

# Local

## Council hears brownfields grant application

• KIM MOSIER PRESIDES OVER HER LAST MEETING AS MAYOR

BY GINA K. SWARTZ  
Gina@TheBakerCountyPress.com

After an executive session evaluating City Manager Fred Warner, Mayor Kim Mosier convened her final Council meeting as Mayor, her term is expiring at the end of this month.

Councilor Richard Langrell, whose term also expires at the end of this month led The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation for what was also his final meeting.

Human Resources Manager/ City Recorder Julie Smith called roll with each Councilor answering present.

Smith then interjected telling both Councilor Langrell and Mayor Mosier that she had certificates of appreciation for them both and thanked them for their service to the community.

Upon presenting the certificates to them Langrell smiled proudly “That’s real nice.”

Mayor Mosier transitioned quickly to the consent agenda, which included approving minutes from the November 22, 2016 Council meeting as well as liquor licenses for both Ed’s Idle Hour and Sunridge Inn.

Councilor Downing moved to approve the consent agenda without any corrections or additions. A second was heard by Councilor Thomas.

Before Council voted Councilor Langrell abstained citing connections with the owners of Sunridge Inn as a conflict of interest.

The remaining Council members voted unanimously to approve. Mayor Mosier then called for Citizen Participation.

Lara Petittlerc-Stoke, Manager of Communications and Government Affairs with OTEC approached council with a quick update noting that all projects are on task and to present the City with a franchise fee check in the amount of \$88,416.33. She also introduced OTEC’s new general Manager Les Penning and reminded the community that scholarship applications are being accepted as well as Washington D.C. Youth Tour applications.

Both of those applications are available on OTEC’s website. Mayor Mosier welcomed Mr. Penning noting that recently OTEC decorated and donated a tree to the Festival of Trees which Mr. Penning then purchased “We got a double donation there. Our hospital appreciates that.”

### EPA Brownfield Grant Application

Robin Nudd Community Developer/Management Assistant/IT Liaison



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Megan Alameda presents to Council at what was Mayor Kim Mosier’s and Richard Langrell’s last meeting.

explained to Council that she has been working with several partners including HBC and Baker High School’s BTI in an effort to identify Brownfield sites within our community and clean up the sites. “We are here to discuss information on EPA grant opportunities and to ask the City Councils blessing to be not only the applicant but to also apply by the December 22 deadline,” Nudd said.

She explained that while the City would be the applicant this project was a partnership among the community with HBC and BTI being instrumental in the pursuit of this grant and will play significant roles once received.

The grant is seeking \$300,000 to identify properties. So, what is a Brownfield site? Property in which the redevelopment or reuse of it is complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

The actual presence of contaminants on properties must be determined by a carefully planned investigation known as an environmental site assessment (ESA). Megan Alameda, instructor with Baker High School, BTI has been teaching students about Brownfields for about four years.

According to a governmental agency similar to the CDC, the association for toxic substances and disease registry, “Baker City has been named as the second highest per capita in the state of Oregon for Brownfield sites.”

Said Alameda. Tom Joseph also a BHS, BTI Instructor appealed to council for their endorsement of the grant by explaining that he has worked extensively with the students in research techniques that will help them with the long-term goals as well as helping in the writing of the grant proposal.

He told Council “To watch local students take science and learning, put it to something that could make their town stronger, better, healthier has been special, we hope you’ll hear them out and move forward with this grant.”

Students Juan Luna,

Caistyn Brooks, Nick Barnes and Eva Jones-Bedolla all of whom have been involved with this project addressed Council about how they felt this was important to their community in many different ways such as economically and in regards to the health of our community. They took obvious pride in their accomplishments thus far and made it very clear to Council that moving forward was extremely important.

Eva Jones-Bedolla even went so far as to say she wanted to follow this through into a career.

After a question and answer session that included asking if there was a strategy plan if resistance was met to which Nudd answered, “We will address that as it happens.”

She did advise a meeting with potential stakeholders had already happened and most of the response was very positive.

It was again clarified that currently all that was being asked for was a grant to assess which properties were Brownfields, the request for cleanup funds would come later and likely be an easier grant to get after getting the assessment grant.

The question was raised as to whether or not the cleanup grant could be asked for before all the assessments were completed or if stakeholders would just have to wait.

Alameda indicated she believed the cleanup grants could be obtained while assessments are still being made. Councilor Lowe stated that he felt all his fellow Councilors should tour BTI as some amazing things are happening there before he moved to approve moving forward with the grant application.

A second was heard from Councilor Abell. Before Council voted

Mayor Mosier said she was “really impressed” and thought it was great to see the School District working with the City.

She said it was “exciting that it could bring \$300,000 to our City.”

