

Business / Agriculture

City Council

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He stated that he has since been complying as requested.

He stated he had since learned from others in the community that they aren't required to do so.

He also noted that it was his understanding that code enforcement was complaint-driven and argued that by having a complaint driven process allowed for the possibility of disgruntled neighbors to consistently complain about the smallest things.

Hutchens stated other concerns in his neighborhood such as traffic control issues, sanitation issues and what he felt was drug activity.

He added his reluctance to call in complaints for fear of retaliation and stated he'd talked to other neighbors in the area whose complaints had gone unresolved and they were now just disgusted with trying any longer and feared retaliation.

He told Council that he just wanted to make sure they were aware of the situations that were happening and added, "My best experience since moving to Baker City has been meeting Mr. Warner. The City Manager."

Mayor Downing thanked him for the information and moved forward with the agenda.

Union County Regional Housing Rehabilitation Project

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon is applying for a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant through Business Oregon.

The grant would be utilized to help homeowners across Union, Baker, Wallowa and Grant Counties with housing rehabilitation to those that qualify.

Business Oregon is requiring an Intergovernmental Agreement in Support of the grant for our community to be eligible to receive funds.

Kale Elmer, who has worked with the program for some time addressed Council explaining a little about how the program works.

First, he assured Council that by signing the agreement and having funds available for citizens would in no way "be of additional burden to the City."

Homeowners must first qualify for monies from the grant, such as the homeowner must have equity in the home and

they must be current on property taxes. The monies are then loaned to the homeowner in a no interest loan without payback until the property is sold.

Elmer told Council that the good thing about the grant dollars is that once the monies are repaid they can reallocate those monies into a new loan for another homeowner.

Elmer stated that applications for homeowners to apply for the program would be available at the local Community Connection office and once funds were available the allocation of funds would be determined on a first come first serve basis.

He advised that currently they manage 140 revolving loans.

City Manager Warner stated that he was very familiar with the program from his time as County Commission Chair and told Council that it was a "great program."

Mayor Downing also commented stating that he also was familiar with the program and that he has "seen a lot of benefits. It's good for our community. It helps not only Seniors and Disabled but low-income families too."

Councilor Joseph moved to sign the agreement.

Councilor McQuisten made a second followed by an unanimous Council Vote.

Ordinance #3359 Development Code Update

Planning Director Holly Kerns gave a summary of the Ordinance again stating that a request had been made that larger signs be allowed in the freeway overlay area allowing better visibility from freeway traffic.

The planning commission had reviewed the request and recommended the changes be approved. Mayor Downing, as required by law, opened a public meeting on the matter.

No one came forward to speak and Downing then closed the public hearing.

Councilor McQuisten motioned to hear the third reading with a second by

Councilor Joseph. Council voted 6:1 with Councilor Nilsson casting the sole no vote.

Kerns then read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Downing asked if there was any discussion before voting on the matter.

Councilor Nilsson stated, "I have been really paying attention to this and I have voted no consistently, but I've heard a lot of arguments for this so if that is what the people want, it's no big deal."

Upon a motion to approve by Councilor Joseph and seconded by Councilor Thomas, Council again voted 6:1 with Nilsson still voting in opposition but the motion passing.

Boards and Commissions Appointment: Golf Board

City Recorder/Human Resource Manager Julie Smith advised Council that one seat on the Golf Board would be vacant the end of November.

That seat is currently held by Charlie Williams. Smith stated that Mr. Williams had applied to continue holding that seat. Councilor Joseph moved to appoint Mr. Williams with a second by Councilor Nilsson.

A unanimous vote was cast.

Smith advised Council that another seat on the golf board would be vacant soon, just for their information.

Work Session Discussion

City Manager Fred Warner expressed the need to occasionally, before certain items are brought before Council, to have a Council work session.

An informal meeting, that is public, where Councilors can ask questions of staff and gain a better understanding of an issue before the issue is introduced in a regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Warner said he realized that this was important after the November 15, 2017 Council meeting in which Police Chief Wyn Lohner introduced a Chronic Property Ordinance, that was

unsupported by Council. Warner said that he felt the need for an ordinance like the one Lohner had proposed was in essence a good idea.

