State of the City;

For the last few years our population has been creeping to the 10,000 mark. It almost felt like many were scared of this happening, or it would be a bad thing. I’m relieved we finally made it and now we can move on. The population number is used to calculate our share of the State shared revenues, but it also brings some additional regulations that will need to meet. Mostly those are in solid waste and storm water, over the years we’ve made preparations for these added responsibility and now will be addressing the new requirements.

Public works & Development Department

- Public Works & Development Department’s Building Division is fully staffed and providing all building permit services within Cottage Grove, Creswell, and Veneta. From July 1st through October 31st the Building Division issued 366 building permits, reviewed and approved 76 sets of plans (25 new single family homes), and performed 793 building inspections and 240 electrical inspections.

- Industrial Park:
  Sold 3 City owned vacant industrial lots. Purchased 16 acres of industrial land to facilitate construction of “R” Street, support expansion of existing businesses, and add shovel ready industrial land to the industrial park for new businesses and job creation.

- Armory:
  Completed the assessment of the exterior and created a formal plan to repair and repaint the exterior. Completed the exterior asbestos removal and crack repairs. Completed the architectural plan set for new women and men bathrooms located on the main floor. Started demolition and construction of the new bathrooms with the completion date of March 2019.

- Cottage Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant:
  Promoted Erich Schroeder to Superintendent and filled the vacant operator position, fully staffing the plant.
  Completed the design of the treated effluent re-use expansion project and seeking bids. This project will create 10 million gallons of storage and add 25 acres of land to irrigate. The project will start construction in 2019.

- The plant received “Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year for 2018” from the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association

- Row River Water Treatment Plant:
  Hired an additional Treatment Plant Operator allowing for two plant operators on site during staffed hours and restructured staffing hours allowing for 4/10 hour day work shifts allowing for 21 hours a week of additional staff hours of plant operation.

- September the City hosted the Northwest Membrane Operator Association’s (NWMOA) Low Pressure Membrane System School held at the Cottage Grove Community Center.

- November the treatment plant hosted Pall Corporation’s Pall Water Operator Workshop at the treatment plant. This was a 1 day training that 20 operators from 13 different cities attended.

- Participated in the Government Accounting Office’s research study on Climate Change Water &
Wastewater Infrastructure Resiliency report to Congress. Cottage Grove was one of 16 cities interviewed for the report. The intent of the report is to determine if the funding sources Congress supports are helping fund climate change resiliency projects. Throughout the summer staff monitored a Blue Green Algae Bloom in Dorena Lake. Staff took weekly water samples to make sure no toxins from the algae bloom entered the treatment plant.

Planning Division:

- Applied for and received a lower flood insurance rating from FEMA saving property owners in the flood plain hundreds of dollars in flood insurance each year. Completed the Housing Needs Analysis. The report and recommendations will go the City Council January 2019. The Department of Land Conservation and Development awarded Cottage Grove a grant to hire a consultant to take the Housing Needs Analysis recommendations and create recommended policies that will improve and encourage housing development.
- Over saw the completion of the refurbishing of Opal Whitely Mural located in All America Square Park.
- City Council adopted revisions to the City’s Vacant, Derelict, and Dangerous Structures Code. The additions to the code will help staff address illegal use of vacant homes.

Maintenance Division:

- Replaced the roof on the Cottage Grove Museum, replaced the rear entrance porch at the Annex, installed a new walking path to the rear entrance of the Annex, installed a security system, improved door locks, and lighting in the Annex.
- At the Community Center; new LED lights were installed in the Library and Therapy Pool, and a new security system.
- Replaced the flashing lights at the Gateway Row River Trail Crossing and upgraded them to improve visibility and safety for pedestrians.
- Made improvements to the Coiner Park Tennis Courts to support 4 new Pickle Ball Courts for the Pickle Ball Club.
- Built and installed new park benches for Bohemia Park and the Row River Trail.
- Installed a new automated gate at the entrance to the City Shop that included a new security system that links the shop property to City Hall and the PD.

Parks:

- Completed the donation of LuLu’s Dog Park from Stephen and Mary Nieswander to the City adding it to Park inventory.
- Successfully purchased 1.3 acres of land from Lane County for a future dog park across from the Cottage Grove High School on South River Road.

Swinging Bridge:

- Received a $200,000 grant from the Oregon State Parks Department for rebuilding of the Swinging Bridge. Engineering staff is working to design the repairs to the bridge and plan to start the repairs in late June of 2019.

Middlefield Golf Course:

- Upgraded 4 pieces of maintenance equipment for golf course maintenance. The new equipment will save staff time and improve the playing condition of the golf course.
- The City has experienced a 26% increase in course play from 2017. The City has also received a large number of compliments on golf course condition on internet and social media.

Engineering Division:
Completed assessing the pavement condition of all the streets in Cottage Grove. The contractor is currently working to install the date into a software program that will prioritize future road investments and the recommended treatment for that improvement. This will help staff implement street improvement projects and meet yearly reporting to Oregon Department of Transportation.

- Staff successfully designed, contracted, and oversaw 4 sewer mainline repair projects worth $382,762.37. Over 2,000 linear feet of sewer mainlines were replaced in those projects. 
  Staff partnered with Central Oregon Pacific Railroad to rebuild the rail crossing on South 6th Street. The crossing rebuild completed the street improvement to South 6th Street that were started late 2017.
  Staff completed the street repair at Gateway and Row River Road in front of the Vintage Inn. The repair included water, sewer, and storm drain line replacement.
  Staff designed and oversaw the installation of a new crosswalk on River Road at Great Days Early Education Center

- Engineering staff is overseeing the design of sidewalk work to East Harrison and South 4th Street creating safe routes to Lincoln Middle School and the new Harrison Elementary School. Planning staff submitted a Safe Routes to School Grant application to ODOT for the project. And we are recommended for 1.2 million dollars for this grant.

