

If I Were Mayor

By: Payton Edwards

If I were mayor of Forest Grove, I would do my best to help stop the Coronavirus, and help my citizens stay healthy. The Coronavirus, also known as Covid-19, is a rising issue that we are all facing worldwide. Due to the spread of the virus many cities, counties, and even states around the US have been forced to quarantine, or shelter in place at home. There have also been bans on social gatherings. This includes school, work, and trips to nonessential public places. Because of this ban, students have been learning from home, employees have been told to work from their residence, and some have even been let go from their jobs completely. Many small businesses have had no choice but to lay off all of their employees, due to income loss, and a crash in the stock market. These are all big problems, but if we all work together, we can stop the Coronavirus. If I were mayor, I would have some ideas on how I could help our community.

This pandemic has been forcing lots of towns and cities to make big decisions. Like changing laws, and going into quarantine, that have been making regular things that we normally do very difficult. If I were mayor of Forest Grove, I would give an update about how our town and other areas in Oregon are adapting to the new changes. Giving news updates will let everybody know how the changes are going to impact

their everyday life, and how they are going to change their life to ensure that they and their loved ones stay healthy. Examples of this could be setting up a specific radio channel in Forest Grove that talks about new and upcoming changes, where to get financial assistance, food assistance, and what our local virus tally is may be at.

As I mentioned earlier, a vast majority of people all around the country are being laid off from their jobs, because of a downfall in the stock market. Families have fallen on hard times financially. Some don't even have enough money to buy groceries and pet supplies. However, many of us are more fortunate and can still afford groceries to feed their families. If I were mayor, I would fix this by having monthly food and pet drives where families can donate and pick up food and supplies. To be safe, I would have each family sign up online for a time slot on when to donate or receive food, and supplies for their pets. I would also make a list online of high demand items we need, so the community knows what they could bring in. I could also ask local restaurants that are downsizing their inventory to donate to the food drive and in return make it a tax deduction. If everybody in our community pitches in and helps, we can support all in need.

If I were mayor, I would talk to the city council about some modifications that would benefit everybody, not just those in need. The first thing I would propose to the council is lowering

water and power bills, and property taxes. I understand that our community doesn't like bills, especially when we are focusing on stocking up on groceries and disinfectants. Legislation is also changing for each town, and if I were mayor, I would give my opinion to the council on what I think should be changed. Then I would ask for your opinion on what you think should be done to keep our community safe, and issues that are important to you. People have voices, and they should be heard. However, these are not the only ideas that I would present, I also have some notions that I believe could benefit our cities budget.

Considering everyone is staying home, I believe some of our public buildings should be temporarily shut down, including the pool, parks, library, and all recreational facilities. I believe with these closures we can focus our budget on more useful things. Some things we could direct Forest Grove's money towards are supplies for our first responders, raising pay for all essential city workers that still have to work, and supporting Meals on Wheels. These are just some of the ideas I would propose to my city council if I were mayor.

Big industries and companies have enough money to stay open and keep producing products. On the other hand, small local businesses make a substantially smaller income. If I were mayor, I would plan to help these businesses. I would do that by making special relief funds for the businesses that need it, in hopes they can continue to stay open. The businesses that remain open would need to follow some new safety

regulations to maintain proper hygiene for staff and patrons. Some of these regulations include, everybody remaining at least 6 feet apart, hand sanitizer used regularly, disinfecting surfaces at least three times a day, wash with soap and water at least once every two hours, and have tissues and masks available for employees and customers. To make sure companies are following these rules, I would have a team of temporary employees check weekly.

In conclusion, if I were mayor of Forest Grove I would give news updates every day, hold monthly food and pet drives, propose beneficial ideas to the council, give my opinion and ask for citizen opinions on changing legislation, and support local businesses in need of help. These are a few of many things I would change to improve Forest Grove's overall health, profits, and happiness. I believe I could do a lot for this Forest Grove if I were mayor. If we all come together, we can get through this.