

Public testimony sides with Herrera

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Members of the Keizer City Council were taken to task during public testimony for calling to investigate Councilor Roland Herrera for potential violations of public records law and council rules and policy.

The push to reprimand Herrera comes more than a month after the former city manager fired a gun in his city hall office.

Despite efforts by Councilor Ross Day to head off critique, few residents held back in commenting on the situation. (The allegations and council action in response are in related story *Council pursuing* on page A14)

Resident Cyndi Swaney took issue with members of the council targeting the council's first and only Hispanic member in the history of the city.

"I've heard members of this council told, in regard to an inclusivity resolution, that words were only words without action. Unfortunately, since passing a statement of values, the only action I've seen is keeping Roland in his place," Swaney said.

Swaney added that pursuing corrective action or admonishment was "a misdirection of resources when the city manager fired a gun in his office."

Gwen Carr, a new arrival to the city, said, "I'm upset about city officials taking an issue with an email more seriously than a gun being discharged in city hall."

Michele Roland-Schwartz questioned whether there were no other means by which Eppley's incident report, published in this paper on March 18, could have made its way into the light. Someone might have printed the email or copied and pasted it into a Google document, she said.

Roland-Schwartz asked why the city leadership had not provided accommodations to help Herrera overcome physical limitations. Herrera said eyesight difficulties led him to begin forwarding emails to a personal account so

that he could view them on a larger screen.

Roland-Schwartz said seeking to reprimand only Herrera smacked of "bullying and a possible violation of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)."

Regarding the use of social media by council members, the council's policies state that councilors shall only use their public accounts when acting as representatives of the council.

She cited two examples of other councilors, Mayor Cathy Clark and Councilor Dan Kohler, using private social media accounts as representatives of the city since the council agenda was released.

"I do not suggest the council censure or write up a statement of concern regarding social media practices. That is overly punitive ... and not the kind of community I want to live in," Roland-Schwartz said.

Councilor Ross Day took offense to the suggestion that he was personally bullying Herrera as a result of disability. One of Day's children is disabled and requires a wheelchair. Roland-Schwartz clarified that the council as a governing body was using its heft to bully Herrera, but not before Day's interruption caused an outburst among those in attendance that Roland-Schwartz be allowed to finish her statement.

Nearly all letters submitted to the council as part of public testimony offered support for Herrera and called for dismissal of investigation into his actions.

"Bringing up issues about alleged minor infractions at this point in time seems [to] smell of payback and backroom deals from a departing city manager and his supporters," wrote Sean Nikas. "Please don't drag all of Keizer through the mud with this investigation."

Carrie Brown wrote that the marginalization of

I'm upset about city officials taking an issue with an email more seriously than a gun being discharged in city hall.

— GWEN CARR, Keizer resident

Herrera appeared to begin well before the incident with Eppley and the ensuing fallout. In January, the council voted in Councilor Elizabeth Smith as council president, a position that has traditionally gone to the councilor with the longest continuing service, which would have been Herrera.

"From the outside looking in, it sure seems like there is a divide in the council and Councilor Herrera is being singled out and treated with bias. This is how it appears whether intentional or not," Brown wrote.

Only one letter supported the council's press to reprimand Herrera.

"I, along with most of us, would be very upset if details from my personnel file ended up in the newspaper. I hope your investigation finds out how the information was leaked so we can all make sure it doesn't happen again," wrote Jonathan Thompson.

GUN,

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weapon. He refused, got into his truck and left the area.

Responding officers located McFarland a few blocks north of the police station and conducted a high-risk traffic stop. He was taken into custody and returned to the police station where detectives had been called in to assist with the investigation.

The suspect, Larry McFarland, was

charged by the Marion County District Attorney's Office with two counts of unlawful use of a weapon.

McFarland was transported and lodged at the Marion County jail after his arrest. He was granted conditional release on Sunday, April 18. As conditions of his release, McFarland is not allowed to possess or consume alcohol, enter a bar or tavern or possess or use firearms.



L. McFarland

SKPS will continue EDGE school alongside in-person

Salem-Keizer Public Schools are planning for a return to five full days of in-person instruction next fall, but the district's EDGE program, comprised primarily of distance learning, will also continue.

The district will follow all safety guidelines from the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority.

The EDGE program will be available

for online learning. EDGE Connected includes daily, teacher-led instructions online while EDGE Independent is student-paced learning with teacher oversight.

For more information on students returning to school in the fall, visit tinyurl.com/fsp64enp. For more information on the EDGE programs, visit edge.salkeiz.k12.or.us.

Public Notices

ORS 86.786 and ORS 86.789 must be timely communicated in a written request that complies with that statute, addressed to the trustee's "Reinstatements/Payoffs - ORS 86.786" either by personal delivery or by first class, certified mail, return receipt requested, to the trustee's address shown below. Due to potential conflicts with federal law, persons having no record legal or equitable interest in the subject property will only receive information concerning the lender's estimated or actual bid. Lender bid information is also available at the trustee's website, www.logs.com/janeway_law_firm. In construing this notice, the masculine gender

includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes the plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed, and the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Also, please be advised that pursuant to the terms stated on the Deed of Trust and Note, the beneficiary is allowed to conduct property inspections while property is in default. This shall serve as notice that the beneficiary shall be conducting property inspections on the said referenced property.

Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. The Fair Debt Collection Practice Act requires that we state the following: This is an attempt to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If a

discharge has been obtained by any party through bankruptcy proceedings: This shall not be construed to be an attempt to collect the outstanding indebtedness or hold you personally liable for the debt.
Dated: 03-09-2021

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4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14

STORAGE AUCTION

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE (ORS87.687)

Contents of the following unit will be sold or disposed of by Downtown Storage and Warehouse L.L.C., 889 Liberty St. N.E. Salem, OR. 97301: to satisfy the Lien plus additional rents and fees. The sale of the following units will be held online at www.bid13.com ending, Tuesday May 11th, 2021 at 10am.

Contents may include:
Personal items.
1. Amber Hilborn

4/23, 4/30