

Business / Agriculture

Baker City Council approves 911 contract, appoints board members

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Tuesday, February 28, the Baker City Council held its regular meeting. The meeting began with the Council's consent agenda where they approved the liquor license application from the Sycamore Tree.

According to their hand-out, "The Sycamore Tree is now operating under the ownership of Just for Pretty LLC at the same location. The new proprietor Josey Gaslin would like to continue selling alcoholic beverages, thus is requesting an 'Off-Premises Sales' liquor license. The establishment will continue to be a variety store and maintain the Sycamore Tree name."

The Council appointed volunteers to boards and commissions. Councilor Loran Joseph resigned from the Sam O'Swim Board and Councilor Dan McQuisten was appointed to the Sam O'Swim Board. Council member Adam Nilsson was appointed to the Arts Commission Board. The Council appointed Vernon Hull to the Budget Board and Larry Abell to the Historic District Design Review Commission.

The Council approved the third reading of Ordinance 3351 Development Code Updates.

Jeff Nelson presented the Blue Mountain Community College Small Business Development Center 2017 Pub Talk Dates. All Pub Talks are held at Lefty's Tab House on Broadway from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

According to a handout given, on April 26, they will have "What's in Store for 2017" to hear community partners tell what events are taking place in Baker County and how one can capitalize on the opportunity.

On May 24, they will have "The Success of

Women Owned Businesses," stating, "Women owned businesses are exploding with success. Learn why and hear what the women are doing right."

September 13, they will have "Working your Website" stating "Learn how to get the most out of your Website with these easy steps."

On November 8, their last Pub Talk will be "Annual PRCF Public Talk" stating, "Held inside our local prison PRCF. Come hear featured speakers and the dreams of a few men who want to change."

Nelson also presented success stories of businesses in Baker that were helped by the BMCC SBDC.

Among them were Veronica Johnson at the Wisdom House, Kristi Hensley at Eagle Cap Grill Steak and Seafood, Theresa Ball at Baker City Vape & Teresa's Treasures, and Dale Bogardus at Outstanding Computer Repair.

The Council approved the 911 Consolidated Dispatch Center Contract, having the Baker City Consolidated Dispatch Center Board made up of five members.

According to the background of the contract; "Baker City has been funding 71% of the Dispatch and Record Keeping function at the 911 Center. The City Manager sits on the BCCD Board along with the Chairman of the Board Commissioners and a representative of the Rural Fire and EMS Districts. The Board now consists of three members and there is a consensus that a five member board would be a more optimal size."

The Council also approved the Update of the Economic Development Contract between Baker City and Baker County.

According to the analysis of the contract, "The new intergovernmental agreement does away with the Business Assistance Team,

and Recourse Assistance Team and the Leadership Assistance Team."

The new agreement "also expands the EDC from five members to nine members."

Michelle Owen, Public Works Director, presented the 2017 Full-Depth Reclamation and Asphalt Paving Bid Award to the council. According to the background of the bid award; "The City advertised for bids for the asphalt overlay of Auburn from Main to 4th and Church, Baker, Madison, Washington and Valley between Resort and Main." The low bid is from Hamptons Inc., dba Rogers Asphalt Paving Co. for \$310,053. The upcoming budget will include sufficient funds for the project and work is scheduled for September.

According to the analysis given, the full-depth reclamation with asphalt paving is a new process for Baker City. It also states; "Full-depth reclamation is an alternative process that allows the City to remove the buildup of asphalt and re-work the street base with the addition of cement." They anticipate short term closures on the streets but they will be immediately reopened when the asphalt is cooled. The Council awarded the bid. Owen also presented the 2017 Auburn Curb and Sidewalk Construction Project bid award. According to the background; "A substantial amount of curb and sidewalk work will need to be completed as part of the Auburn full-depth reclamation project. The curb and sidewalk project was put out for bid this winter and two qualified responses were received."

According to the analysis given, "Full-depth reclamation and repaving of Auburn between Main and 4th is proposed for the upcoming summer. The curb is to be improved in areas and several drive-ways and approaches will

need to be improved and realigned with the new street surface."

The low bidder for the Auburn curb and sidewalk project is VanNevel Concrete & Curb Inc. for \$97,952.20. The council approved awarding the 2017 Auburn Curb & Sidewalk bid to VanNevel Concrete & Curb Inc. Robin Nudd presented Exploring Main Street Application and Acting as Fiscal Agent for the 2017 Main Street Revitalization Grants. In the background, it explains; "The Oregon Main Street Program currently has two grant programs available: 'Diamonds in the Rough' and the 'Oregon main Street Revitalization Grant.' The 'Diamonds in the Rough Grant' is a 1:1 match up to \$20,000. This grant can be applied for on an individual basis." The "Main Street Revitalization Grant" may fund up to 70% of the project costs, up to \$100,000 and must be applied for through an entity enrolled in the Main Street Program.

The background also states, "On February 5, 2017 one of our historic buildings on Main Street fell victim to our harsh winter. The City has been approached by one of the businesses affected by the collapse and one more is interested. The business is requesting that the City act as the fiscal agent so that they can apply for these funds."

