



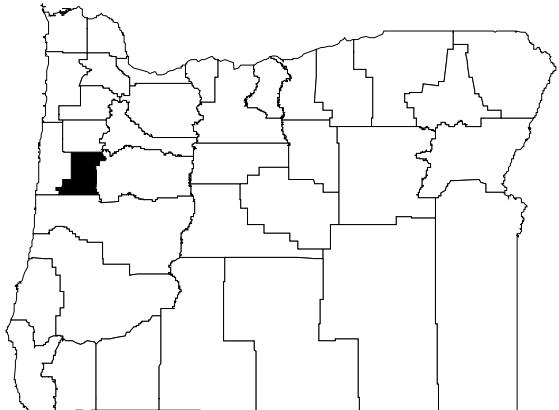
City of Monroe

Community Profile

County Benton

City Monroe

Population 680



Assignment

Organization City of Monroe

Supervisor Rick Hohnbaum

RARE Member RJ Theofield

About the City of Monroe

The City of Monroe is a municipality with systematic improvement and delivery of services in mind. It has a new mayor, but the mayor was on council prior and there are two former mayors on the City Council. The City walks a fine line about being a municipal organization yet community driven. Half of the planning commission are community residents but do not reside within the city. The Beautification Committee is the largest as it is not a council committee and everyone is welcomed. The historic design overlay for the highway corridor (the downtown) was initiated by this committee on its way to adoption. The City has 3.5 employees. Recent staff increases were made as part of an intentional move to expand planning and community development efforts.

RJ will assist the volunteer planning commission in the comprehensive plan update through a land inventory, research on economic opportunities, housing needs and inventory, and demographics. He will facilitate community input as well as work with consultants on the regional transportation plan. Additionally, RJ will bring together a Main Street Group to work on downtown revitalization. Last but not least, he will work on policies surrounding river access and protection as well as storm water program development.



Meet RJ Theofield

- Bachelors in Environmental Design, Policy & Planning - Stony Brook University
- People may be surprised when they learn that I studied Permaculture Design at the Punta Mona Center in Costa Rica for one month. The study abroad trip was my first venture outside of the United States and truly enriched my global perspectives.
- My greatest accomplishment is not something I did to change the world. It's something I did to change myself. The more I learned about urban planning as a career, the more apparent it became that I would need to become an effective public speaker. As a teenager, I became very anxious when speaking in front of crowds and avoided certain activities because of it. It was intimidating. I decided that if I wanted to be an effective planner I would need to face my anxiety head-on. This was the only way to overcome my fear.