

# STATE OF THE CITY OF GOLDENDALE - 2019

## INTRODUCTION

The role of City Departments (Public Works, Police, Fire and Administration) is to implement the decisions of City Council. The initial work is discussed in Standing Committees (Finance/Budget, Public Works, Events and Ordinance) and Special Committees (Broadband, Community Airport, Urban Wildlife and Economic Development) with active staff support from relevant departments. The City Administrator and Mayor participate as ex-officio members of all committees. This report is based on submitted City Departments' reports of their activities each year that provide projections of planned and anticipated activities and operational needs for the coming year.

This report is intended, to the extent possible, to inform Goldendale residents of the work undertaken during 2019 and plans for 2020 that impact our community to provide transparency and to promote discussion and interaction between citizens and their local government.

The state of the City of Goldendale is steadily improving with the projected 2020 budget balanced and adopted by City Council. Crime has been reduced and there are indications of increasing economic interest in doing business in our City and County. The city's focus for 2020 will be to:

- Continue emphasis on strengthening public safety and reducing drug related crime through law enforcement collaboration;
- Manage city resources within the Council budget and pursue development grants;
- Continue efforts to find greater savings in City public works infrastructure; energy costs and development of workforce housing;
- Enhance economic development through strengthened broadband capacity; marketing of Goldendale State Observatory Park and local tourism activities; continue collaboration with GGCC on marketing Goldendale business development opportunities;
- Utilize Capital Budget grant (\$550,000) to continue Municipal Airport Improvement Project {Fuel}.
- Continue to work toward Dark Sky Community/Park restoration;
- Participate in KCPEDA implementation of the KC Economic Development Strategic Plan.

## **GOLDENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT (GPD)**

GPD, located at 1505 South Grant Street, presently consists of 9 officers: including Chief Reggie Bartkowski, two Sergeants, one Corporal, five officers, including our police canine officer and police dog "Harley". Support personnel include an Administrative Assistant, one Reserve Officer, and one Animal Control Officer/ Administrative Assistant.

**Training:** GPD advanced its officer training in 2019. Officer Kelsey Shelton, selected as the Defensive Tactics Instructor has put together a detailed training plan for the officers which includes handcuffing, takedowns, strikes, kicks, baton, OC spray, and a full use of force curriculum.

The police department was able to conduct their annual active shooter training and invited all surrounding law enforcement agencies. The training this year was conducted at the Goldendale Primary School. It was well attended. GPD added training with the fire department and EMS on extracting victims from school buildings. Officer Dymont, selected as the new Emergency Vehicle Operator Trainer, will work with Sergeant Hunziker in keeping all officers current on emergency driving and pursuit policies.

**Goals for 2020:** Continue the close working relationship with other law enforcement in our county is a high priority. GPD and the Klickitat County Sheriff's Office have an excellent working relationship that has produced very positive results in criminal cases.

Another high priority is to continue with proactive drug investigations. The police department is continuing the K9 program and Officer Berkshire and K9 Harley are fully trained and certified as a narcotic canine team in the State of Washington. This team has been very effective in utilizing the drug search provisions for K9 Harley. In 2020, GPD will continue trainings for police officers on how to: run confidential informants; conduct surveillances; perform traffic stop interdictions; and working with citizens that believe they live next or in close proximity to a "drug house".

The Community Watch program continues to be very successful. GPD has distributed hundreds of yard signs and magnets and educated many citizens on the program throughout 2019. The increases in police service calls coincide with the strong success of the program which will continue throughout 2020.

**Total Calls for Police Service**

**Total Reported Crimes**

<u>Year</u>		<u>Year</u>	
2019	3400	2019	325
2018	2865	2018	228
2017	3025	2017	250
2016	2786	2016	290
2015	3096	2015	322
2014	2878	2014	254
2013	2902	2013	300

**Violent and Property Reported Crimes**

	<u>Violent Crimes</u>	<u>Property Crimes</u>
2019	10	217
2018	5	129
2017	5	120
2016	12	105
2015	15	183
2014	6	194
2013	8	214