The deadline for the revitalization grant is March 17th. The council approved the application.

City Manager Fred Warner Jr. discussed possibility changing the street lights to LED lights and saving money for the city.

Mayor Mike Downing reported that he will be participating in the 26th Annual Scott Firefighter Stair Climb March 12th, a benefit to help the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, February 24, 2017 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady in a limited test compared to week ago prices. Most demand lays with the retail/stable hay. According to some producers, horse owners prefer lower sugar, higher protein hay. Many producers are sold out for the year.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Large Square Premium	60 140.00-140.00	140.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square Good	17 160.00-165.00	164.12
Alfalfa — Large Square Good/Premium	100 100.00-100.00	100.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, February 22, 2017
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1311

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	153.00-181.00	Top	189.00
400-500#	Bulk	149.00-177.00	Top	180.00
500-600#	Bulk	139.00-156.00	Top	160.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	133.00-145.00	Top	146.00
400-500#	Bulk	123.00-152.00	Top	155.00
500-600#	Bulk	119.00-136.00	Top	136.50

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk	124.00-135.00	Top	135.75
700-800#	Bulk	121.00-129.00	Top	132.75
800-900#	Bulk	117.00-124.00	Top	124.25
900-1,000#	Bulk	109.00-116.00	Top	117.50

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk	118.00-129.00	Top	130.25
700-800#	Bulk	114.00-122.00	Top	122.75
800-900#	Bulk	101.00-109.00	Top	113.00
900-1,000#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	44.00 TO	52.00
Butcher Cows	53.00 TO	61.00
Butcher Bulls	56.00 TO	71.00
Stock Cows	880.00 TO	990.00
Hfretts	71.00 TO	87.00
Stock Cows Young	1175.00 TO	1475.00

ProducersLivestock.com
541-473-3136

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Prices are based on the majority of saw mills in Northeastern Oregon and Central Idaho. The prices listed below are a composite prices of various sawmills willing to visit with me about this topic.

Ponderosa Pine—small diameter class 8-11 inches diameter class \$250 per mbf. Only one sawmill was willing to buy small diameter pine at this time.

Ponderosa Pine—medium diameter class 12-17 inches diameter class \$300 to \$350 per mbf
Ponderosa Pine-large diameter class 18 plus inches diameter class \$380 to \$410 per mbf

The Pine prices are still approximately \$40 per mbf below average lumber/log market due to 2017 fire salvage

Doug Fir & Western Larch—\$380 to \$420 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$425 to \$475 per mbf.

White Fir-\$300 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$340 to \$360 per mbf.

Engelmann Spruce—\$350 at one Idaho sawmill, other sawmills including with White fir prices.

In general, the log prices still impacted from 2015 fire season and fire salvage that resulted. Sawmills are starting to get log yard inventory in line with sawmill production needs. With a new Administration as of 1/20/2017, a more normal economic environment should result and hopefully a more healthy housing situation will result in a better climate for Northeast Oregon Sawmill and private forest landowners.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen,
Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1,250.80

Silver: \$18.51

Platinum: \$1019.10

Palladium: \$779.32

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$379.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$453.25/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$1,043.50/bu/USD

Oats: \$248.00 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$9.64/cwt/USD

Canola: \$528.30 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$117.78/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$124.23/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$68.33/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com

Sumpter City Council replaces attorney, talks plans for solar eclipse

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
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Sumpter City Council met in regular session Thursday, February 23. Mayor Cary Clarke and Councilors Linda Wise, Samantha Rowan, and Robert Armbruster were in attendance. Meeting minutes from 1/17, 1/24, and 2/4 and payments of bills were all approved unanimously.

Utility Manager Report

Jeff McKinney reported plowing over fifty times. The water system is working well.

Fire Department Report

Jim Sheller reported a quiet month with two medical call-outs, including one mutual aid with Powder River Rural Fire Department.

Planning Commission Report

LeAnne Woolf said the Commission held only one meeting since her last report to Council. They reviewed the first half to two thirds of Goal Eleven of the Comprehensive Plan:



L-R: Linda Wise, Samantha Rowan, Cary Clarke, and Robert Armbruster.

Public Facilities.

Bookkeeper Applications
Council agreed to meet Monday, February 27th at 10 a.m. to review received applications for the bookkeeper position. The meeting was closed to the public.

Replacing Attorney for Lawsuit

Clarke stated he talked to a guy who "seems like he is real up on everything

and a real go-getter."

Catherine Dodgens asked how the City wound up with two attorneys and Clarke clarified one was for a wage dispute.

Clarke motioned to replace attorney Carol Skerjanec with a new attorney for the lawsuit. Motion passed unanimously.

Clarke stated there are other options besides just the one attorney he has

talked to on other matters. He said attorney Joshua Stump would be willing to do a conference call or come all the way over from Lake Oswego to talk to the Council about anything they need to.

Dodgens asked if it wouldn't be wiser to have just one attorney for the City.

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