

Mayor's Corner  
March 17, 2023

With last week's groundbreaking for our new Carlton Civic Center, this project has shifted into 4th gear & things are moving fast! -- over the next couple of weeks we'll be developing printed information for use in fundraising to help defray project costs. **If you are, or know anyone who is, experienced in website and graphic design, and willing to donate some time to help create website and printed information about the project, your help will be much appreciated -- and publicly noted. Contact City Manager Shannon Beaucaire if you are interested in helping: [sbeaucaire@ci.carlton.or.us](mailto:sbeaucaire@ci.carlton.or.us)**

### From the Groundbreaking Ceremony

Welcome - many thanks for joining us to celebrate the groundbreaking for Carlton's new Civic Center. This project has been a long time coming – in fact it occurred to me the other day that there likely are parents of this year's senior class, who were in grade school themselves when discussions first began regarding the need for a new city building!

This project didn't just materialize – city councils of the last 20 years have been discussing and evaluating the need for a new building versus refurbishing the old one, and the Council of 2021-22 was no exception.



In fact, two individuals kept the faith and never wavered from their belief that we needed a new building and I believe their conviction is what swayed the rest of us: Carey Rhoads especially supported this project; his longevity on the council and advocacy of the need for a new building carried some extra credibility – and he spoke up to ensure that it would be a facility that will serve the needs of our city, and our citizens for many years to come. Carey's generally a pretty fiscally conservative guy, and his support meant a lot for making this happen. Council President Shirley Ward-Mullen, currently our longest-serving council member has been a strong, outspoken advocate for this project, and she and Carey made a pretty convincing argument for moving forward on a new construction.



All of us in that council listened and questioned– We looked at as many options as seven people could come up with in at least 12 meetings.

Our city staff has, I suspect lost track of the hundreds of hours of research and comparable evaluations as to the cost and longevity of adding on to the old building versus starting from the ground up. A difficult task and they were – in a sense evaluating their own futures.

In the final analysis, the council agreed (some reluctantly!) that a new building was the only option.



Our new civic building will fill a gap in the amenities our neighbors want to see in their community: in addition to providing updated, adequate office space for our city staff, a large part of our new building will be available for community activities, from comfortable seating for council meetings to large and smaller rooms for anything from yoga classes to birthday celebrations. We're looking forward to a building that will house displays of Carlton's history – reminding residents, and educating visitors of the little lumber town that has grown into a central asset of Oregon's wine country...all while retaining the feel of a close-knit community. Our goal is for this new building to be the touchstone of our community, and we invite all of you to join us in making that happen.