

Warrenton budget includes water and sewer rate hikes

Budget reflects demands on infrastructure

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton City Commission on Tuesday approved a “conservative” budget that reflects increased demands on the growing city’s infrastructure and services.

The \$30.6 million budget for the fiscal year that opens in July adds a 1.5 percent cost of living wage increase, a full-time utility worker and increased hours for a part-time accounting clerk. Changes to the state’s Public Employees Retirement System meant the city had to swallow a rate increase that had a \$120,000 impact. Residents will also see increases to community center rental rates, water and sewer rates and recycling rates.

Overall, the increases to water, sewer, stormwater and recycling will add approximately \$5.68 total to the average consumer’s base rates, Finance Director April Clark said. The increases were necessary to fund regular maintenance and operations costs and other related projects into the future, according to city staff. The community center’s rates, meanwhile, have not been increased in nearly three years and were raised at the urging of the budget committee.

“Astoria Ford and Panda Express completed new facilities and Walmart broke ground, with an expected completion of March 2018,” City Manager Linda Engbretson wrote in her budget message. The city issued building permits for 19 single-family homes, four duplexes, one triplex and two six-plexes, she wrote.

Meanwhile, work continues on rebuilding Pacific Coast Seafood’s Warrenton plant, which was destroyed in a fire in 2013. The new plant is expected to be completed in December.

“Continued service demands and enterprise fund debt service requirements will require the city to carefully manage all revenues and expenditures to ensure the continued financial health of the city as well as timely repayment of debt,” Engbretson wrote.

The budget, she told com-

missioners, is a conservative document. She couldn’t name any fund that saw a major increase over this year’s budget.

“It was pretty small potatoes,” she said.

The city is not cutting any services, but was not able to include requests from the police department for a new vehicle and a part time office support position. City staff estimate property taxes will come in at about \$900,000.

Though the total budget is \$30.6 million, the amount includes reserve and ending fund balance money. The overall spending authority is \$26.1 million.

This is the first budget Engbretson has completed as city manager, and she credited the hard work of her staff. Mayor Henry Balensifer and City Commissioners Rick Newton, Tom Dyer and Mark Baldwin approved the budget unanimously. Commissioner Pam Ackley was not present.

In other business:
• Recently appointed Commissioner Baldwin was officially sworn in. He has served on the City Commission in the past and was appointed by commissioners to fill a seat left vacant after Balensifer was appointed to take over as mayor. Balensifer himself filled another vacant seat when the commission selected him as mayor, the one former Mayor Mark Kujala left open after he resigned in March to spend more time with his family and seafood business. Balensifer will serve out the remainder of Kujala’s term, which expires in 2018. Baldwin will serve out the remainder of Balensifer’s term, which expires in 2020.

• The commission adopted the increased water, sewer and recycling rates as well as the increased community center rental rates. There was no public comment either in favor of or opposed to these increases.

New butcher shop, smokehouse opens in former Rio Cafe location

A second butcher shop for Astoria

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Astoria’s second butcher shop has opened in the former Rio Cafe.

Jeremy and Nan Schoenwald recently started Smokehouse Butcher Block, where they sell fresh and smoked meat products, along with other grilling accouterments.

Jeremy said he got his introduction to Astoria staying in town four months annually for eight years while working on the Port of Portland’s Dredge Oregon. The Schoenwalds moved from Portland full time two years ago.

Nan, who has managed properties in Portland for the past 20 years, started River and Coast Property Management a year ago. The company is located in the same building as the butcher shop, one storefront over.

After more than 20 years in operation, the Rio Cafe closed in March, beginning speculation on what would come next. Jeremy Schoenwald worked as a butcher locally at a large grocery store and recently at Gulley’s Butcher Shop downtown. He said he walked by the former restaurant one day looking



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
Jeremy and Nan Schoenwald recently opened Smokehouse Butcher Block in the former Rio Cafe on Ninth Street.

for a job with Jake Martin and Phil Spencer’s Astoria Stock Co., another proposed butcher shop he heard was moving into the space.

