

LaMear details Astoria's sanctuary city stance

Council also recognizes Warr, honors attorney Snow

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Peppered by residents for an explanation about why Astoria will not become a sanctuary city, Mayor Arline LaMear said Monday night that the decision was supported by leaders in the Hispanic community.

LaMear had said earlier this month after a briefing by Police Chief Brad Johnston that the city would likely not pursue sanctuary city status. Oregon law already prohibits police from enforcing federal immigration law unless immigration status is relevant to another crime. The Astoria Police Department's policy is not to participate in routine immigration investigations.

Debate over sanctuary cities intensified with Donald Trump's election as president. The Republican real estate magnate has vowed to withhold federal money from cities, such as Portland, Seattle and San Francisco, that do not cooperate with the federal government on immigration laws.

LaMear said she had spoken with Jorge Gutierrez, the executive director of the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council, about the issue. The mayor said it was Gutierrez's feeling that "the designation can be more polarizing than helpful in a community like Astoria."

"The police chief has assured me that the Astoria Police Department does not ask about immigration status unless it is related to a crime that they are investigating," LaMear said. "The Astoria City Council, the police chief and city staff

will remain attentive to the concerns and civil rights of our immigrant community, a community we value as a part of our larger Astoria community."

In other business Monday night, the City Council:

- Approved \$12,665 for a supplemental inspection of trestles near the Astoria Riverwalk so the Astoria Riverfront Trolley can operate in March. The trolley association will split the cost with the city.

The city cautioned that the inspection does not guarantee the trolley will be able to operate.

A larger maintenance project is planned for April and is likely to cost more than the \$319,500 the city initially anticipated.

• Recognized City Councilor Russ Warr at his last regular council meeting after 12 years representing the east side. Warr chose not to run for a fourth term this year.

"These past 12 years have been very, very special to me and it's going to be very hard to leave it," Warr said. "I know it's time, but it's still going to be very hard to leave."

LaMear presented Warr with a framed pewter plate with the city seal.

"Russ, I think that your voice represents many Astorians, and I think that you have been part of the decision-making that has led to some of Astoria's proudest achievements," said City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill, who gave Warr a loaf of bread and peanut butter and jelly to symbolize all the dinners he missed over the years for council meetings.

Bruce Jones, a former U.S. Coast Guard commander, was elected in November and will replace Warr in January.

• Held a moment of silence to honor Harold "Hal" Snow, the former city attorney who died Thursday at 75.

Lawmakers in Congress push for more hops research

Looking for pest-resistant and climate tolerant varieties

By DAN WHEAT
EO Media Group

More than 100 members of Congress are asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase hop-related research to two full-time positions so that new pest-resistant and climate-tolerant hop varieties may be developed faster.

U.S. Reps. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash.; Peter DeFazio, D-Ore.; Erik Paulsen, R-Minn.; and Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, led 100 other members in a December letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and Undersecretary Cathie Woteki asking for the change.

It would be a reallocation of \$200,000 to \$300,000 in research funding and could be done administratively, Newhouse's office said.

The Agricultural Research Service within USDA currently has one research scientist for hops pathology in Corvallis, and 0.7 of a position for genetic research on hops in the lower Yakima Valley. The request is to make it a full-time position.

"This is something we started working on a little while ago and it's a process to get it done. It's nice to have so many members of Congress supporting this," said Jaki Brophy, spokeswoman for Hop Growers of America and Washington Hop Commission in Moxee, Washington.

The increase is important because would it mean a research scientist will be devoted full time to hops rather than sharing the time with another crop, Brophy said.

"There's huge demand for new varieties and you can't



Dan Wheat/Capitol Press

Hops are harvested at Roy Farms near Moxee, Wash., in 2013. Members of Congress are asking the USDA to fund more research on hops.

really bring out new varieties unless you have all the technical profile, like chemical levels, ready that brewers are looking for," she said.

While several private hop breeding programs exist, the two largest-volume hop varieties, Cascade and Centennial, were developed in public programs.

With growth of the craft brewing industry, consumers continue to demand new aroma and flavors so developing new aroma hop varieties is important, the members of Congress wrote in their letter.

The brewing industry generated more than \$250 billion in economic activity in 2014, directly and indirectly employing more than 1.75 million Americans, the letter states.

"This activity is only sustained through a healthy, stable hop market," the lawmakers wrote. Hop growers face a variety of challenges, including mites, mildew, blights and other pests and development of new varieties that are pest resistant and climate tolerant would help increase yields and

Production of hops climbs as craft beer booms

Associated Press

MOXEE, Wash. — As craft beers continue to soar in popularity, the production of hops continues to grow.

Most of the nation's hops are grown in the Yakima Valley.

Hops Growers of Amer-

ica reported Monday that the 2016 harvest of 87.1 million pounds of hops was an increase of 8.3 million pounds from the year before.

Production rose in Washington state, Oregon and Idaho, which are the three major hops producing states.

reduce pesticides, they said.

In 2015, Washington state produced 75 percent of the U.S. hop crop, followed by Oregon and Idaho. The three states produce about one-third of the world supply. Michigan and other states are also beginning to grow hops.

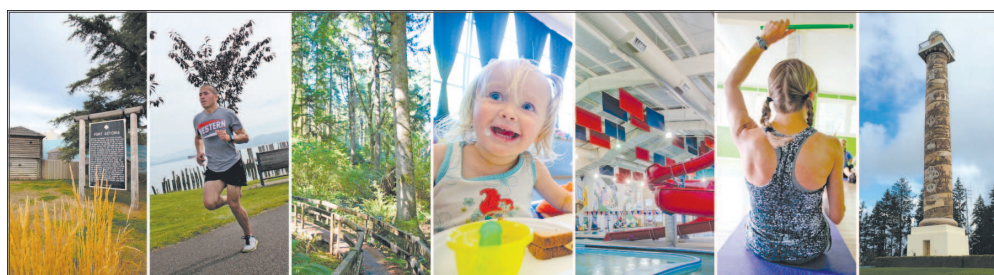
"Developing new climate-tolerant varieties could help expand commercial production putting growers closer to their customers and reducing the threat that a disaster in the Pacific Northwest would affect U.S. and global supplies," the lawmakers wrote.

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