

COUNCIL,

Continued from page A1

Christopher took issue with the length of the contract and the naming rights to the field and park — according to the contract, For the Love of the Game may propose the permanent naming of the park or any existing or future monuments, statues, permanent buildings, structures and fields.

“The park is a City asset. The naming rights should stay with the City Council (as with every other city park). City council should retain those rights and it should be listed in the contract,” she wrote.

“Those signs should stay there and never be changed,” added Keizerite Clint Holland, who ran concessions at Keizer Little League Park for several years.

Christopher also shared her concern about For the Love of the Game’s compensation, which is labeled in the contract as “reasonable and customary.”

“The current applicant is setting up a non-profit corporation, however there are still expenses that a non-profit can claim. The park manager could make gross sales of a million dollars, but could also list their expenses as

\$999,000, leaving little in the non-profit that is to care of the park. The city council would have no authority on the level of expenses,” she wrote

Walker says that For the Love of the Game will be hiring one full-time employee outside of Keizer to oversee the fields and be in charge of scheduling. There will also be a number of part-time seasonal employees that will be brought on during the spring and summer, but no money will be going into the pockets of Mavericks League owners according to Walker.

“We are going to be hiring some folks to do some work that absolutely has to be done, and we are going to be relying on folks to volunteer their time,” Walker said. “We are hoping that the great spirit of Keizer volunteerism will show up again. There is only so much we can do as a nonprofit, no one at the end of the day is seeing any bottom line besides the complex improving. Any money received is going into making the fields better.”

Later in the meeting, Councilor Dan Kohler made a motion to direct staff to determine the cost for a facilities and

maintenance program at Keizer Little League Park, in order to give the city a contingency plan in case the contract with For the Love of the Game doesn't go as planned — the motion was passed unanimously.

“In business I always have to have a fallback. If we don't do our due diligence and know what we would need to do in an event that something did happen, how do we function?,” Kohler said. “I think it's important for us to have a fallback, not that we ever want to use it, but if we don't have that information, how are we going to make that decision?”

“We are going to know what goes into that facility and what it really takes. I think it's going to be very informative to us,” Clark added.

Walker said he is looking forward to getting started on the process of park management and hopes that he can help provide great experiences for the kids of Keizer.

“We are very excited to do the very best we can with this facility. That's really all I can promise. I can say from the bottom of my heart I'm ready to do the very best I can to help those fields and that complex run the very best that they can,” Walker said.



Matt Rawlings / KEIZERTIMES

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— MICKEY WALKER

Mavericks League CEO

Council discusses city councilor, manager vacancies



Keizer City Attorney Shannon Johnson (left) and public works director Bill Lawyer.

Photo by JOEY CAPPELLETTI of Keizertimes

BY JOEY CAPPELLETTI
Of the Keizertimes

Baseball and softball fields weren't the only thing on deck at Monday's Keizer City Council meeting.

\$1.8 million worth of new projects, a vacant council seat and an updated timetable on the search for a new city manager were all discussed by the shorthanded council. Only four city councilors were present, with councilors Kyle Juran and Roland Herrera having excused absences in addition to the resignation of Ross Day last week.

One of the first actions the council took was authorizing a supplemental budget. Earlier this year, the city of Keizer was allocated \$8,815,890 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. They received half of that

amount — \$4,407,945 — in August with an additional \$850,000 coming from the State of Oregon.

During an Oct. 25 meeting, the city's Long Range Planning Task Force suggested using \$1.8 million of those funds on eight projects this year. Those projects are

- Meadows Pump Stations - \$1,000,000
- ADA Street Ramp Improvements - \$400,000
- Cybersecurity and IT Infrastructure - \$123,900
- Code enforcement Vehicle - \$47,000
- Police Radios - \$30,600
- Police Parking Lot Access Keypad Upgrade - \$18,500
- Codification of City Ordinances - \$30,000

• Pass through allocation of HB 5006 Funds to CASA - \$150,000

The most expensive project, the Meadows Pump Stations, will look to improve water quality in Keizer. Finance Director Tim Wood said that often during the summer the city receives more complaints about dirty water after turning on the Meadows Pump Station. Wood said improving this pump station has been planned for a while and the ARPA money eliminated the cost.

“It's nice we can use ARPA funds to complete something on our water master plan. Paying for it with ARPA funds will also save each resident about \$70 a year,” said Wood.

Going forward, Wood said the rest of the ARPA funds will go through the regular budget process. In February of next year, the Long Range Planning Task Force will meet to once again discuss potential projects for the rest of the money. All of the \$8,815,890 in ARPA funds must be allocated by the end of 2024.

The council also declared a vacancy for city council position number two — a position previously held by Day.

Day resigned on Nov. 1 following an outburst at a meeting regarding the Community Diversity Engagement Committee. The council's only comment on the situation involving Day came from Mayor Cathy Clark.

“I just have one comment. I would like to thank Councilor Ross for his service to the city and we wish him well as

we move forward here,” said Clark.

The council opted to make a Dec. 13 deadline for the public to submit letters of interest for the position. With that timetable, the council will both vote on and appoint a candidate at the Dec. 20 regular city council meeting.

In addition to filling a council seat, the city is also looking for their next city manager. The city has begun advertising the position and in December will begin interviewing potential candidates. While those interviews will happen in executive sessions not open to the public, Oregon law requires the city to provide an opportunity for public input concerning the employment of the city manager.

At Monday's meeting, the council passed a resolution that said they would provide that opportunity for public comment on the employment of the city manager — at the Nov. 15 meeting. In an email following the meeting, City Attorney Shannon Johnson said that “someone who read the agenda item would know they could appear and provide comment.” He added that there is no requirement for a separate notice or public hearing.

Since the mayor did not specifically check with the audience about public comment during that portion of the meeting, Johnson said the city would once again allow for public comment on the city manager search at the Dec. 6 meeting.