



City of Maupin Newsletter

By Mayor Lynn Ewing

July 1, 2020

We are operating in Phase Two of Oregon's Re-Opening Plan. We may be in Phase Two for a long time. We are dependent on Wasco County and the regional health department's COVID statistics for infection, hospitalization, etc. As **information** becomes available, it is being posted on the **City's Facebook page**. If you have Facebook, please pass the information on to your friends who do not. If you do not have Facebook, you may want to set up an account and "Like" the City of Maupin to keep up. <https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Maupin-Oregon-135772286912061>

Please comply with any COVID-19 requirements spelled out by any open business such as staying 6 feet apart, wearing a mask, and limiting the number of people, as well as your own time, in the business. Businesses must follow State Guidelines or they will be closed, so do your part to keep them open. A coronavirus infection of a single employee at a business could cause the business to close so that all employees can be isolated for 14-21 days. **Help them out and stay safe!** If you have any concerns about your own health, please call the business and ask for curbside or home delivery to avoid going out in public.

City Hall has a payment drop on the Grant Avenue side of the building. It can be used for City Utility, Wasco Electric, or Waste Connections payments if you want to save a stamp. You can also come inside to the office window or make an appointment to meet with the City Manager, City Recorder, or Mayor. The **Southern Wasco County Library** is also open, but you are asked to drop all books being returned into the book drop on the patio on the Kaiser Park side of the Civic Center. That way the books can be sanitized before being made available to the public.

Any **City Meetings** (Council or Planning Commission) that take place during this time will be held online using Zoom software (<https://zoom.us/>). Please call City Hall if you need help with this.

Maupin City Park is open to both tent and RV camping. If you have not checked out the park recently, stop in and see what is being done. The grounds are looking great and the buildings are being freshly painted and spruced up.

The **Life Raft Food Pantry**, with help from the **Columbia Gorge Food Bank** now has a permanent location on the 5th Street side of the building where the fly shop is located downtown at 401 5th Street. They are open every Thursday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Watch the South Wasco Happenings page on Facebook for details.

The City had some great applicants for the **City Recorder** position. DeOra Patton, who has held the position as long as most of us remember, has decided to retire this summer. She has offered to assist a new person in getting up to speed on helping to run our city. City Manager Kevin Lewis should have a new person selected by the end of the month. If you have other questions: maupincitymanager@gmail.com

2020 Elections are coming! Every two years there are elections for a Mayor and three Councilors. The Mayor serves for 2 years and Councilors serve for 4 years. **NEW THIS YEAR:** You must go to City Hall to pick up a petition signature sheet and fill out some information **prior to collecting signatures**. Petitions, with 5 or more signatures, are due no later than August 25.

The City also has an opening on the Planning Commission. The PC meets once per month. Duties include acting on Conditional Use Permits, making recommendations to Council for Zone changes and amendments, recommending changes to any Ordinance related to Land Use, and providing initial approval of building or commercial use site plans and subdivision plat plans. Please contact City Hall to apply for a position on the Planning Commission.

The City worked with the school and the parents of the graduating SWC **Class of 2020** to get banners put on the light poles downtown honoring each graduate. Feel free to contact the school to donate to this project. Graduation on Saturday, June 6 included a modified ceremony culminating with a parade through town and out through the outlying communities to honor the graduates. **Congratulations to the Graduating Seniors** of SWCHS.

The **budget process** for the city has been completed. The first budget meeting was held May 21 and the Budget Committee accepted the budget with some small modifications and recommended adoption by the City Council. Council voted to accept the budget with some modifications at the June Meeting. Part of the budget includes **rate increases for water and sewer**. A Public Hearing for those rate increases was a part of the Council Meeting as well. Some answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" about the water and sewer rates are posted on the City Website.

