

1/10/2023
Nancy Bell

State of the city 2023

Thank you for coming tonight and thanks to those of you who trusted me with your vote -I am truly humbled by your support. While being a mayor was never on my bucket list, I am honored to serve you and I will do my very best for Coburg by always putting the needs of the community first. It is not my goal to be a politician, but to be a leader. The difference is: a politician focuses on the next election, but a leader focuses on the next generation.

'What is the state of the City of Coburg?'

First and foremost the city of Coburg has weathered some challenging times over the last few years but Coburg has come through in good shape. We have survived a pandemic, community growth and the death of a beloved community member, leader and Mayor. All of these things without disruption to city services. This was due to a strong city council, dedicated volunteers and well trained (and equally dedicated) city staff.

As we begin 2023 Coburg has a population of just over 1300 and approximately 85 licensed businesses. There are 17 full time staff and we contract for the services of a city attorney, city engineer, municipal judge, IT specialist and city planning assistance as needed. We also have volunteers serving on the City Council; Planning Commission; Budget and Financial Oversight Committee; Parks and Tree Committee and the Heritage Committee. I anticipate re-activating the Transportation Committee this year.

Our main street businesses and industrial areas are thriving, unlike many small cities with shuttered businesses and boarded up storefronts. This is in large part to our strong community working closely with a strong city government. Our economic base is healthy; financially our general fund is in positive territory and growth has been managed thoughtfully to allow Coburg to provide essential services and to continue as a vibrant community while preserving our small town charm.

What were some of the Changes in 2022? A partial list includes:

- Return of festivals and events.
- Hired a 4th police officer and utilizes 8 reserve officers
- Streets were preserved, repaired and in some cases replaced with the addition of sidewalks to improve pedestrian safety. We were able to accomplish this because of the implementation of the TUF, city gas tax, state and federal funding and grants. Funding was also secured for continuation of the Coburg Loop biking and walking path.
- Trees were trimmed, preserved and sadly sometimes had to be removed. In order to preserve the beauty of our city, many were also planted.
- Water lines were repaired, replaced and added. A line was placed under the freeway to provide water to the east side of our community. A third well is being dug to insure that in this time of water scarcity, Coburg will continue to have adequate resources.
- The Urban Growth Boundary was expanded and 107 acres was annexed into the city to provide growth opportunities for light industry near the freeway. Every community needs a strong economic base and as development occurs this will maintain ours.

- Coburg Creek housing development was started bringing new families to Coburg. This growth helps ensure sufficient funding for the services we provide, adds new faces and ideas to our town and provides the customers for downtown businesses to continue to thrive.
- City Hall saw some much needed upgrades including a new facade, window replacement, addition of office space, and tech upgrades that allow better community involvement in public meetings.
- A new city charter was developed and approved by voters; and significant community input and resources went in to the development and implementation of new downtown zoning.

So what's next??

- Completion of the water projects
- Park development and improvements including the development of a plaza in Pavillion Park.
- More projects to repair and upgrade our streets.
- New and improved fiber optic projects to improve broadband and wireless infrastructure and providers.
- Problem solving with state and county agencies related to increased traffic through Coburg.
- Continued conversations regarding improvements to the I-5 interchanges
- Slow but steady population growth.

Coburg will remain a vibrant, stable and livable community because people care about issues and each other. People make Coburg what it is- without you, all we are, is a collection of houses and buildings. People Make Coburg!!

Thank you for coming tonight and for sharing your talents in so many ways. Enjoy the rest of your evening and Have a happy and healthy new year!