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TO: All Interested Parties  
FROM: Sue Pearson, Clerk-Treasurer  
DATE: March 30, 2016  
RE: **Press Release**

Mayor Jesse Farias retired from his position at the last Council meeting on March 21, 2016.

He has been a major asset to the community in his direction as a leader in the community and mentor to City staff. His leadership was instrumental in transitioning a City that was in serious financial trouble to one that is fiscally sound.

Under his direction the City was able to streamline building and zoning processes which facilitated opportunities for a number businesses including Legacy Fruit and Valicoff Fruit as well many others that provide for employment opportunities to our citizens.

The city was able to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant into a state of the art facility that will serve community needs many years into the future. Transportation improvement projects were completed on S. Camas Avenue, Ahtanum Avenue and continuing projects on N. Wasco and Sitcum Avenues will be completed this construction season. In partnership with the school district a sidewalk improvement project will occur on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, also this upcoming construction season.

The Blessed Kateri Village complex was completed and plans for an additional 20 plus single family affordable houses are in the works.

He promoted the annual Tamale Festival that is held in October every year and helped with a host of other community events including the Harvest Festival and the annual spring cleanup.

Park improvements were done at Lion's park with a new gazebo and the soccer fields were installed.

Wapato's Metal of Honor winner Reinhardt J. Keppler was recognized with the renaming of Dove Lane to Keppler Way.

There are too many projects and community committee memberships to list here. Mayor Farias leaves a legacy of public service accomplishments. The City and staff will miss Mayor Farias and wish him well in his future endeavors.