The **U.S. Census** is still underway. You can complete it from home (Takes only a few minutes) and make sure you are counted. The Census will be used for 10 years to determine House & Senate District boundaries and the information is needed for many grants for local projects. <https://2020census.gov/>

INVASIVE WEEDS Be on the lookout for Russian Thistle (Tumbleweed), Puncture Vine (Goat Heads) and Scotch Thistle. We seem to have an abundance of all, around town. The Public Works crew is getting what they can, but they cannot get it all and can do nothing on private property. If pulled now, it will not go to seed and spread further. At maturity, when the seeds or the entire plant are carried by winds, a single plant can deposit hundreds to thousands of seeds. They grow easily in disturbed soil or gravel.

SLOW DOWN Several people have mentioned excessive speed on some of our streets, particularly Dufur Avenue and Elrod Avenue. Please remember that there are children playing and riding bikes as well as adults out for a walk that could be injured if everyone is not careful. Speed limits are 25 mph in residential areas and 15 mph in alleys. Speed has also been a problem on the section of 197 from the bridge up to the sharp corner near Riverview and the Mitchke house. Slow down and watch out for each other.

The **Deschutes River Athletic Complex (DRAC)** will be holding an open house event on Saturday, July 11. This is your chance to learn more about the new track project, see the projected timeline, and get your questions answered. The DRAC planning team and representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers will be on hand. The event will take place at the High School Gym and out on the lawn from 6:00 to 7:30.

See the DRAC Facebook page for more details. <https://www.facebook.com/DeschutesRiverAthleticComplex>

A **City Council Work Session** will be held on Monday, July 13 to discuss rules for **Vacation Rentals** in the Commercial Zones within the City. As a Work Session, it open to the public, but no comments will be taken at that time. This is time for the Council to have an in-depth discussion. The **Planning Commission** will meet on the following day (Tues, 7/14) to also discuss Vacation Rentals and changes in zoning regulations to make that possible. At the regular Council Meeting on July 22, both the rules and the zoning language changes will be on the agenda.

FIRE DANGER !! Please be aware that fire danger is extremely high. Cut down dry grass and weeds. Remove dried or dead shrubs and trees. Make sure any equipment or tools that could emit sparks are in good working order and use them wisely, with a water source at hand.

From the desk of Kevin Lewis, City Manager: With summer in full swing and visitors swarming our town, it's time for all of us to make our city shine. Our hazardous waste day is July 18th, so bring your items to the drop off and out of your hands. Electronics, paint, prescriptions, etc. can all be disposed of so you can get some storage room back and your cupboards cleaned. Please help our very limited street parking situation. Vehicles that haven't moved in a while need to be stored off street and "projects" covered per city ordinance. If you are a local business, please be the example. Keep in mind fire ban is in effect and keep a defensible perimeter around your home. Vegetation should be no more that 6" high and 30 feet from all buildings to keep fuel levels down. Let's all do our part to help keep Maupin beautiful and safe.

Governor Kate Brown announced that Oregonians statewide will be required to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces, beginning this Wednesday July 1. The guidance applies to businesses and members of the public visiting indoor public spaces. **Starting July 1, Maupin Civic Center will be requiring masks and check in at City Hall before doing any business in the building.**

If you would like a digital copy of the city newsletter, please email any of us at City Hall. It will make it easier to use all of those links!

<p><u>Phone Numbers & Email Addresses</u></p> <p>Mayor Lynn Ewing Office: 541-395-2811 Cell: 541-993-5956 City Hall 541-395-2698 maupinmayor@gmail.com Visit our City of Maupin Website @ www.cityofmaupin.org</p>	<p><u>Meeting Schedules</u></p> <p>Council Work Session @ 6:30 pm Planning Commission @ 6:00 pm Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm</p> <p>Under shutdown conditions, meetings are being held using remote software (Zoom) that allows participation via phone or computer.</p>	<p>7/13/2020 7/14/2020 7/22/2020</p>	<p><i>We are a safe, progressive community that cares for all our citizens and visitors while protecting our natural resources and maintaining our rural heritage."</i></p>
	<p>Public Meetings Law Sessions ORS192.640(2)</p>	<p>Executive ORS192.640</p>	