

From the IT Director:

March has been a busy month for the Wilsonville IT department. There has been a lot of work done behind the scenes to support upcoming City projects. A number of upgrades or network configuration changes have been made that will make projects easier to complete. We also have some fiber re-splicing planned for the coming months that will provide increased connectivity to several City facilities and assets.

Looking at the nature of these projects highlights how much Information Technology has changed in the municipal environment over the last few years. We all know that technology is ubiquitous in today's society. It's hard to imagine going through a day without using your cell phone or your computer. Technology has made many of our daily activities much more efficient.

The same is true for many of the daily activities it takes to run the City. More and more systems that were completely manual a few years ago are increasingly being integrated into the City's network. Every new system that is considered for the City is analyzed for opportunities to integrate it so that it is easier to maintain and control.

One area where this has really taken off in the last few years is in facility operations. Among many things, the Facilities department is responsible for maintaining heating and air conditioning (also known as HVAC) equipment throughout City facilities. Only a couple of years ago, a considerable amount of their time was spent visiting the different buildings in the City to respond to HVAC issues. Now with advancements in HVAC technology many of the newer units are networked together similar to how office computers are connected. This has allowed the Facilities team to be much more efficient with their time and handle other issues that a growing City experiences.

The facility group has embraced this new connectivity and is actively looking for new technology that assists them in day to day activities. They have rolled out an online database that allows them to keep track of an increasingly connected City. The software organizes specific building information such as lighting controls and floor plans and allows it to be accessed from a tablet. Having this information at the facilities crew's fingertips adds an immense amount of efficiency and allows the crew to tackle more issues while they are out and about in the City.



Another group that has embraced technology has been the City's Parks and Rec department. They have implemented a new program that allows them to efficiently water the City's parks. The software is tied to weather stations in the Wilsonville area and can help calculate the amount of water a particular area needs given the conditions. It can also be accessed via a tablet or cell phone to operate individual valves and sprinklers to troubleshoot issues while in the field.



The technology integration doesn't just benefit City Staff. The recent website upgrade utilized new software that allows the sites to scale to everyone's mobile devices. We wanted to make sure that the websites are as easy to use as possible for citizens and staff alike. In addition to the

improvements on the outside, large efficiencies were created behind the scenes to make sure that staff could easily update information across multiple websites. We are also looking at software that will make community engagement with the citizens of Wilsonville even easier in the future.

As I have mentioned before, upgrades have been made to the City's government channel to effectively stream meetings to citizens, allowing viewing in times and places that were not available previously. The City has also been able to utilize this technology to expand capacity for important meetings by streaming the event into multiple rooms.

These are just a few examples of how technology has permeated the day to day functions at the City. The IT department really enjoys helping implement these technologies and seeing the improvements that it can make on day to day operations. We strive to assist any department that wants to embrace technology to help make a task easier or more efficient.

You've probably noticed that I have mentioned efficiency a lot in this article. Making life easier is often a driving factor of technology and that is no different here at the City. Every technology purchase that the IT department or any other department makes is scrutinized to make sure that it is something that the City can use to create efficiencies in day to day City operations. Whether it is helping a crew handle issues from across the City or allowing a citizen to communicate with City staff about an issue they are experiencing, the IT department is excited about helping put that technology in place.

Until next time,

Andy Stone

IT Director