Instead, he found a still-vacant space waiting for a tenant. He and his wife eventually signed a five-year lease.

While Gulley’s located in the heart of downtown, the Schoenwalds see their shop as a potential anchor business for the area around the Astoria Transit Center to the west, with easier parking and accessibility.

“I really think we will increase a lot of people’s visibility by being in this location,” Jeremy said.

Smoke specialty

“At the time of opening this, there was not another smokehouse for 50 miles,” Nan Schoenwald said.

The shop includes a refrigerated case for smoked ribs,

smoked goods.

“We’re not going to be doing smoked fish here, because I have a tremendous amount of respect for everybody that’s been doing it 100 years,” Jeremy said.

Astoria now has two regionally sourced butcher shops. Aside from specializing in smoked goods, the Schoenwalds said they were encouraged to open a butcher shop because of customers’ concerns over grocery chains lowering meat quality and increasing prices. The couple uses a distributor they said helps find them a mix of regional, naturally raised products at a reasonable price.

Jeremy is the second former butcher of Gulley’s to branch out into his own business. Miles Peacock opened food cart Sasquatch Sausage over the winter with business partner Mari Inaba outside the new Reach Break Brewing.

Spencer said he and Martin got too busy to move forward with Astoria Stock Co.

“With the second butcher shop opening up, we felt it was a moot point,” Spencer said.

bacon and other cuts, along with sausages, chicken and jerkies. Another case holds fresh meats, along with yakisoba noodles and cheeses. The wall is lined with regional products the Schoenwalds have brought in, from canned tuna to dog treats.

While there is inevitable crossover with fresh meats, the couple said they are not trying to replicate Gulley’s, which focuses more on deli options as opposed to

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The Daily Astorian’s offices in
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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES:
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Army band offers free concert at Liberty Theater

The Daily Astorian

The Oregon Army National Guard’s traditional military concert band will perform a free concert Friday night at the Liberty Theater.

FREE TICKETS The 234th Army Band will play music by George Gershwin and John Williams, along with songs from the Broadway play “Hamilton” and the Disney movie “Moana.”

The concert is at 7 p.m. The Clackamas-based band’s performance is part of a summer concert series.

Organizers say the free concerts are one of the ways “the Oregon National Guard gives back to our communities for their support in our missions within the state of Oregon as well as throughout the United States and the world.”



About the Relay For Life Movement

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement is the world’s largest fundraising event to end cancer, uniting four million people around the world to celebrate survivorship, remember lives lost, and fight back against this disease. Teams camp out and participate by taking turns walking around a track or path. Symbolizing the battle waged around the clock by those facing cancer, the event empowers communities and individuals to take a stand against the disease and take action by supporting the Society’s lifesaving mission.

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- Learn about American Cancer Society programs and services.
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For more information, contact:
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Q: Muscle spasms can be a thing of the past.

A: Charlie horses in the leg, facial tics and back spasms are all deficiency symptoms — muscles are irritated and working too hard — they don’t have the nutrients they need. Muscles need calcium, magnesium and Vitamin D taken together. Seventy-six percent of Americans are deficient in those nutrients. People may be OK until an injury when the increased activity in the hurt area causes the deficiency symptoms. It is easy and quick to correct. Time of day and dosage are important and need to be adjusted until the spasms stop. If you need help figuring this out, call Dr. Goldeen or Dr. Sears.

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Q: What is meant by “Cloud Computing”?

A: Cloud is a metaphor for the Internet. If you use email, you are already using the Cloud. Your messages are sent, received and stored on your email provider’s computers (Google, Microsoft, etc.). DropBox, One Drive, and Carbonite are other examples of “Cloud” computer services. Google Docs, Word and Excel Online are examples of “Cloud” applications. The writing and calculations are not done on your computer, but at Google and Microsoft.