

It may seem odd for someone who has lived in this city for less than a year to write an essay concerning Springfield, however; with that caveat, I offer these observations. We are so lucky to live in a community that is friendly, compassionate, and still maintains a certain “small-town” atmosphere. As I attend most of the city council and planning commission meetings, I am struck by the hard work and caring attitude of our local representatives. Of course there will always be challenges, democracy being an inherently messy process, but our citizens and leaders seem to work hard toward consensus. A critical requirement of achieving consensus and a functional democracy is that both the politicians and citizens be informed.

One of the most impressive informational organizations in our community is the Springfield City Club. With bi-monthly noon meetings (1st and 3rd Thursday), citizens can listen to and ask questions of our politicians, business owners, educational leaders, and a myriad of other individuals presenting topics critical to our community. In the time that I have been attending meetings, I have learned about the new and exciting changes to McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center, the refurbished Shoppes at Gateway, the newly relocated offices of Roseburg Forest Products and the ongoing efforts to revitalize our downtown including changes to Franklin Blvd.

Future meetings will include debates between local candidates, rules surrounding recreational marijuana, and the gross receipts tax. These are wonderfully inspiring open meetings where topics are presented and questions are asked. This is a very different experience than reading about an issue in the newspaper or passively watching a TV broadcast. These meetings are intimate and because we can ask questions and follow-up questions, we citizens have a powerful means of informing ourselves directly in a way that is not filtered through media. We citizens can develop educated opinions and share those opinions with

MEETING CALENDAR

April 7, 2016

Police Chief Tim Doney: Impact of legalized marijuana on Springfield

April 21 and May 5, 2016

Candidates for Mayor and contested Springfield council seats

May 19, 2016

Kari Westlund of Travel Lane County: Sports facility, convention facility and room tax

June 2, 2016

Rep. Peter DeFazio

PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change

Springfield City Council

April 4 Work Session (6:00)

HOME Project Proposals

Regular Session (7:00)

Unlawful Transfer Ordinance

Development Code Amendment (Marijuana)

April 11 Work Session (5:30)

Joint Meeting with Museum Board

April 18 Work Session (6:00)

Community Development Advisory Comm.

Recommendations

Regular Session (7:00)

April 25 Work Session (5:30)

Wastewater/Stormwater Rate Scenarios

May 2 Work Session (6:30)

Main Street Speed Discussion

Regular Session (7:00)

Public Hearing: Regional/Local

Wastewater, Stormwater Rate Adoption

Lane County Commissioners

April 5, (9:00)

Work Session: Equity and Access Committee update

April 12: no meeting

April 19 (9:00)

April 26 no meeting.

Lane Transit District

April 20 (5:30)

Willamalane Park and Recreation District

April 13 (6:30)

School District 19

April 11 (7:00)

the people who shape our future and decide the manner and means by which our community will grow and prosper in the future.

Is this worth two lunch hours a month? I submit that if you, like me, would rather shape the future of my community rather than complain about the past; City Club is one of the best places to invest your time to insure that our beautiful home reflects the hopes and dreams of its citizenry.

Claudia J. Miller

MEETINGS

March 3, 2016 Roseburg Forest Products Moves to Springfield

Springfield now has its first billion-dollar company headquartered here. Roseburg Forest Products is relocating its headquarters from Dillard, Oregon to Springfield later this summer. Senior Vice President Steve , who has both a long history in the wood products industry and in Springfield, briefed City Club members on the move on March 3.



Roseburg is not just an Oregon Company. It has over 600,000 acres in timber holdings – 450,000 acres in Oregon and 175,000 in northern California. It has processing facilities in Oregon, California, Louisiana, Montana and Mississippi and a sales office in Atlanta. The company has four main product lines: in addition to lumber, they also produce plywood, composites (like particleboard) and engineered wood. Roseburg is a private company found in 1936 by the Ford family. Although the Ford family continues to own the company, this year for the first time a Ford is not the chief executive, Grady Mulberry has replaced Allyn ford, who, though retired will still play a large role in

the company.

The relocation to Springfield, according to Mr. Killgore, gives the company more convenient access to air service, to Portland and to a deeper professional talent pool. One challenge Roseburg faces, like many manufacturing companies is that the younger workforce is urban oriented and not motivated to rural Oregon and to manufacturing employment. This has led Roseburg to reach out to middle, and even elementary, school students to interest the in forest products and the forest products industry.

Roseburg's move will bring 125 new executive and management level jobs to Springfield, Jobs with excellent salaries and benefits. It will draw the company's national and international customers to the area. The company's offices will be located in the former Northwest Community Credit Union building on Gateway Street. Work should be completed by early summer and the relocation will occur over the summer and be completed by September.

Mr. Killgore said that even with its large timber holdings, the company still must rely on purchased timber for about one half of its production needs. Roseburg does not export logs, Mr. Killgore said. While demand for Roseburg products is good, Mr. Killgore said that imports are creating significant pressure in all products lines. In response to questions, Mr. Killgore said that the recently enacted changes in Oregon's minimum wage will not affect the company – all of its jobs are well above the statutory minimum. He did express concern about the impact of proposed Ballot Measure 28, which would impose a gross receipts tax on large companies, including Roseburg. Mr. Killgore said the biggest strategic issue facing Roseburg is the balancing of capital investment to optimize efficiency. He did not indicate that Roseburg would soon be entering the cross-laminated timber market, point out that market involves a completely different economic model than Roseburg, and a complex marketing chain.

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Ballot Measure 28, to be voted on in November, is either a way to save the education system or an overreaching attack on business in Oregon. That was the range of views a panel of experts debated the proposal to create a 2.5 percent gross receipts tax on corporations having Oregon sales of more than annually.



According to proponents the tax would raise \$2.5 billion per year, to help eliminate a shortfall in recommended education funding of \$2 billion per year. According to opponents it would make Oregon business uncompetitive and drive prices up for all consumers. Proponents asserted that the burden of the tax would fall principally on large out of state corporations and that the impact on prices would be minimal, because ultimate retailers would need to meet prices of their competitors. In response to a question, proponents agreed that because the tax would be an ordinary business expense deductible from a business’s gross income in determining federal tax liability, the likelihood of passing the tax along would be diminished.

The March 17 City Club program featured Emma Kallaway from Our Oregon and Anna Goff a Springfield teacher speaking in support of Measure 28 and Sandra McDonough from the Portland business Alliance, speaking in opposition. Proponents disputed the claim that the proposed tax would compound on businesses and be reflected in prices to the consumer. But Ms. McDonough pointed out that at each step in the supply change if the business met the criteria in the measure, a new 2.5 percent tax would be added. Opponents said this would be extremely rare and happen in less than 10 percent of all transactions.

At the March 17 City Club program, proponents and opponents seemed almost to be speaking past each other. Proponents talked about the benefits to education and social programs, while opponents focused on the negative economic impact. A gross receipts tax, such as proposed by Measure 28, differs from a sales tax. A gross receipts tax can be imposed at any, or every stage of the manufacturing and distribution chain, while a sale tax is imposed only at the final step where the product is purchased by a consumer. Opponents urged that a sales tax was a more sensible alternative, claiming that goods that would not be taxed under a sales tax, like food, might well be in effect taxed under a gross receipts tax because products that went into the production of food would be taxed.

While proponents of Measure 28 conceded that this could occur, they called it extremely rare and instead argued for the benefits to education and social services that the tax could produce.

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Springfield City Club
Board of Directors Meeting February 1, 2016

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