compensation. And we choose her/him with no job description, no interview process, and no formal evaluation- instead we have an election every two years.

Is there a better way to conduct and manage the City's operations?