

Local

Baker City Council

• SAM-O-SWIM, SALMON CREEK PROPERTY TOPICS

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Tuesday's City Council was called to order at the seven o'clock hour with all Councilors present minus Mayor Mosier.

Citizen Participation.

Public Relations and Government Affairs Manager for OTEC, Lara Petittlerc-Stokes addressed council awarding a quarterly Baker County franchise check to the city in the amount of \$88,421. She also gave a quick update on projects and investments OTEC is providing the community to improve the system regarding replacement of transmission circuit breakers and relays 50-plus-years-old.

Petittlerc-Stokes also spoke about the four students, one from each of the four counties OTEC serves, recently selected to participate in the annual youth tour and conference in Washington D.C. to represent our cooperative.

"This is an all-expense paid trip as part of the annual youth tour, an educational youth conference. Four high school students will represent Oregon and the Northwest as they join nearly 2,000 students from across the United States for a one week trip. Over the course of the week the students visit historical sites, learn leadership skills and meet with congressional leaders. They will have the opportunity to learn about current issues in energy and climate change legislation that faces our communities and our nation," she said.

Next Yvonne Da Torre went in front of council and asked, "I want to know what your plan is? Do you have a plan on banning these poisons in the parks and playgrounds or not?"

Michelle Owen responded to her by saying, "I believe the direction given at the last Council meeting was to bring this to the Parks and Rec committee. We plan to do that; they have a meeting next Tuesday at 5:30. They will be looking at a buffer zone type area around playgrounds, how that would look and how that would work. I believe that plan is to meet in a park but I don't have the specifics, but I believe the Parks Committee will be off-site, not in this building, at a park I just don't know which one for sure yet. They are also going to talk about ways to coordinate volunteers for the no spray zone."

Da Torre then asked, "So an ordinance is not being considered for permits?"

Owen responded, "We were not directed to develop and ordinance. We were directed to bring the issue to the Parks and Rec committee for their consideration on it."

Da Torre responded by stating, "So you're passing the buck to the Parks committee, is that it?"

"I don't pass anything. That was direction given from council," Owen said.

Da Torre again raised the question of whether the products in question had been researched. "Do you

know what they are?"

Council Langrell added, "Ma'am the DEQ has outlawed every herbicide that could possibly hurt anything. At this time, as a member of this community I see no reason to consider a ban. The vinegar and Epsom salts you want us to put on stuff will kill any vegetation, will turn it brown instantly. It will not kill the weeds the stuff will be back and as much of a problem as before."

Da Torre remained steadfast in her address continuing to ask if research was being done etc. She also provided lab reports from an investigator's testing that was done after the last spraying along the parkway between D Street and H Street, which indicated higher than allowed levels including detection of an herbicide that was banned in 2003.

"An hour and a half after that spraying was done, there were approximately 30 school children walking along the pathway being exposed to that toxic poison," she said.

"If the City gets incompetents to do their dirty work for them, you have to realize you are still liable, if there is a class action suit, you may be named," she warned.

Councilor Thomas interjected by saying, "I noticed we have a very full agenda and we normally have a three-minute talk time window."

Acting Mayor Downing told Da Torre, "We generally have a three-minute limit," to which Da Torre replied, "Oh, my three minutes is up? Interesting that the person that wanted to sell you grant writing services was given 48 minutes. Thank You."

Before Da Torre returned to her seat, Councilor Augenfeld told her, "I do agree with you. You have my vote. I think an ordinance would help educate some people, property owners."

Salmon Creek Property
Fred Warner, a realtor with Nelson Real Estate was present to speak to Council about the Salmon Creek Property.

Mike Kee, City Manager told Council, "He (Warner) has done an analysis on the property the City owns and voters have authorized to sell and is here to present you with that information."

Warner then began his presentation telling Council, "There's 33.23 acres of zoned farm land, residences cannot be built on that land."

That land could be attached to other residential land and a barn or other similar building can then be added to the property. There is an additional 15.35 acres that "would be more valuable if separated into 3 lots." Those lots would equal approximately five acres each.