When Mosier finished Council voted unanimously to move forward with this grant application and the exciting opportuni-

ties that will come with receiving it. It should be noted that Baker High School and BTI are the only known students to be participating in this monumental achievement nationwide.

Megan Alameda, Thomas Joseph and all the students participating in this project are to be commended for the difference they are making to our community.

### Update of the Economic Development Contract between Baker City and Baker County

City Manager Warner advised Council that a new contract had been agreed upon by City and County leaders in regards to an updated contract for Economic Development between the City and the County.

That contract was before Council for approval. One of the changes that both City and County officials had trouble agreeing on was the number of members that would serve on the Economic Development Committee in an effort to keep things fair between the City and County. Both the City Manager and the County Commission will serve on the board and each is responsible for appointing one other member.

There will then be five additional at large positions that it was agreed on would need to be business owners or similar. Council addressed how these additional members would be determined.

Warner assured Council the same process in which members are appointed to other boards and commissions would be used and that the County had similar application processes.

Both would need to agree before any appointment. After a few other questions and minor concerns that were addressed Councilor Downing moved to accept the contract with a second by Councilor Thomas.

A brief discussion was had in regards to the fact that the County Commissioners would also have to vote to accept this contract before it would go into effect. Council then passed to motion to accept the contract.

### Proclamation for Certification of General Election 2016 Result

Smith read the proclamation aloud certifying the results of the general election that included the election of City Council members.

All current seated Councilors that ran in this election Mike Downing, Loran Joseph, Rosemary Abell, and Daniel Lowe were re-elected with Arvid Anderson and Jamie Ostrander newly elected. Councilor Joseph moved to accept the proclamation with a second by Councilor Downing.

A unanimous vote was cast after which Councilor Langrell jokingly questioned if all Council should vote to accept this proclamation since four were basically voting to accept reelection of themselves. Mayor Mosier laughed but pointed out that if they hadn’t only herself, Councilor Langrell and Councilor Thomas were left to vote and that wouldn’t be enough to approve the motion.

### 2017 Council Planning, Orientation and Budget Overview Sessions

City Manager Warner stated that he had perhaps jumped the gun on this and thought that after new Councilors were sworn in and seated might be a better time to discuss this. Councilor Joseph stated he would still like to see an email started to help facilitate getting some tentative dates for orientations, goal setting meetings, budget overviews etc.

Warner agreed and indicated he would get that started and once everyone comes together for the first meeting with new Council members in January a more definitive schedule could be decided on.

### City Manager/Director Comments

Warner asked for some clarification as to how the next meeting would be started, this being his first time at the helm when a new Council takes over.

“Does someone have to be appointed, by you all at this meeting to start that meeting and begin election of a new Mayor?” he asked.

It was explained that the City Recorder, Smith

in this case, will open the meeting administer the oath of office to the Councilors and facilitate until the Council body chooses its Mayor.

Warner also commended the public works department for its hard work and dedication in keeping streets plowed after all the recent snow.

He indicated that negotiation on the Police Union contract was nearly complete and he would begin contract negotiations with the Fire Department Union soon.

He also indicated an agreement with the YMCA over the swimming pool would be coming before Council soon and that he felt the talks had been going smoothly and positively, that both the City and the Y knew what an asset the pool was to the community and were determine to come to an acceptable agreement.

### Council Comments

Mayor Mosier spoke to her fellow councilors and our community directly saying, “I was thinking about whether or not I was going to say anything, this being my last time meeting as Mayor.”

She continued by acknowledging in a town the size of Baker City, it takes bravery to serve in public entities. She said, “We see each other at the grocery store, the soccer fields, church and the gym, just everywhere so there is not the anonymity that you might have other places but in a town this size we have to do it. We all have to take a turn at doing something as there are only so many of us.”

She then read from the 1910 speech of Theodore Roosevelt entitled ‘A man in the arena’ encouraging community members to take an active role in their community in a variety of different capacities regardless of critics, those not completing the task. “Be the man in the arena,” she said.

She expressed her gratitude for the role she has been able to serve over the last few years as a City Councilor and as Mayor. Then she closed the meeting for her final time.

# Brooklyn Elementary holds budget night

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

If there are, Anderson explained that they reach

out to the families to see if they are able to help get their children to school.

After his presentation, Anderson had those attend-

ing get into small groups to create lists of what they felt was going well at Brooklyn and what needed to be improved or added.

Some ideas from the parents for what is going well included full-day kindergarten, the 45 Inquiry Block, and leveled reading.

Ideas for improvement or additions included leveled math to help students with math as they are helped with reading and adding

variety in physical education games.

Subscribe today for as little as \$29.95 per year. Subscriptions make great gifts!