

Manure: Wayne suspects ordinance may be targeting him

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Wayne said he does not leave manure behind. “I pick up my manure meticulously. I’ve been doing it for years,” he said.

He said he has spoken to the police about calling him when manure is found and would even accept a fine if his horses were involved.

Wayne also argued that horses should not be singled out. He cited a study that concludes horse manure is not environmentally hazardous, unlike dog poop.

“The creation of this requirement will basically eliminate all horse activity in Cannon Beach. This would be a loss to the city, a loss to all of us, residents and visitors,” he said.

After his three minutes of public comment were up, he asked someone in the audience to display a manure-catching bag.

“Check this out. This is what you want to put on a horse’s butt? I mean that’s going to hang off 10 pounds



Nicole Bales/The Astorian
A horse stable on Bob Wayne's property in Cannon Beach.

of manure and you expect him to ride around in it?” Wayne asked.

Many of the people commenting came to support Wayne and Swigart and the tradition of horses in the city. They cheered for each other after each testimony.

“If the cleanup was occurring like they say it is, we would not be having a problem,” St. Denis said after the meeting.

“I think the problem is primarily in the downtown area ... that’s where we’re getting the complaints.”

Wayne suspects the ordinance may be targeting him.

“I mean maybe they don’t like the mess, maybe they don’t like me ... I do have a lot of fun with it, but they may be antagonistic,” he said.

In a letter to city councilors, Eliza Davis, a resi-

dent who used to work for Sea Ranch, wrote there is no basis for the ordinance. She believes it is part of a long history to restrict and eliminate horses in Cannon Beach.

Davis wrote that Wayne and Sea Ranch are being singled out and said Wayne is the only local resident she knows who routinely rides horses through town, with the exception of parades.

Local resident Suzie Henry also testified against the ordinance, saying Wayne has a positive influence.

“He usually has his famous red something or other going on,” she told the City Council. “It’s attractive and delightful and I know he’s very responsible about picking up after his horses ... I think it adds to the charm of the city and I think there’s got to be another way other than using those ridiculous buckets to manage any kind of manure problem you seem to have.”

Building: ‘I think it’s a real tribute to Astoria’

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simultaneously opening the underground speak-easy in the basement. The company also envisions 50 luxury camping spots and a wellness retreat at an undisclosed location in Warrenton.

“For every two or three urban locations, we want to have kind of a bohemian and remote destination,” Tour said.

The Astoria location will be the second Selina-branded property in the U.S. after New York City, Tour said. The company hopes to open properties along the Pacific coast from Seattle to San Diego.

The Lewis Building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was designed by Astoria

architect John E. Wicks and built in 1925 after a fire gutted much of downtown three years earlier. The hotel first opened as the Barton Inn in 1925 and changed to the Commodore Hotel in 1928, closing in 1964.

Caruana and his partners purchased the building for \$565,000 in 2007 and invested around \$1.5 million in renovations, reopening the Commodore Hotel in 2009. They listed the building in 2017 for \$2.3 million. Caruana said it seemed like the right time to sell and bring in a hotel management company like Selina that can cast a wider net.

“I think it will be great for Astoria,” he said. “They will provide a fresh perspective to the building.”

Mill Pond: Councilor Rocka ended up being the swing vote

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and property tax benefits, Jones said.

“If we don’t sell them and allow them to generate that property tax revenue, we’re taking that money out of the hands of all the beneficiaries of property tax revenue in the county,” he said.

City Councilor Tom Brownson said he’d be all for neighbors purchasing the properties and keeping them on the tax roll, but sided with Jones’ argument.

Councilor Joan Herman said she sees the south shore of Mill Pond as a resource to the entire community the city should preserve. While accepting Dulcich’s offer was more competitive, Councilor Jessamyn West sided with Herman’s view.

Councilor Roger Rocka, who ended up being the swing vote, said he likes the idea of more green space amid the surrounding development but wasn’t sure it was appropriate for the council to shortchange other taxpayers. After a dramatic pause, he agreed to go along with the sale to Dulcich in the 3-2 vote.

Dulcich testified to his family’s long background in Astoria, including a late father who worked in athletics for the Astoria High School football team and a mother who was a speech pathologist and still lives locally.

“I love the Mill Pond,” he said. “It’s a beautiful area. I want to live there, and I want to develop some homes there. And that’s my goal. There’s nothing nefarious going on.”

Gearhart: Code changes would not affect existing businesses

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“Folks were concerned about businesses like Dollar General coming into town,” Mayor Matt Brown said.

While the city has a Dairy Queen, U-Haul and Sherwin-Williams in the commercial zone along U.S. Highway 101, code changes would not affect existing businesses. “But it might be something we want to look at,” Brown said.

Brown said residents had concerns about potential uses of empty commercial properties on Highway 101 and the need for a grocery store after the closing of Gearhart Market, which transitioned to a grocery and brew pub in 2017

before closing late last year.

At last week’s work session, officials zeroed in on the downtown commercial zone.

“What kind of businesses do we want in our community?” Brown asked. “What type of businesses fit in within our comp plan and residential nature?”

Staff presented a draft document revising uses in city code.

Proposed outright permitted uses could open the way for retail, art galleries, offices, garden stores, financial institutions and personal businesses like hair styling, spas, printing or other services.

Conditional uses could include eating and drinking

establishments and homes in areas where residential use does not exceed 50% of the building’s total floor space.

Prohibited uses could also include amusement arcades and surrey rentals, drive-in facilities, car washes or private parking lots.

City Councilor Dan Jesse said he supported changes prohibiting formula use restaurants, but had concerns about regulating activity along the highway.

“I choose to vote with my wallet. To me they have the right to be there,” Jesse said. “They paid for the land and built the building.”

The City Council tasked the Planning Commission

with brainstorming ideas and coming up with possible draft language.

“These are still discussions at this point,” Brown said after the meeting. “We plan on continuing to meet and discuss as well as provide staff with ideas and language. The intent, I think, of this process is to make sure our code is enforceable, makes sense in today’s environment, and will follow our commercial goals laid out in our comp plan.”

The Planning Commission meets Nov. 14 to continue the discussion.

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