

Cab insurance dropped off to next meeting

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

A decision to raise insurance limits on cabs in Keizer has been delayed.

The issue was brought up by city attorney Shannon Johnson during the April 4 Keizer City Council meeting in the form of two ordinances and one resolution.

"Salem is where most local taxis are, but they can operate here," Johnson said. "Apparently to operate now in Salem you have to have \$2 million in insurance, while we are currently at \$200,000. The proposal is to increase our insurance limits to \$1 million."

Councilor Amy Ryan noted only five councilors were present, since Dennis Koho and new councilor Bruce Anderson will be sworn in at the April 18 council meeting.

"I move to table the ordinance. This deserves our full attention," Ryan said. "I want to see a full council vote on it as a unified group. There is a lot of information to look at before we make a decision."

As such, Ryan made a mo-

tion to delay the topic until the April 18 meeting. The motion died for the lack of a second.

The next motion was to approve the first ordinance, dealing with licensing procedures and fees.

"I appreciate wanting all seven people on board, but this is the first one on the table," mayor Cathy Clark said.

The motion was approved 4-1, with Ryan against it.

After a motion was made to approve the second motion, Clark had a question.

"With the first one coming back for a second reading (since it wasn't a unanimous vote), does that not impact this one?" the mayor asked.

Johnson said that was indeed the case.

"They are together," he said. "It would be preferable to make them together at the second reading."

With that, the motion was withdrawn and the topic will be brought up again on April 18.

In other business April 4:
• Nate Brown, Community Development director for

Keizer, addressed an ongoing rumor that was brought up again in a recent *Keizertimes* letter to the editor.

"We have done a search of property ownership," Brown said. "WinCo does not own any property in Keizer, except for maybe a home. We would be more than excited to work with any grocery store that wants to operate a full-service grocery store here. We pride ourselves on being very development friendly. We would work absolutely with any developer that wants to operate a grocery store in Keizer."

"But they do not own property," he added. "The *Keizertimes* had a great article about the grocery store potential in Keizer. There is a minimal space they need. We, as a city, don't have the ability to condemn property and turn it over to a developer. We have strict limitations we have to live under."

Clark emphasized a store coming in would be a private business decision, not a city development decision.

"This is a rumor I've heard more than once," she said. "We are in the business of saying yes where we can."

• Most fees were waived for a Boy Scouts of America Camporee at Keizer Rapids Park, taking place April 29 through May 1. The camporee is a scout competition event. Byron Meadows noted 26 troops from the area came last year. About 250 people are expected this year.

"Last year was a significant return on the investment," councilor Marlene Parsons said. "It looked better when you left than when you came."

Meadows said the idea is scouts do projects around the park in exchange for fees being waived.

"With 250 pairs of hands, we can get a lot of work done," he said.

Councilor Kim Freeman visited the park last year while the scouts were on hand.

"It was amazing to see the tents and all the things going on," Freeman said. "It was a big benefit for the community."



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
Mayor Cathy Clark (left) recognizes Gayle McMurrin-Bachik (middle) and Mardi Smith (right) from the Keizer Heritage Center with a proclamation April 4.

Councilors unanimously approved a motion to waive all fees except for the \$55 application fee.

• Revisions to the Keizer Development Code were approved, which bring city code in line with state statutes. The revisions relate to the standards governing the adjustment of property lines as well as pre-application conferences. The changes were previously approved unanimously by the Planning Commission.

"Code currently requires

that we issue a fee for the pre-application conference," Brown said. "It has always been optional. We offer the conference as a service and a benefit. It's a benefit to (applicants) as well as the city."

Clark liked the changes. "This is very much in line with how we conduct so many functions in our city," the mayor said. "We are communicating for the best outcome, so that we engage early and we are effective."

KPIC members look to keep on wheeling

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Flood history signs have been under consideration at Keizer Rapids Park for quite a while, but there could be more to come.

Members of the Keizer Points of Interest Committee (KPIC) have been in discussions for about a year in regards to doing a kiosk at Keizer Rapids Park highlighting the biggest floods along the Willamette River in Keizer.

There's a chance the signs could morph into an outdoor museum of sorts, paired with the paddle wheel from a stern-wheeler. Jerry Nuttbrock has the paddle wheel from The Jean and has met with KPIC member Sherrie Gottfried to discuss the idea.

"I got to see the machine," Gottfried reported at last month's KPIC meeting.

"Wow. Jerry would like to jump on board with whatever we want to do."

Debbie Lockhart, deputy city recorder, said quotes for the signs were \$900, while Nuttbrock could place the paddle wheel.

"It would be like an outdoor museum," Lockhart said.

Gottfried, who chaired the meeting, noted the size of the wheel.

"It's quite large," she said. "It's going to be cool. We would have to move it from Jerry's property to the park, not quite like moving the old Keizer School. He has thought of a spot."

Lockhart suggested keeping in touch with Nuttbrock.

"Work with him and ask him what he would want the committee to do," Lockhart said. "He may have something he wants you to do."

In other recent KPIC business:

• Last month's meeting was the first of the year for KPIC. That wasn't the original plan, but rather a result of having a shortage of members. There are still two vacancies, with various members unable to make meetings leading to a lack of quorum.

As it was, there were just enough members present for last month's meeting to happen, as four people were present.

• Chair Jill Bonney-Hill was absent. Since she wasn't present to deny the responsibility, she was selected to

continue in that role this year. Gottfried is continuing as the vice chair.

• The KPIC Oral History Project videos are continuing. Possible subjects include Betty and Mike Hart, as well as author Joy Beebe.

"She's a very sharp lady," KPIC member Anita Zahniser said of Beebe, a longtime Keizerite. "She's lived on Sunset Drive since the 1950s. I'm looking for pictures of the places from then. I would like to have Joy narrating this as we have the old pictures. She'll talk about coming here as a young wife from London, comparing Keizer to London."

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