

GORAYEB: Two councilors are out of town for a while

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The interviews of employees at City Hall by the outside investigator were completed last week. The results of the interviews were given to each employee to review for accuracy. The investigator had originally set a deadline of March 16 for return of the interview documents from employees, after which a final

report would be submitted to the City Council, the City attorney, and the City's insurance carrier.

At last week's council workshop it was discovered that Councilor David Asson is scheduled to be out of town all this week and that Councilor Nancy Connolly is leaving March 17, for two weeks.

To avoid the possibility of only three Council members being available to review the final report and make any necessary decisions, Council approved granting City employees work time last

Friday to complete reviewing their statements. It was hoped that with receiving feedback by Friday, the investigator would be able to prepare the final report in time for Wednesday's executive session. That did not work out.

Frye told *The Nugget* on Monday that the council may have to review the report, then conduct an executive session with a conference call with the absent councilors.

Gorayeb was placed on paid administrative leave on February 25, after Mayor Chris Frye received the

complaints. Frye contacted Citycounty Insurance Services (CIS), the City's insurance carrier that frequently deals with these kinds of issues; CIS provided a course of action.

CIS will make no formal

recommendation regarding the findings of the investigation, but will act in an advisory capacity, helping Council to understand and weigh possible consequences of any actions they decide to take.

ORDINANCE: Multiple amendments bogged down council review

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that a formula food establishment is one that meets qualifications spelled out in the definition, and is substantially identical to 13 or more other establishments regardless of ownership or location. The current definition says, "three or more establishments."

In an effort to correspond to Federal food and drug definitions, which state "20 or more establishments," the figure of 20 was adopted by staff and incorporated into the suggested text amendment. This

change prompted a great deal of discussion among Council members who decided to return to the "13 or more" figure.

The longest discussion revolved around changes to garage setbacks and residential building heights, which have ping-ponged back and forth from the Planning Commission to City Council to staff and back again.

Because the five proposed text amendments were bundled into one package, Council could approve the ordinance as proposed, modify it, or continue the public hearing to a future date, which would delay implementation of all the changes, not just those for which Council needed more

information or more deliberation time.

Council chose to approve Ordinance 468 and its five separate parts, as amended with 13 or more formula food establishments, but indicated that the garage setback question should be re-referred to the Planning Commission to take another look.

City Attorney Steve Bryant told Council they would have been correct in continuing the hearing if they wished.

Davenport informed Council there is another ordinance with bundled amendments in the pipeline. Several Council members expressed a desire to consider each proposed change as a separate ordinance.

An award for art...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

The Sisters High School Yearbook crew presented Hannah Tenneson with a scholarship check provided by Jerry Baldock of Outlaws Photography for her cover for this year's book.

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