Had the Council been able to discuss the matter, ask questions and really understand the issue they may have been able to support such an ordinance as proposed or suggest changes that were acceptable.

Councilor McQuisten stated, "I welcome this change. It is a more effective way to get information."

He cited that having more information would allow the Council to make better decisions that were "respectful of the community."

Councilor Andersen stated he was "encouraged" by this idea and agreed with Councilor McQuisten adding, "gives us opportunity to come up with great decisions."

As they discussed among themselves Warner suggested that perhaps on the first scheduled meeting of each month they could just plan on meeting at 6 p.m. for discussions before the 7 p.m. meeting.

Councilor Nilsson questioned the advantage of having a regular work session saying he felt like if it became a normal occurrence that the issues needing discussed wouldn't have as much impact as if it were a special session.

That thought was expressed throughout the Council. Warner agreed to Council's preference to schedule special work sessions for specific issues as needed.

He did advise that the December 12th meeting, the only scheduled meeting for the month and the last for the year would be seeing one of the special work session meetings as the Council would need to be advised of the water management plan that was going to be submitted to DEQ as required by Jan 1, 2018.

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— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, November 17, 2017 — Eastern Oregon
No new report for last week due to the holiday.

Prices trended generally steady in a limited test. Retail/Stable type hay remains the largest demanded hay. Many hay producers have sold out for the year. Recent showers and snow has hampered hay movement.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa Small Square	Good	
40	130.00-130.00	130.00
From the week before last:		
Barley Straw / Utility		
60	40.00-40.00	40.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, November 22, 2017
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 504

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	157.00-210.00	Top	216.00
400-500#	Bulk	148.00-177.00	Top	182.50
500-600#	Bulk	129.00-153.00	Top	159.50

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	138.00-159.00	Top	161.00
400-500#	Bulk	132.00-147.00	Top	149.00
500-600#	Bulk	129.00-138.00	Top	138.50

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk	129.00-144.00	Top	144.00
700-800#	Bulk	123.00-139.00	Top	140.00
800-900#	Bulk	121.00-132.00	Top	133.00
900-1,000#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk	117.00-128.00	Top	131.00
700-800#	Bulk	114.00-127.00	Top	130.50
800-900#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	41.00-49.00
Butcher Cows	49.00-59.00
Butcher Bulls	58.00 -71.00
Stock Cows	N/A
Younger Hfrts.	N/A
Stock Cows Young - N/A	
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: \$1,298.60

Silver: \$16.92

Platinum: \$949.65

Palladium: \$1029.06

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$349.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$425.50/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$991.25/bu/USD

Oats: \$261.50 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$12.32/cwt/USD

Canola: \$509.00 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$125.58/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$154.78/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$71.78/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com

Saint Alphonsus Foundation—Baker City Invites you to . . .

Festival of Trees 2017

Preview Among The Trees

Thursday, November 30, 2017

6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 per person

Hors d'oeuvres

No-host Bar

Silent Auction

Gala

Friday, December 1, 2017

5:30 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

Cocktails 5:30 p.m. ~ Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$55 per person

Buffet Sit Down Dinner

No-host Bar

Silent & Live Auction

Following the auction, dance to the live music of "Colorblind"

Events are held at the Baker County Event Center
2600 East Street
Baker City, Oregon

☞ Tickets Available at Betty's Books,

The Sycamore Tree and

Saint Alphonsus Medical Center—Baker City

Family Day—Saturday, December 2, 2017

Admission: Can of Food/Unwrapped Toy

Viewing of the Trees

"Make It, Take It" ~ Sponsored by Crossroads Art Center

Photos with Santa ~ Sponsored by Baker City Kiwanis

For more information contact
Laura Huggins at 541-524-7732



PASTURE! for the 2018 grazing season

Pasture in Bridgeport area, 2400 +/- excellent grass and water all summer long. Will accommodate 75 animal units. Must secure by February 1, 2018. Call 541-519-5035 for more information.

