

**MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER**

**ATTENTION – LOCAL NEWS FOR PHOENIX, OREGON**

**JEFF BELLAH, MAYOR**

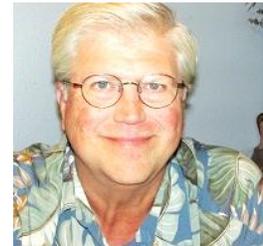
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**OCTOBER 2015**

**FELLOW PHOENIX CITIZENS:** We have enjoyed some tremendous fall weather this year. It has also allowed us to continue making significant progress with construction projects in the city. The state has made a great deal of progress the Interchange and Fern Valley project with both bridges beginning to enter final phases before the completion next year. In addition to the maintenance projects with Chip Sealing in the Barnum and Phoenix Hills sub-divisions, we were able to repave the Coral Circle neighborhood and crack seal Main Street. Urban Renewal continues to move forward at “warp” speed with numerous demolition, rehabilitation and construction projects in the city center area and on Main Street.



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**DIESEL TAX REFERENDUM RESULTS:** The Diesel Tax Referendum was approved by a large margin of Phoenix Voters in the Special Election held in September. This will help the city meet future road/street needs in those areas heavily travelled by heavy commercial trucks.

**CITY CHARTER ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2015:** Phoenix citizens will have one local issue to vote on in the upcoming election with Measure 15-138. This measure is to determine whether a new City Charter (as recommended by the City Council) should be approved.

The City Charter establishes legal rights and responsibilities of the city as a self-governing unit of government. It is essentially the “Constitution” for the city and describes how Phoenix functions. The last time a City Charter went to the voters was in 2009 and since that time, quite a few areas have been noted as needing to be modified or deleted as inaccurate, outdated or obsolete. As a legal document, it is important that the charter be accurate and adhered to by the city. The changes approved by the council and referred to you, the voters, was recommended by a workgroup composed of the mayor, 2 councilors, and 2 citizen members. The city attorney has certified the legality of the final document.

As mentioned, many of the changes proposed are insignificant, but due to the number of we decided to publish as a new charter rather than amending the previous document. The vast majority of the current approved Charter will remain the same. Both the current and proposed charter documents can be viewed in their entirety at City Hall. Substantial changes include:

- Revises council voting requirements to allow a vote by the Mayor when needed for quorum purposes due to councilor absences.
- Ensures elected officials’ compliance with federal, state and local law by requiring an oath to faithfully support the laws of the City of Phoenix when an elected official assumes public office.
- Clarifies the process for legislative, administrative and quasi-judicial actions.

- Revises the outdated employee and official designations to reflect their current titles and clarifies the role of the City Manager to eliminate ambiguity of responsibilities in city council meetings.

The proposed City Charter uses simplified language with the intention of making the document more understandable, consistent, and representative of current positions and functions. If approved, it will take affect thirty days after voting is completed. Please exercise your right to be heard by voting.



**CITY WIDE PARADE TO SUPPORT PHOENIX HIGH SCHOOL (PHS) HOMECOMING WEEK:**

Our PARADE on October 7, 2015, was a great success with over 50 entries and many more people lining the streets than last year. I hope you were able to attend and would encourage you to make it a priority for next year. The theme was PIRATE related and many of the entries reflected creative and enthusiastic support. One of my favorite entries was the bus from the Northridge Care Center, with the senior

citizen participants in pirate costumes. Many of the sport teams and clubs were present from the high school. The Phoenix Football Team and Homecoming Court were present and the Grand Marshal was the high school Principal, Jani Hale. This was an old fashioned small town parade at its best. I am excited because I am positive that it will continue to get better and better each year. This type of tradition will go a long way towards integrating the city with the schools and allowing us all to have pride in each other. It was an exciting day!



Feel free to contact me by email at [jeff.bellah@phoenixoregon.gov](mailto:jeff.bellah@phoenixoregon.gov) . I can also be reached by phone at **(541) 535-1955 x 305**, or through drop-in hours at City Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3pm. I would also be happy to meet you at other times by appointment. The rest of the city council is composed of:

**Carolyn Bartell – Councilor**  
**Bruce Sophie – Council President**  
**Karen Jones – Council Vice President**

**Chris Luz – Councilor**  
**Stan Bartell -- Councilor**  
**Terry Helfrich – Councilor**

We encourage you to contact any of us or the Phoenix City Manager (Steve Dahl), with your ideas, concerns and opinions. The December / January version of the Mayor’s Newsletter will be expanded to include reports on the 2015 accomplishments, challenges, priorities, upcoming events and more..... Until then, be well and consider how you can get involved in improving your city.

**Jeff Bellah**  
**Mayor, City of Phoenix**