

Local & Entertainment

City Council

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Overall, there seemed to be a general feeling that all City employees, including the Council were financially well off and that is why they felt this fee could be easily absorbed in the community.

Councilor Thomas spoke up and stated, "I'd just like to throw out there that I don't think any of us, with the roughly \$150 we get for a year, are ever going to get rich being on Council. I do hope that some people that seem to think we're a bunch of crooks, I sure hope I see their name on the ballot in 2018. You'll see mine, you can vote for me or not but please throw your hat in the ring as well. They think this is easy for all of us 'rich folk' up here—I don't think I am in that category by any means."

Mayor Downing then said, "I'd like to make a comment addressing some concerns. I've stated multiple times I work for 911 as a part time dispatcher. I also work full-time as a title officer. I have not received a pay increase at 911 for over seven years. I am a single dad of three and I live paycheck to paycheck."

"I understand the \$3 for a residential (customer) and I'm willing to pay that."

Downing then spoke to an apartment fire situation that happened the night before in which he was working as a dispatcher at the time. He said that only three firefighters were on

duty. Nine adults and children had to be evacuated from the structure.

One City police officer was on the scene and assisted in helping someone in a wheelchair escape, noting by helping at the fire scene that officer was unavailable to answer a call from another citizen, who had called several times for assistance.

Calls for backup were requested of Baker Rural and the Haines Fire Department, both of which are volunteer-only departments.

Downing said that it took about 40 minutes for that back up to arrive. He said, "Those people that were pulled out of that fire would not have survived for forty minutes while people (volunteers) got to that fire. Fire doubles in size every two minutes."

Downing also stated that the call had come in ten minutes before his shift was to end at midnight and as a result he was there until 2 a.m.

He had to be at his other job at 8 a.m. He said, "So on five hours of sleep, I sit here for \$150 a year."

Downing stressed that calls don't come in on a schedule and moving to volunteer departments for Police and Fire was not a good solution.

He said, "Our crew last night was at that fire in 3-4 minutes, if you go to a volunteer department it will be 30-40 minutes. Those folks last night wouldn't have had a chance. That's what this \$3 fee is helping to support," he said solemnly. "These decisions

are not easy."

There were whispers from the crowd saying that this is what the taxes that are collected are for.

Downing stated, "Our tax base has not gone up but our costs have. We expect as citizens of the City to have services provided but that all costs money and in today's society, people want something for nothing or they expect to pay the same amount they paid 20 years ago. Nothing costs the same today as it did 20 years ago."

Councilor Nilsson who expressed reservations at the last meeting said that he too had been out talking with citizens and he had found the opposite of what Mr. Muller had encountered, that generally the public was not opposed to such a fee and his concerns had been settled in the feedback he'd gotten.

City Manager Fred Warner read Ordinance # 3354 for the second time by title only establishing a Public Safety Fee and declaring an emergency upon a motion by Councilor Joseph that was seconded by Councilor Nilsson and unanimously voted in favor of by Council.

After Warner read the Ordinance Councilor Joseph motioned with a second again by Councilor Nilsson to accept the reading of the ordinance followed by a unanimous vote.

The third and final reading will be held at the next Council meeting.

Public comment will be allowed at that meeting as well before a final vote by Council.

Bebe's word search

Star Trek

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- STAR TREK
- KIRK
- PICARD
- CAPTAIN
- RODDENBERRY
- ENTERPRISE
- SISKO
- SHUTTLE
- TRANSPORTER
- NACELLES
- ROMULAN
- BAJOR
- WORMHOLE
- FERENGI
- BORG
- ARCHER
- SPOCK
- SCOTTY
- UHURA
- SULU

The Littles' crossword puzzle

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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| | | | 44 | | | 45 | 46 | | | | |
| | 47 | 48 | 49 | | | 50 | | | | | |
| 51 | | | | | 52 | | | | 53 | 54 | 55 |
| 56 | | | | 57 | 58 | | | 59 | 60 | | |
| 61 | | | | 62 | | | | 63 | | | |
| 64 | | | | 65 | | | | | 66 | | |

Across

- 1- Word that can precede war, biotic and climax;
- 5- At that point;
- 9- Okinawa port;
- 13- Suckle;
- 15- Patriot Nathan;
- 16- Pressing need?;
- 17- Go gaga over;
- 18- Diva's solo;
- 19- Become exhausted;
- 20- A Kennedy;
- 21- Freeway access;
- 23- "Hotel ____";
- 25- Assistant, particularly to heads of state;
- 26- Hemoglobin deficiency;
- 27- Own;
- 30- Pasture used for grazing;
- 31- Mary of "The Maltese Falcon";
- 32- Basketwork;
- 37- Extended family;
- 38- Sensitive spots;
- 40- 1975 Wimbledon winner;
- 41- Simultaneously;
- 43- Madame de ____;
- 44- ____ polloi;
- 45- Situated on the side;
- 47- Straighten out;
- 50- ____ all-time high;
- 51- Most cunning;
- 52- Up and ____!
- 53- Hearst kidnap grp.;
- 56- ____'acte (intermission);
- 57- Writer Wiesel;
- 59- Final notices;
- 61- River in central Swit-

Down

- 1- Med. school class;
- 2- Au naturel;
- 3- Walked on;
- 4- Syr. neighbor;
- 5- English river;
- 6- Heavenly strings;
- 7- Yale student;
- 8- Proximity;
- 9- Ruler of Hyderabad;
- 10- Rice- ____;
- 11- Accord maker;
- 12- "Puppy Love" singer;
- 14- More strange;
- 22- Show stoppers?;
- 24- Not strong;
- 25- Unified;
- 26- Caesar's wings;
- 27- Agreement;

- 28- Scandinavian capital;
- 29- Adult male deer;
- 32- It's cold!;
- 33- Devoured;
- 34- Nicholas II, for one;
- 35- Perlman of "Cheers";
- 36- Scream;
- 38- Least lengthy;
- 39- Trompe l' ____;
- 42- As a result;
- 43- John of "Full House";
- 45- Up-to-the-minute;
- 46- Devoured;
- 47- Radii neighbors;
- 48- Dynamite stuff;
- 49- Harvest goddess;
- 51- Actor Connery;
- 52- Hokkaido native;
- 53- Prefix with Tibetan;
- 54- Old Fords;
- 55- ____ sow, so shall...;
- 58- Actor Chaney;
- 60- Foul;

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