

City Administrator Report

September 18, 2025

Wesley Wootten, City Administrator

Finance

The budget planning process for 2026 continues. The initial budget draft was presented to Council and the public at a special meeting on October 14.

The City is wrapping up its annual audits (Single, Financial, Accountability) with the State Auditor's Office. All audits are likely to be completed by the end of October.

Public Works

The work on Cascade Ave is underway to replace sewer, water, and storm lines. Construction has had to adjust to partial work at night due to traffic restrictions. So far, the project work is on schedule to be completed next month.

Grayling Engineering has presented a scope of work for part 1B of the Long-Term Water Supply study that they have been conducting. This second phase will include determining the most efficient and effective method of water supply for the City to take on as we deal with the failing infrastructure at Rock Creek. Council will be asked to approve the second phase of the study tonight.

Planning

Following the resignation of the Community Development Director and the Planning and Public Works Assistant, the Planning Department is currently in a transition period as Council and staff determine the best path forward. Land use permitting is currently being processed by the Skamania County Planning Department.

We are finishing up the hiring process for the new Permit & Records Manager position. There was significant interest in the role, and we received 20 applications. The final round of interviews will start next week, and we hope to have a candidate selected and start in the role as quickly as possible.

Additionally, a revised role of City Planner has been proposed to replace the Community Development director position. Council is asked to vote on the revised Personnel Policy with this and the Permit & Records Manager role included.

Looking Ahead – Key Dates & Upcoming Items

October 28, 2025, 6 pm – Special City Council Meeting & First Public Hearing for the 2026 budget

November – Work on Cascade Ave. to finish

November 5, 2025, 1pm – First Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

November 12, 2025, 1 pm - Second Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

November 20, 2025, 6 pm – November City Council Meeting & Second Public Hearing for the 2026 budget