

## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

JANUARY 9, 2017

### **Community projects, for example KXCJ-LP**

I would like to start with some good news and an example of where positive changes truly come from: from the citizens of the city and of the Illinois Valley who take it upon themselves to make important improvements to the community.

KXCJ-LP is officially on the air. The broadcast is very basic: it consists of a thumb-drive of songs and station id announcements playing on shuffle. However, this broadcast at 105.7 FM has met the FCC deadline and allowed KXCJ-LP to become a fully licensed low power community radio station.

KXCJ-LP will of course mature over time and eventually provide local and syndicated programming. They have a functioning broadcast studio, a vast music library, and production and audio storage equipment. They are currently grappling with the connection between the studio and their broadcast antenna mounted on Cave Net's tower.

The cooperation of Cave Net and so many other local organizations and individuals with KXCJ-LP is an inspiration and a shining example of what committed individuals can do for their community. KXCJ-LP will be an important asset for Cave Junction and the Illinois Valley, allowing for local communication and entertainment and providing critical emergency broadcast services.

While I have contributed to this effort in some small ways and the city has made policy decisions in support of local broadcasters, I must sincerely thank those who have worked tirelessly right up to the FCC permit deadline and beyond to make KXCJ-LP a reality. A radio station is no small thing to construct and FCC licenses are rarely offered. My congratulations to the team that made this happen.

### **A city vision that includes public and commercial riverfront and town square**

An important role that the city plays in the community is development planning. In my humble opinion, the City of Cave Junction has not adequately planned to capitalize on an important natural asset: the significant amount of riverfront land within the city limits. The intersection of the land with the pristine water of the Illinois River is extremely attractive to locals and visitors alike and can be a jewel in the city's crown. There is a small section of commercial land at the south end of town with three tax lots facing the river. This section has some great potential, however all other portions of the City that border the river are residential and private and therefore not suitable for recreation or commercial activities. I hope that we can seriously consider different land uses for riverfront land in the city, perhaps by the eventual conversion of some residential land, or by the public or commercial zoning of new annexations to the city.

## **Thanks to Roger Brandt and the upcoming parks plan**

I am very grateful for the efforts of Roger Brandt who has contributed his irrepressible time and energy towards community projects of all sorts. He has recently written a grant which will fund the creation of a new master park plan for the city. This plan is essential when we ask granting organizations to consider funding a project. I'm excited to work with the developers of this plan to ensure that various recreational elements are included so that we can see them implemented in the future.

## **Remove some authority from the mayor**

The office of mayor has a great deal of authority. The mayor is the executive *and* administrative head of the city government. The mayor exercises general supervision and control over city officers and employees and their work. The mayor ensures that all ordinances are enforced and that agreements are observed. The mayor approves all expenditures, submits the budget to the budget committee, and supervises the operation of all city public utilities and all city property.

While this has been an appropriate arrangement for the governance of the city in the past, I do not believe it is appropriate now and into the future for such a great deal of responsibility to be vested in one volunteer individual. While there was unprecedented interest in the last election for the office of mayor, neither myself nor my opponent were ideal candidates for the job. I believe there are some responsibilities currently held by the mayor that would be more responsibly executed by a more permanent employee. The relative permanence and required qualifications of an employee would ensure continuity and competence of some executive functions through administrations that can be wildly different from each other, potentially every two years.

This is a change that will require some serious investigation should we decide, as a council, to move forward with it and would, I believe, require a revision of the Cave Junction charter approved by a vote of the citizens.

## **Opioid crisis and state of despair**

While there is an obvious path forward for such internal changes, we also face seemingly insurmountable challenges.

We were once, to some extent, isolated in small, rural communities from the crime and debauchery of large cities. Today the world is more connected than ever. Ideas, commerce, and even substances are more widespread and easily available than they were in the past.

Our interconnectedness and knowledge of the outside world is a good thing, but it requires quick adaptation in ways we are not prepared for or can often not even conceive of except in hindsight.

While life is good for many in our community, others live in a state of despair, and often turn to devastating substances to fill the emptiness in their lives. This is a very hard problem to tackle, but I hope that the city can at least add its name to efforts to obtain grants towards better treatment and resources for those who have fallen under the spell of addiction.

## **Law enforcement**

My number one priority as mayor of the city, and I think a number one priority of this council, and of the town, and indeed of the Illinois Valley in general, is to improve law enforcement service and better yet, criminal justice service in its entirety. It is essential for continued prosperity in the region and one of the primary obligations of society.

I have spoken at some length with the Chief of Police in Coburg, a city of a similar size to Cave Junction, though of course in different circumstances. Coburg funds a relatively effective police department for about \$500,000 per a year. They have done some creative things that I think we can emulate in the future, such as keeping officers in an on-call status. Those officers have other means of livelihood—perhaps retired, or working in some other industry—so they are not tempted to seek a better paying law enforcement employer. While on-call they are paid 1/8 of a normal salary. These officers can be activated when needed, and stay in reserve at a much reduced cost to the city.

I believe with additional revenue sources such as our recently updated business-license code, we can achieve something like \$500,000 per a year in the law enforcement fund. If we creatively spend this money we have a shot at creating a more secure environment for the citizens and businesses in the city.

## **Taxing harms instead of benefits**

If we are to look at using additional taxes to obtain these funds then I believe we need to take a basic precept of economics to heart: taxes are a useful tool for discouraging harmful activities and encouraging productive activities.

As we think about potential taxes to refer to the voters of the city, let us consider harms such as carbon emissions and other environmental pollution, poisons in the food supply, alcohol, tobacco, and even cannabis. How do we tax illegal heroin and methamphetamine imports? We may have to puzzle over that one if there is any way at all.

On the other hand we should try to avoid, if possible, taxes on income, on property ownership, on employment and other positive things that we want people to do. Our policies should not discourage these activities.

## **Welcome the new legislative team**

I'm very happy to welcome the new members of the city's legislative team: Lyndsey Gillette, council 2, and Mark Dillinger, council 4. They bring new insight, skills, and energy to the council and we are honored by their willingness to volunteer in this capacity to serve the citizens of the city.

At the same time I pay homage to the councilors and mayor that are leaving their positions. Councilor Gardiner has volunteered to serve the city for four years, Carl Jacobson has been the volunteer mayor of Cave Junction for six years and was appointed to the council before that, and Councilor Miller was elected three times to council position 2 and volunteered in that capacity for 12 years after being appointed to council for two years, after being appointed to a vacant seat for one year.

We thank you all for your volunteer service on behalf of the citizens of Cave Junction.

**Welcome everyone**

While we welcome a new government, we also welcome all new citizens of the city and of the Illinois Valley. Diverse pressures will cause Oregon to grow over the next fifty years and likely beyond. Cave Junction likewise will grow and we have already seen an influx of newcomers from throughout the country and the world. We welcome this—we welcome all who come to work hard and make a way for themselves. We welcome all who escape worse situations and have the wherewithal to settle here. We cannot do otherwise. To try to slow or stop the flow of those compelled by pressures of economics, climate, or even political instability or hostility would be foolish. We will all work together: longtime residents and newcomers alike to build a better community.

We look forward very much to this opportunity to serve the people of Cave Junction and work closely with the excellent crew and office staff. We sincerely thank all of you who have supported us in this and many other efforts.

DANIEL DALEGOWSKI

MAYOR OF CAVE JUNCTION