

Agenda

Sisters City Council

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

The City Council meeting will be open to the public via Zoom. Using Zoom is free of charge. The public is invited to join the meeting with your computer or telephone by going to the following link: www.ci.sisters.or.us/bc-city-council/page/city-council-workshop-city-council-meeting

5 p.m. workshop:

1. Review of Wildfire Mitigation Strategies.
2. Discussion of Reopening Framework:
 - a. Overview of State and County Status.
 - b. Review Communication Strategy.
 - c. Review Emergency Declaration.
 - d. Review Administrative Order 2020-03.
 - e. Review City Operations:
 - City Hall
 - Campground
 - Recycle Center
 - Public Events
 - Board & Commission Meetings
 - f. Business Outreach & Support

6:30 Regular Meeting:

- Resolution 2020-08: Extending the State of Emergency declaration contained in Resolution No. 2020-06
- Resolution 2020-07: A resolution of the City of Redmond, Deschutes County and City of Sisters to sponsor the re-designation of the Greater Redmond Enterprise Zone.

City responding to illegal tree removal

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

A tree service company out of Redmond felled a large ponderosa pine tree on Larch Street just south of Hood Avenue last week. According to the City of Sisters, the tree was in the right-of-way of the City of Sisters, and the tree service had no authorization to bring the tree down.

Cascade Tree Works owner Aidan Grady told *The Nugget* that the adjacent property owner believed the tree was on his property. Grady said the tree had blue stain, evidence of beetle infestation.

Regardless of its condition taking down the tree without authorization puts both the tree service and the property owner in legal jeopardy.

“The property owner and arborist are going to be responsible for compensating the City and the community for the felling of that tree,” said City Manager Cory Misley.

Misley said removal of trees in the City right-of-way is conducted with approval from the City after the City’s forester has determined that a tree is dead, diseased, or dangerous.

This is not the first time a private property owner has gotten into hot water for removing trees in the City right-of-way. In 2018, homeowners on South Pine Street and the tree service they employed to remove nine



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

The City of Sisters plans “swift response” to the felling of a tree on Larch Street last week. The tree was in City right-of-way and felled without notification or approval by the City of Sisters.

mature ponderosa pine trees from City right-of-way in front of their houses were hit with a fine. Fines and compensation in such cases can climb to many thousands of dollars. In the 2018 case, the fines were considerably less than the tens of thousands of dollars that could have been assessed.

The City has reached out to arborists across Central Oregon to drive home the point that they should check

with the City before going to work.

“If you are not 100 percent sure that it is on your property, assume that it is NOT on your property,” Misley said.

A phone call from the arborist and/or the property owner can save a whole lot of legal hassle and tremendous expense.

“If someone isn’t sure whether a tree is on their property or in the City

right-of-way, our public works crew will come out and tell them,” Misley said.

In this case, the tree was felled blocking a street without informing the City, and, according to Public Works Director Paul Bertagna, it was also brought down on top of a 12-inch water main.

Misley said that the City plans “swift response within our legal authority – and probably pursuing all the legal authority that we have.”

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