

Local

City passes ordinance vacating Allen Street

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Council Comments
Councilor Andersen spoke about the watershed. He stated that he had spent some time driving around the area some of the roads within the watershed and that for the most part the roads were in horrific shape. He felt like an incredible amount of work needed to be done to improve them.

He said that if a fire were break out in the watershed, because of the condition of the roads emergency vehicles would be unable to use those roads to move equipment around to fight the fire. Warner agreed with Andersen but also felt that there was work that could be done in the meantime and come spring to identify and clear out snags and debris from the ground. Andersen agreed and said that he was “optimistic that

it can be done. If we have a will and a way. This is kind of my passion.” Andersen and Warner both advised that communication with the Forest Service was improving and that working toward cleaning up the watershed was something both sides recognized as important. Councilor Thomas spoke of pool and shuffleboard leagues starting up soon. Pool was scheduled for Wednesday evenings and shuffleboard would be

Sunday afternoons. He then called attention to the Cast Iron Chef contest being held at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center on October 7. Thomas stated that six teams had already signed up and that a ranch out of Enterprise had donated some Bison meat. “There is still time to sign up,” he said. With nothing further Mayor Downing then adjourned the meeting.

Shawna Cox speaks locally

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Cox and the others in the vehicle then said while they were being detained, law enforcement opened fire on the truck, riddling it with bullets. She said she didn’t understand why. Individual citizens unrelated to the incident in Burns told this newspaper, asking that their names be withheld, that they personally saw the pickup being removed, and it was indeed covered in bullet holes with windows broken.

A photo released by the Oregon Major Crimes Team shows an intact pickup with no such gunfire. The official statement from OSP was that they fired only six shots total. Two more shots were later identified as having coming from the FBI, making eight. In June of this year, FBI agent W. Joseph Astarita was indicted on charges that he had lied about firing his weapon. He was released on bail and awaits trial. The number of shots fired

on the truck remains a point of debate. State police also released that Finicum’s gun was found in his coat pocket, which conflicts with testimony from the occupiers. Cox also recalled asking an agent when she noted the small tracks on their hats, which looked to her like a camera head-mount, why the cameras were missing. She claims he told her it was a flashlight missing from his hat. Cox then spoke about her ride to Portland where she was eventually arrested and charged with conspiracy to impede and injure a federal law enforcement officer, carrying a sentence of six years with a \$250,000 fine. She quipped that the first time she ever saw who may have been federal law enforcement was when they were shooting at her, so how could she have impeded them. She recounted the story of when she fired her court-appointed attorney so that she could represent herself, and spoke to seeing the Bundys in the courtroom for the first time, saying they’d lost a shocking amount of weight. She claimed Judge Gloria Navarro was “nasty, like

a vulture” and allowed activities in the courtroom such as whispering and eating from anyone, except those in support of the occupiers, and would often make snide remarks, at one time storming out of the courtroom to chambers. Cox said she felt after prying she would be released, and indeed was after the refuge was cleared of the final four occupiers in February 2016—in someone else’s clothing and with a \$50 gift card. Cox and the other occupiers were eventually acquitted of all charges; however, Cliven, Ryan and Ammon Bundy remain held without bail awaiting trial this year. This will be the third time the two brothers have been tried. Cox believes the wealth in the earth in grazing areas is the government’s focus for control, and believes they will take that land at any cost.



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