

County goes digital with dog licensing

Marion County Dog Services now offers online dog licensing.

Dog Services Director Ann Potter said, "We know the community wants an online option and it's become even more necessary this year with our lobby closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Online licensing can be accessed from the following link: bit.ly/MCDogLicense

To license online, dog owners will need a copy of their dog's current rabies vaccine. Photos of rabies certificates may be uploaded directly to the licensing program. Dog licenses may not be purchased for longer than the rabies expiration date.

License fees are \$20 annually for altered dogs and start at \$37 for non-altered dogs. Discounted fees are available for multi-year licenses and for senior dog owners. For more information about Marion Dog Services fees and hours, visit www.mcdogs.net, call 503-588-5233, or email dog@co.marion.or.us.

RULES, continued from Page A1

Aside from the loss of viewers, staff reports are taken after the councilors report on their activities, a process that has taken an hour or more on many occasions.

"After all the reports, [Keizer Public Works Director] Bill Lawyer would lead a discussion about the road stripping that we were all getting griped at over. But everyone would miss it because they tuned out," Smith continued.

Members of the council agreed that updates from staff should precede councilors' individual reports once the new rules are adopted, but it was less clear what the body would do to constrain the reports from councilors.

The work group that considered updating the rules, which included councilors Laura Reid, Dan Kohler and Smith, suggested a limit of three minutes per councilor.

Councilor Ross Day passionately disagreed with limiting councilors.

"That is foreign to me and I don't know any other body

that limits the amount of time that an elected member can speak," Day said. "I think that's a bad idea. If members of the public get five minutes, then we should get at least that if not more."

Kohler said the decision to limit the reports was less about a specific time than content.

"If you don't have some sort of limit, we end up with a lot of redundancy and we want the meeting to be engaging for the public," Kohler said.

To trim the amount of time spent on the reports without setting a time limit, Mayor Cathy Clark suggested focusing on meetings and activities that were not Keizer-sponsored and pulling out single aspects that held the most relevance to city residents.

Day, a land use attorney, also took issue with a lack of direction in the rules regarding how items are placed on the agenda. Since taking office in January, Day has expressed doubt about the city's ability to place liens on properties neglected by owners after the city performed upkeep.

"Nothing in the city charter or rules that explains how items get placed on the agenda. The city manager has the authority to place an item on the agenda unilaterally and we don't have the same power," Day said.

For the council to put items on the agenda, at least three councilors must agree to do so.

There have also been times councilors rejected requests by citizens to place items on agendas on the spot. In recent years, the council was approached by business owners to permit a social gaming club within the city and to relax rules on distance required between marijuana shops. Councilors took no action on either request.

Mayor criticized legacy rule in earlier talks

In fall 2020, Mayor Cathy Clark called for a councilor or work group to consider revisions of the Keizer City Council's rules and policies, a document that dictates everything from what appears on an agenda to what councilors can discuss via email.

The group, which included councilors Laura Reid, Dan Kohler and Elizabeth Smith, reviewed a draft of the proposed changes at a work session Monday, Feb. 22.

Among the changes under consideration is one that would repeal a longstanding tradition among Keizer city councilors: who is selected as the council president.

Since 1995, the council has largely, but not always, selected the councilor with the longest continuous service on the council who had not yet served as council president. At a meeting of the work group on Jan. 6, two days after passing over Councilor Roland Herrera for the role of council president, Clark criticized what became known as "The McGee Rule," after former city councilor Jerry McGee.

"The automatic nomination (of a long-serving councilor) has created more hard feelings and angst and broken relationships than I can begin to recount," said Clark.

Clark recounted her own

ascension to the role over another councilor at the time, David McKane. Clark did not identify McKane by name, but said the councilor later ran against the mayor. McKane was the only former councilor to challenge a sitting mayor since Clark began serving on the council.

"There were a number of difficult relationships, but if there are things going on when there is no trust or there are not strong relationships, the automatic nomination sets up a false expectation," Clark told the work group.

The McGee Rule was adopted in the wake of a contested "race" for the role that included McGee himself. McGee nominated himself and another councilor nominated himself. McGee won in a 3-2 vote. Nominating the longest continuous serving councilor was later adopted to avoid harming future relationships on the council.

Clark said the city was still in its early days at that point and the rule had outlived its purpose.

"We should look at [the council president] as the job description so that people understand it is more than ceremonial. It is a working and responsible position and people need to understand

that," Clark said in January. "It's about assuring that the person can assume the center seat with as little hubbub as possible."

Clark's testimony came on the heels of council members passing over Roland Herrera for the council president role.

Herrera fell out of favor for the position as discussions about an inclusivity statement grew heated in 2020. Herrera vehemently called for a bold statement while other councilors remained reticent.

Herrera expressed his regret and apologized for his passion during the discussions on numerous occasions. Kohler nominated Herrera as part of the process on Jan. 4, but Herrera declined. Smith was selected as president in a unanimous vote shortly thereafter.

When Keizertimes' story on the selection of the council president appeared on Facebook, Clark recast the decision to pick Smith, writing, "Congratulations to Council President Elizabeth Smith, the youngest Council President in recent history who has the lived experience of a teen mom who now is a leading producer in a male-dominated industry."

Herrera is the city's first and only Hispanic city councilor.

"Each of you individually don't have a lot of power, but collectively you do," Epley said. "It keeps individuals from dictating the business of the city."

City Attorney Shannon Johnson said the property

liens, while not mentioned in the rules, come to the council as the result of local ordinance and penalties imposed at the end of a much longer process.

One proposed change, to remove a long-standing method of selecting a council

president, passed by without remark when the entire council had an opportunity to provide input. The matter received lengthy airing during a work group meeting in January. (See related story *Mayor criticized* on this page)



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KEIZERTIMES SENIOR HOUSING GUIDE

the Village at Keizer Ridge
ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE

DIRECTIONS FROM KEIZER: On River Road, one-half mile north of McNary Estates. Right on McGee Ct, take second driveway on left.

UNIT TYPES:

- Assisted Living
- Memory Care

MONTHLY RENT: starting at \$2,855

ASSISTED LIVING AVAILABILITY: Yes

AMENITIES:

- Individualized Care Plans
- State-of-the-art theater
- Raised garden beds
- All day fresh gourmet dining
- Life enriching, meaningful, stimulating activities
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Senior Living Community

DIRECTIONS FROM KEIZER: On River Road, one-half mile north of McNary Estates.

UNIT TYPES:

- Studio
- 1 BR w/ deck or walk-in closet
- 2 BR, 1 BA
- 2 BR, 2 BA w/ deck or walk-in closet

MONTHLY RENT: starting at \$1,350

ACTIVE INDEPENDENT LIVING: yes

AMENITIES:

- Full kitchens in every apartment
- Beauty Salon
- Optional Meal Plans
- Staffed 24/7
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UNIT TYPES:

- independent living incl. studio and 1-bedroom apartments, 2-bedroom cottages

MONTHLY RENT: starting at \$1,768

ASSISTED LIVING AVAILABILITY: yes

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