"There would need to be an easement for a road and surveying costs that would be incurred as well as recording fees," Warner said.

The County Planning Department is able to work up a plan that includes estimated costs that include city estimated surveying costs, county planning department costs of partition plat, city cost estimates for road construction and

miscellaneous fee in a contingency fund.

Property owners adjacent to this property were at the meeting and were interested in what plans for the property will be.

Terry Drever-Gee said, "My concern is are there really three, five-acre parcels because there is a wetland on one of those, so it the way you partition it would have to be really scrutinized."

Lynn Ewing and Matthew Cunningham expressed to council that they may be interested in purchasing the property which is adjacent to theirs. "I can't speak for any of the ranchers in the area, and I don't believe any are here tonight, but I know we'd like to see it stay farm use," said Ewing.

2015 Parks Master Plan.

In May of 2011, Ordinance 3303 was passed forming the Parks and Recreation board. City Council directed them to develop a master plan. After years of work the board has completed the plan and is presenting it to council for approval.

"This is a project that the Parks and Rec committee has been working on for a couple of years now," Owen told Council. "In addition we had a consultant go through it. Then staff and volunteers put it together more professionally with chapters and in this format you have in front of you tonight. We would just like to have some time to have you review it, visit a park see if we missed anything. Then look to adopt it at the next meeting."

Owen said a lot of volunteer hours had been out into the project.

"You say this was done by volunteers?" Councilor Langrell asked.

Owen assured him it was. "The finished product with all its pretty colors and stuff was put together by staff, but the chapters were handed out to individual members of our Parks committee to formulate priorities."

Langrell said, "It's a very impressive document and the hours that the volunteers must have put in on this is phenomenal. I'd like to thank each and every one of them."

Kee added "If we had paid a consultant, this would easily have been a \$30,000 project. This will easily take us 20 years into the future."

Contract for Leo Adler Memorial Pathway Extension and Paving.

According to Owen City staff has done most of the work in preparation of the paving for the project. City staff does not do paving, therefore it that was advertised for bid. The bid that Owen would like to use is one from Hampton paving out of La Grande. "The bid is for \$42,477.30 so I am looking for Council to make a motion to award the contract to them for that amount."

The project was estimated at \$40,000 making them over about \$2,000 so it is possible some minor delays may have to be made in placement of benches or the garbage receptacle. Councilor Langrell made a motion that was seconded by Councilor Merrill and Council voted unanimously to approve the request to award the bid to Hamp-



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Realtor Fred Warner talks about the City's Salmon Creek property.

ton Paving. The paving project has been tentatively scheduled for June 15 to July 15.

Resolution 3744, 2015 -2016 Fee Schedules, Resolution 3750 Supplemental Budget Resolution, Resolution 3751 Authorizing Temporary Parking Restrictions for the Baker City Cycling Classic and Awarding of RFP Contract for City Attorney.

Jeanie Dexter, City finance manager advised that back in April the fee schedule had been brought to council for discussion. Since the schedule was presented Dexter advised, "A couple of changes have been made such as Building Department fees, in April we had an in office design consultation fee for both residential and commercial. After further discussion amongst City staff it was decided to omit that fee. All Building Department fees are required to be posted for 45 days. It was sent to the state for review of compliance and conformity, because we do use the State's e-permitting system all fees have to conform to their structure and although a City Manager can choose to charge a different plan view fee for a non-profit, they did not want that on the fee resolution."

Councilor Abell made a motion to accept this fee schedule that was seconded by Councilor Merrill. The council voted to unanimously accept the fee schedule.

Dexter then addressed resolution 3750. "This is a request to remove \$3,000 that is in contingency from the State and Federal grant fund into the FFA department fund. This money affects the 2014-2015 budget. The need for this is that the FFA Department was not established in this budget because a project being started with the FFA was unforeseen in this budget year. A public notice was required, which I did," said Dexter. "This money will pay for an independent fee estimate."

Councilor Merrill made a motion to allow for this budgetary resolution that was seconded by Councilor Thomas and voted unanimously in favor.

