



We are a safe, progressive community that cares for all our citizens and visitors while protecting our natural resources and maintaining our rural heritage.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Planning Commission

Tues., March 13 at 4:30 p.m.

City Council

Wed., March 20 at 9 a.m. Work Session

Wed., March 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings are being held in person at the Maupin Civic Center (507 Grant Ave.) and virtually on Zoom. Find the links to join on the agendas. Meetings are ADA accessible. For special accommodations, please contact the City Recorder in advance.

CONTACT US

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CITY HALL NEWS

- The City is hiring a City Park Assistant. Find more information and the application online.
- You can access many services on CITYOFMAUPIN.ORG, including:
 - Utility payments
 - Facility rental requests
 - Burn permits
 - Maupin Municipal Code
 - Meeting agendas and minutes
 - Planning and land use forms
 - Code compliance information



LETTER FROM MAYOR CAROL BEATTY

As we transition from winter into spring, the City begins its annual budget season. City Council has already held one work session to discuss their goals for the next fiscal year. Another will be held this month, and I encourage you to listen in. Based on our discussions so far, one thing is clear: the City's focus over the next year and beyond will be on infrastructure improvements.

Many of you have probably heard about our aging infrastructure and the need for improvements. The leak in the Upper Reservoir water storage tank is an example of these issues. In the fall of 2023, City staff identified a leak in the 1,000,000 gallon water tank. The City was able to find and place a temporary patch to plug the leak at the end of December.

In January, Council directed staff to apply for financing to repair the leak and rehabilitate the tank, a project that was identified as a priority in the 2022 Water System Master Plan. The project will include repairing the existing tank floor and other areas needing repair and removing the existing coating and re-coating the entire structure with a new paint. For further protection, an impressed cathodic protection system will be installed in the tank to help control and minimize further corrosion of the steel structure. Engineers estimate the cost of repair and rehabilitation will total \$1,341,500 and will extend the life of the tank another twenty years.

The City has some funds in its Water System Fund to contribute to the repair, but the majority will need to be financed through a loan. We are applying for a loan through the Business Oregon Special Public Works Fund. Residential user rates are currently \$33.50 per month and will need to be raised to about \$40.00 per month in order for the city to finance the loan (commercial rates will have a similar increase). The rates will need to be adjusted by the time construction on the project is complete, which is estimated to be spring 2025. The loan terms will also required that water meters are installed at every connection, a project also included in our 2010 Capital Improvement Plan.

The issues with the water tank are a glaring example of the overall needs of our aging water system. In addition to the tank repair, we have also begun the process to find more financing for our Phase 1 improvements that are outlined in our Water System Master Plan. It's critical that we address these needs in the near future in order to continue providing safe, reliable drinking water to our residents and maintain adequate fire protection.

As we move forward with these projects, we will continue to provide residents and water customers with information and have opportunities to ask questions and share feedback. Stay up-to-date on our projects by visiting CITYOFMAUPIN.ORG/PROJECTS.

Join us for the South Wasco Garden Expo on March 9 🌿

Don't miss the second annual South Wasco Garden Expo on March 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Maupin Civic Center.

Enjoy vendors, presentations, BOLD coffee and Honeybuns pastries on the terrace, a robust seed exchange with the Wasco County Master Gardeners, and much more! Many thanks to our generous sponsors: The Wasco County Master Gardeners, Canyon Gardens Nursery, the Southern Wasco Library, and the Dig and Hoe Garden Club.

The Maupin Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a table to provide the community with resources and materials on the Stop the Spread Challenge and other MVFD programs.

Debris Removal for Maupin Residents

Thanks to a generous grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, the City is able to offer financial assistance to qualified residents for dead tree removal, fire fuel reduction and debris hauling.

Residents may qualify for assistance due to income, physical, or social barriers. Residents who live in city limits and who need these services are encouraged to apply at City Hall or on the city website.

Dead trees, overgrown vegetation and other fire fuels can have devastating consequences for neighborhoods and families in the event of a wildfire. It's important to do our part to mitigate the risk of a fire spreading to or through Maupin or its neighboring communities. Please contact Community Liaison Melissa Napoli at MNAPOLI@CITYOFMAUPIN.ORG for more information or visit our website.

Sign Up for City Text Alerts

Get City updates sent directly to your cell phone via text message! The City is launching TextMyGov, a program to increase communication from the City to residents. Notifications may include public meeting announcements, road closures, utility notifications, and more.

Opt-in today by texting **MAUPIN** to **91896**. The service is free for anyone who signs up. More information about the program is on our website.

New Ordinances and Updates

At the February City Council meeting, Councilors adopted a Special Event Permit ordinance that would require any events taking place on City property to acquire a permit 60 days before the event. The permit will also allow food carts to operate on City property during public events.

Councilors also discussed recommendations from Planning Commission. Over the last several months, Commissioners have drafted amendments to the Short Term Rental ordinance that will ensure the licenses are issued and renewed equitably, with the goals to support economic development while preserving long-term housing supply. The ordinance amendments will be considered in March.

Councilors also discussed the Commissioner's recommendation to adopt an ordinance that will allow food carts in commercial zones permanently. The ordinance will be considered in March.

We'd like your input!

Street Design Standards Update & Donkey Trail Plan Project

The City is working on a Transportation & Growth Management program grant that will support a safe, livable community with transportation options for all and provide us with a strategic vision to support long-range planning. We're talking about walking & biking trails, street safety, and more!

Learn more about the project and share your ideas at CITYOFMAUPIN.ORG/TGM

Recycling Survey Open Through March 21

The City is exploring the future of recycling in Maupin and we want to hear from you!

A short survey is now open asking about recycling use. The City is researching the possibility of offering twice-monthly curbside recycling through The Dalles Disposal for those who also have regular garbage service. The results will be discussed at the March City Council meeting.

 Take the survey at CITYOFMAUPIN.ORG/RECYCLING

Infrastructure Improvements

In addition to repairing the Upper Water Tank, the City is applying for funds to complete major improvements and replacements in our water system and wastewater facilities. These critical projects will ensure the safety and reliability of our water, increase fire protection, and maintain compliance with our DEQ permits. The improvements need to be made within the next 20 years and are estimated to cost more than \$20 million.

We will provide more information about these projects as it becomes available. Find more information and stay updated at CITYOFMAUPIN.ORG/PROJECTS

Stop the Spread Challenge & Community Wildfire Risk Reduction

The City is incentivizing property owners to do their part to reduce the risk of wildfire by creating defensible space through the Stop the Spread Challenge, a program funded through a generous grant by the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office.

Activities which may qualify for credit in the program are: Removing organic fire fuels like grass, dead trees, or shrubbery; replacing bark dust or wood chips with fire-resistant materials like river rock or gravel; or removing flammable products like paint or chemicals from under decks and porches. These tasks, in addition to having a current emergency plan for your household, greatly reduce the risk to life and property in the event of a wildfire.

The City has purchased a dump trailer for the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program. The trailer, which will feature the City's logo for easy identification, will be placed in neighborhoods throughout Maupin during the spring and summer months for the collection of yard debris. A schedule and map for the trailer's location will be available on the city website April 1.

Learn more about the program and how to join at CITYOFMAUPIN.ORG/FIRE

Smokey the Bear to Visit Grade School Students 🐻🚫🔥🌲

The US Forest Service and the MVFD will be visiting first and second grade students at the Maupin Grade School on March 6 with Smokey the Bear and Sparky Dog. Students will have the opportunity to see a firefighter all dressed up, take a quick tour of a fire truck and learn fire safety.