**Violent Crime - Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault**

**Property Crimes - Arson, Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft, Larceny (Theft)**

**\* NOTE: Drug related Crimes**

*While GPD reported 23 drug arrests in 2019, recreational marijuana (legal in Washington but illegally by Federal law), has been found to be an underlying factor in most assaults and many thefts according to recent local news accounts ("Taking stock after 5 years of legal pot", The Sentinel, 1/15/2020),*

*"Recreational pot has been available in Goldendale for 5 years. One metric GPD Chief Bartkowski, Sheriff Bob Songer and Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel all agree had risen was arrests for driving under the influence of marijuana."*

*Larry Barker, who deals with this daily as Klickitat County's Juvenile Court Administrator and Adult Probation Director and Drug Court Coordinator, said marijuana DUIs are triple what they were prior to legalization. He added "Marijuana is an issue in almost 100 percent of the youth that come through our system these days. Now that it is legal, kids have much more access to it. Most criminal offenses involve*

some sort of substance abuse.” For charges of assault and property crimes, such as theft and burglary, it is not immediately noticeable in the charges.”

**Total Population and Commissioned Officers in 2019**

	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>Goldendale Police</b>	9	3,470
<b>KC Sherriff's Office</b>	20	14,356
<b>COUNTY WIDE</b>	34	20,861

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Goldendale is one of 8,000 Opportunity Zones nationwide. City Council agreed emphasis should be given to economic development and agreed to contract for such services with the Greater Goldendale Chamber of Commerce (GGCC) to provide support in the following areas: advise and update the Mayor and City Council on the elements of Opportunity Zones; the status of the John Day Pumped Storage Project (energy); assist City and State Parks in submitting an application for International Dark Sky Association (IDSA) designation as a IDSA Park and/or community; develop and coordinate marketing of the reopening of the Observatory; advise on issues such as airport improvements; broadband; help coordinate any prospects that might benefit an economic development project; maintain key Federal, State and local contacts regarding economic development; and, provide quarterly updates on economic development activities. Tourism events are not included in this report but can be found on the GGCC "Experience Goldendale" website.

Positive interest has been expressed by Goldendale residents regarding the large pumped storage project being jointly developed by National Grid and Rye Development. The proposed \$2 billion project will bring positive long-term economic impacts in the form of living-wage jobs, an improved tax base, and expanded retail sales would be very beneficial for our community. The project is expected to provide 150 permanent local jobs (Operations and Maintenance) when fully built out. Approximately 3,164 short-term construction jobs – many for area workers - will be generated during the construction cycle (operation date 2028).

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (PWD)**

At present, PWD consists of a public works crew of 6, including 1 supervisor and 5 maintenance workers; 1 supervisor/operator and 1 operator; and, 2 administrative personnel. In February 2019, Director Karl Enyeart left PWD after 6 years to take a position with the city of Longview, WA. At present, Doug Frampton supervises the work crew; Andy O'Connor supervises water/wastewater treatment and Larry Bellamy provides administrative support.

**Public Works and water and wastewater details for 2019**

**Water:** 6-year Water System Plan Update approved through 2028.

**Quantity:** with a water right of 2082 ac-ft; we used 1373 ac-ft. in 2019.

**Peak flow day:** 2.33 million gallons or 1652gpm on August 7th.

**Sources** can produce 3.96 million gallon or 2750gpm.

**Wastewater:** Quantity – 530 ac-ft. was treated and discharged to the Little Klickitat River. Since improvements were made to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the summer of 2017, we have had zero exceedances of our NPDES Permit requirements.

**Streets:** South Columbus Avenue overlay was completed from Golden Ridge Drive to the South City Limits. Total project cost was \$150,000 and about \$135,000 in grant funds were received.

**Projected Capital Improvements completed in 2019:**

- Equipment building for Public Works Department (completed inhouse);
- Asset Management Software (in use).

**Public Works Crew**

The Public Works crew provided an outstanding year of service to the City with 520 service orders and 234 requests for utility locates. Fencing completed in 2018 has resulted in improved water system reliability and quality. Activities specific to Public Works included outfitting 4 new service trucks; sewer mainline jetting, water line breaks, crosswalk striping, potholes, and traffic sign maintenance and lift station operation. The crew regularly responds to water and sewer service emergencies as well as fires and traffic accidents. The unusually heavy snowfall in 2019 (“Snow-mageddan”) required 210 hours of snow removal overtime. Our City has benefitted from countless hours of consistent and reliable service from the crew’s public service.