Michelle Owen addressed Council regarding resolution 3751, asking for temporary parking restrictions during the Cycle Classic which is in its 14th year. The restrictions are not long-lasting and a yearly request. "This is done on a Saturday, and the numbers are looking about the same as last year about 300 participants and they are looking at a women's race to build numbers. I know parking restrictions can be challenging, code required council approval for these temporary restrictions." The council unanimously approved the resolution.

City Manager Kee addressed council stating back in May a proposal was put out requesting city attorney services. Three proposals were received one from current service provider Baum Smith, LLC of La Grande, one from Bryant, Lovlein and Jarvis of Bend and one from Yturri Rose, LLP of Baker City. After review from City staff, it was found that although lacking in City experience and slightly higher hourly rates Yturri Rose of Baker City was the best overall proposal due to being local thus eliminating travel cost incurred by out of town firms.

Councilor Langrell brought up a question of whether or not it should be discussed that a charter change occur thus allowing council to direct a lawyer rather than the City Manager, but that discussion would wait. Councilor Merrill made a motion to award the contract to Yturri Rose, LLP that was seconded by Councilor Abell and voted unanimously in favor by Council.

Ordinance 3339 – Sam-O-Swim Center Committee

City Manager Mike Kee said, "At the last meeting Council directed staff to write an ordinance that created a Sam-O-Swim Center committee. It is a seven-member committee with one member being staff, one being a City Councilperson and five voting members as the Council and City staff representatives will not vote."

"We have done that, the ordinance is short and sweet, creating a standing committee," said Kee.

That committee will work with City staff to identify and prioritize facility maintenance projects, recommend expenditure of funds for major facility improvements and equipment to the City Council for the continued maintenance and operation of the Swim Center and identify additional funding opportunities to continue that operation and maintenance.

City Manager Kee read the proposed Ordinance twice, which is allowed upon a unanimous vote by council, which there was, and will be read for a third time at the next meeting. An emergency was declared so the formation and activation of the committee can begin immediately.

Much discussion was had as to whether the creation of a short term task force to address immediate concerns or a long term on-going committee would be best and how that committee and or task force would be selected.

Jason Bybee, a district marketing manager for Natural Structures addressed council on the matter said, "I help communities with pool issues. Not really the maintenance

side but how to increase attendance. I'd like to, as a citizen be involved in the pool. I see the challenge Council is having of deciding on a short term task force or long term. I know you're looking for people that frequent the pool, I don't. There is not a lot there for me."

Bybee gave a few ideas of additions to the pool that could increase attendance and interest in the pool giving vital support, including financial.

Downing told Bybee, "The committee meetings are open to the public so even if you weren't on the committee you'd be able to attend meetings and have input." It was finally decided by vote on a motion by Councilor Langrell to appoint a short-term task force consisting of Heidi Dalton, Ben Merrill, Doug Schwinn, Rustin Smith, Randy Daughtery, Jason Bybee and Gary Dielman. Let's also go ahead and appoint Andrew Bryant and Allan Blair too."

Kee added, "If they want to apply for the long term committee, they can." Council at the motion of Langrell and second of Merrill voted to appoint those mentioned to a task force, all voting in favor except for Downing.

Before adjourning, Luke Yeaton advised that a member of the Public Works Advisory Committee had resigned so an open position is available, it is a partial term that expires in January of 2016. Contact Yeaton in Human Resources to apply.

Owen also stated that at the request of the mayor and the city manager, staff are working on quiet zone research for the train whistle, ODOT will be doing a chip seal project near the Dewey Street underpass and heading out Highway 7 beginning June 16 with restricted traffic in the area.

"I also just want to touch on the water usage," she said. "Goodrich has filled due to recent rains we've had and of course with more moisture Ranchers called for less water which is good news however, with the warmer weather our water use is up in town. We are meeting needs but are still trying to accomplish hydrant flushing and can adjust that schedule as needed to continue to meet needs."

Owen also asked for a letter of support from council for application of an ODOT grant. The Council agreed that they would sign a letter so Owen could seek that grant for improvements on 10th Street.

This grant would be used to survey only 10th Street and suggest improvements beyond what has been previously discussed including sidewalk elements and beautification.