- Utility Division:
  Installed 660’ of new 8” water main line on Chestnut Avenue between “G” and “J” Street replacing the existing 2” water lines improving water service and fire flow rates

- Installed 3 blinking stops signs at the Taylor and South 10th Street intersection to remind help motorists to stop at the new 3 way stop intersection improving the safety of children.
  Used approximately 750 yards of screened pavement grindings to expand the parking for the Bohemia Park Amphitheater. This created 80 new parking spaces for park events at the South end of the park off Monroe Street.

- Staff installed new pumps and operation equipment in the “M” and Anthony Streets sewer pump station. The pumps had reached their end of service life. The new equipment installed is the same as the other 3 City sewer pump stations standardizing them throughout the City. This will reduce the City’s cost of inventory on hand in case of a future failure.

- Police Department -
  We have selected a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management system. Not only will the police department benefit from new / updated features, but also will have look-up capability for both sheriff office databases.
  We currently have two officers attending Department of Safety Standards and Training with graduation date on March 8, 2019. The process to fill one more police officer position is underway. This would bring the total of sworn police officers to 18. Our Dispatch center is now at full staff.
  Over the last year, the police department received 7647 calls for service, resulting in 3725 case reports, 675 of which were closed by arrest. Officers conducted 1657 traffic stops, issued 409 traffic citations, and wrote 1054 written warnings.
  The police department has collected over 700 pounds of prescription and over the counter drugs in our Lobby Drop Box, compared to 540 pounds the previous year. This year (2019) we will add a Drop Box at the Community Center.
  December marked the one year anniversary of Sponsors holding weekly AA/NA meetings in the
Cottage Grove Municipal Jail for inmates.

- The police department added a new K9 to patrol. K9 Marco (4 year old Malinois) and handler Officer Steven Biehler completed 240 hours of training and are a state certified apprehension dog team.
  The Cottage Grove Kennels received a number of upgrades including a new storage shed provided by the Cottage Grove Brewer's Guild and additional fencing to prevent (escape) from the kennels.

January 2018 Council adopted a Supplemental Budget to address needs in the Building Inspection Program Fund, October 2018 adopted a Supplemental Budget to purchase 16.57 acres, adjacent to the Cottage Grove Industrial Park.
June 2018 established the Building Inspection Reserve Fund and re-established the Water, Wastewater, Storm and General Reserve funds.
August 2018 participated in a pilot program to process credit card payments directly from receipt entry in our financial software. The City received two credit card terminals at no cost and the implementation fees were waived for our participation.

- The Cottage Grove Public Library experienced another very active and rewarding year! As of November 27, 2018, 72,776 people have visited our library this year! Some outstanding events, activities and accomplishments for 2018 include:
  - Over 300 youth participated in the library Outdoor Adventure Program that takes local children on Friday field trips to the amazing forest, coastal, valley, and mountain landscapes in our region. The youth hiked, biked and kayaked in the Umpqua National Forest, white-water rafted on the McKenzie River, and explored the amazing Oregon Coast.
  - These free field trips are for children ages 3-17, and are STEAM focused, meaning, concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math are woven into the activities on each trip in an educational and fun way.
- The library continues to partner with the University of Oregon, South Lane School District, and with local service agencies on the 90 by 30 Project, an effort to reduce Child Abuse 90% by the year 2030. This year the library decorated the building to honor April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, and they lead a team of volunteers who decorated planters and trees on Main Street in Historic Downtown Cottage Grove with blue ribbons and pinwheels and a street-crossing banner to promote awareness about this issue.

- The library hosted over 151 children's events with over 2,245 local youth attending events this year!
- The Library Summer Reading program had 167 children participate this year, reading books during Summer Break and receiving fun prizes to reward them for their awesome reading efforts.
- Also I just found out late last week that of the 1.5 million dollars lane county has for affordable housing, $750,000 of that will be in Cottage Grove. $500,000 will go to Cottage Village Coalition, and $250,000 will go to the Veterans Housing Project I've been working on with Homes for Good and the American Legion.

Now for recognitions;

In late 2016 when the Swinging bridge was closed due to safety a lot of people where upset, fearing it wouldn't be reopened. One individual started calling me, wanting to know how progress was going, and more important asking what he could do to help. Dana Merryday got involved with more passion than I've
seen in a while. He started information booths at events around town, set up donations jars and even had t-shirts made in support of the bridge. But he even took that to a higher level when he organized a town dance/fundraiser at the Armory with three local bands all donating their time for the bridge. He has made the trip to Salem to help lobby for grants. He truly is an example of how to make a difference in your community. It's my pleasure to honor Dana Merryday with the Mayoral Certificate of Appreciation Award.

The next person is a role model for promoting tourism. Cassie Washburn Executive Director of the Oregon Aviation Historical Society & Museum, but she does so much more than that. She sells Cottage Grove to the aviators from around the country. She joined the Chamber Board in 2017, she is the Chair of the Greeters, former board member of the CG Gun Club. She also doesn't limit her ability to just those who fly into town, last summer she hosted a dinner for the Dodge Brothers Classic Car Club and brought even more tourism to town. Her knowledge of aviation history very impressive. It's my pleasure to honor Cassie Washburn with the Mayoral Certificate of Appreciation Award.

Now for Business:

PacTech came into town a little over 2 years ago and hit the ground running. They have proven to be an asset to the community, they were a large sponsor of the Mayor’s Ball last year. They gave a large donation to the warm therapy portion of the pool project. They are leaders in the community on recycling and are continuing to expand within their business. It's my pleasure to present PacTech with the Mayoral Certificate of Appreciation.