**Water/Wastewater Operators**

Two employees are responsible for all operations for water and wastewater facilities. The City is required to perform testing at the wastewater plant every day of the year as well as monitoring water system functions and responding to alarms and callouts 24 hours per day. This essential service has been completed by these two positions for many years.

**Administrative Personnel**

Office staff assists with maintenance requests, billing for water and sewer service, and providing customer service for all customer requests. They provide consistent professionalism day in and day out. Water “turn-off days” due to non-payment are inevitable and have often generated heated confrontations as have restrictions on paying by check when 3 or more insufficient fund checks have been received. Billing options for water service have been updated on the city website to provide the option of paying by debit or credit card. The patience and diligence of these admin personnel are an invaluable benefit for the citizens of Goldendale.

**GOLDENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT (GFD)**

GFD continued its work in the community throughout 2019, reaching the goals set in 2018. Throughout the year the community was served by 5 junior firefighters and 28 firefighters including Chief Noah Halm, 1 Assistant Chief and 5 officers. Of the thirty-three members, five are nationally certified EMT’s. In December one junior firefighter aged out of the program and was promoted to firefighter. Facing turn over, the department ended the year with a total of 4 juniors, 4 EMT/Firefighters, 1 EMT and 20 firefighters including officers.

With a very active 2018, our volunteer firefighters continued their efforts on education, prevention and participation in the community throughout 2019, partnering with the schools and preschools, bringing education right into the classrooms. Education programs, including Stay Low Stay Safe, recognizing firefighters in emergencies and wildland fire prevention for the home and farm. In a partnership with the Goldendale Fire Fighters Association, GFD and Goldendale FFA and the helpful color page designed by middle school students under the direction of high school students, a coloring contest was held at the primary school. The winners in each class were treated to donuts with firefighters.

The year proved to be as busy as the previous, with a total of 189 calls for service. The calls broke down into 90 fire and 99 EMS calls. Fire calls included several residential fires, an abandoned mill fire and several fire assists for outside agencies. Currently GFD responds on a limited number of EMS calls in the community, providing a secondary service to the county's limited EMS system. Responding when a call requires additional personnel such as cardiac arrest, vehicle accidents and when the primary county EMS service has a delayed response to our community.

Through training and dedication, the department is proud to have an average volunteer response time of 5:23(minutes) from page to turnout, which is the time it takes our volunteers to respond to the firehall and gear up. This has made it possible for the average response time from page to arriving on scene to be 9:37(minutes). Surpassing the national average for volunteer fire departments of 14 minutes.

The Goldendale Fire Department performance goals for 2020 are: Firefighter development through training; Partnering with community organizations and businesses to increase the fire prevention and fire education programs. The department is already working on establishing delivery of two fire education and safety programs; pedestrian safety and the Stop the Bleed program (developed as a result of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary, CT). In 2019, GFD firefighters volunteered approximately 1201.5 hrs.+ to our community. Volunteer hours, above and beyond weekly training and calls for service, have provided a service value estimated to be worth \$38,111.58 (WA State volunteer hour value).

### **CODE COMPLIANCE 2019**

Building Inspector, Ken Bostick, retired in September and Jeff Raley was hired as his replacement. Their combined service for 2019 included the following actions: Compliance: 69 new cases, 7 repeat offenses, 0 citations issued, 3 current court cases.

Code compliance is an essential part of improving the quality and curb appeal of our individual residences and our community.

### **CONCLUSION**

Our City Council and Staff continue working on public safety improvements, including updating policies and equipment, enforcing community ordinances, addressing budget matters, and carrying out public works infrastructure projects. The objective for 2020 is to continue to work within adopted budget funds and continue to: strengthen public safety for our residents by working together to identify and address criminal activities; increase efforts to bring living wage jobs back to Goldendale; actively support the marketing of the much improved Washington State Observatory; and, provide community social events year round that residents and tourists can enjoy. Goldendale has exciting possibilities for increased economic development due to its Opportunity Zone status and alternative energy prospects, and its growing viticulture developments and abundant developable lands are expected to positively impact our community.