

City Council acts on affordable housing

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

An ordinance to create and preserve affordable housing in Sisters passed unanimously at the Sisters City Council April 10 meeting. The affordable housing program has been under consideration for the past six months.

In a separate resolution, the Council granted to Sisters Habitat for Humanity to cover parks and transportation system development charges (SDC) that were originally waived on nine properties in the Desert Rose Loop project. The ordinance allows the City to dispense funds to cover fees originally waived. This is basically a housekeeping item with which the SDC funds will not be reduced by waivers granting non-payment.

From here on Habitat will need to apply for affordable housing grants for items such as this. If the properties don't remain affordable for 25 years, the grant would have to be repaid to the City by Habitat.

Resolution 2019-05 adopted the 2019/20 Council goals which provide clear direction

to staff, commissions, boards, Council and the community for actions taken and projects undertaken in support of the goals.

Council voted to award a public improvement contract to Robinson & Owen in the amount of \$521,607.87 for work identified as Schedule A in the Lazy Z Ranch wastewater reuse expansion. All bids came in higher than expected, so for now only the trunk line to the site will be completed. Value engineering for the rest of the project will be completed to get the overall cost closer to original estimates.

Tri-County Paving was awarded a contract in the amount of \$76,345.80 for the 2019 street overlay project, which is lower than a previous project. Engineers had estimated the cost at \$90,000.

A professional services agreement was approved to contract with Olson LLC for backflow testing. All water accounts will see about a one dollar increase in the annual charge and \$1.50 for commercial accounts. The public can use their own tester if they will provide proof of the test results to the City.

City snapshot

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The Planning Commission and the Housing Policy Advisory Board will hold a joint meeting on Thursday, April 18, to review the Housing Needs Analysis with the consultant who prepared it.

At the April 24 City Council meeting there will be a public hearing on the McKenzie Meadow Village land-use packages. Public testimony will be taken. Written comments may be submitted for the record prior to the meeting.

City staff is working with NXT Consulting to create a 16-page brochure explaining the Sisters Horizons Vision to be used as a tool for promoting Sisters by the Chamber of Commerce, EDCO, Sisters School District, and any number of businesses. It should be completed and coming off the press by late May or early June. The Vision Implementation Team will be appointed at the start of the 2019/20 fiscal year.

Sisters Habitat for Humanity will be celebrating the grand opening of their new thrift store on Cascade

Avenue in the former Sisters Drug and Gift building on Saturday, April 27 at 9 a.m. The current thrift store building will be sold, with the proceeds going toward paying off the new building. A small army of volunteers has been working every day for six weeks to prepare the new store.

Community Development Director Patrick Davenport reported that since the new short-term rental (STR) regulations took effect, the City has denied 16 STR applications due to the 250-foot buffer required between rental units. Davenport said there are currently about 90 STRs in town. June 30 is the cutoff date to obtain an STR operator's license for those who had an STR prior to the new

regulations.

The Deschutes County Commissioners will come to Sisters on April 25 at 5:30 p.m. to present their plans for non-prime resource lands. Those lands include exclusive farm use (EFU) and forestlands that are not being used for their intended purposes. The commissioners are considering reserving those lands for future development. There will be discussion about how the County's plan affects the Sisters Horizons Vision Plan. The meeting will be in Council chambers at City Hall.

There is one opening on the Urban Forestry Board for a one-year term for someone representing the Development community. Contact Paul Bertagna for information 541-323-5212.

Dr. Thomas R. Rheuben

**General, Cosmetic, Implant
and Family Dentistry**

~ Your Dentist in Sisters Since 1993 ~

We are here to help you smile with confidence!

541-549-0109 | 304 W. Adams Ave. | Sisters

WILSON'S 2018

MODEL LIQUIDATION

Sale

LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND!

SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE

Subject to credit approval. See store for details

FREE DELIVERY

With \$599 minimum purchase

SALE ENDS APRIL 30TH!

BEAUTYREST ENGLANDER AIRELOOM MATTRESSES

UP TO **75% OFF**

TEMPUR-PEDIC

UP TO **50% OFF**

POWER ADJUSTABLE MATTRESS BASES

QUEEN FROM **\$399**

FLEXSTEEL SOFAS & RECLINERS

UP TO **50% OFF**

STRESSLESS RECLINERS

UP TO **\$1000 OFF**

ENGLAND SOFAS & CHAIRS

UP TO **65% OFF**

SOUTHERN MOTION SOFAS & SECTIONALS

UP TO **50% OFF**

WILSON'S of Redmond

Still The Oldest & Largest Furniture Store in Central Oregon!

2071 S Hwy 97, Redmond • 541-548-2066

Wilson's MATTRESS Gallery-Bend

Next to Olive Garden

63485 N Hwy 97, Bend • 541-330-5084