



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Astoria placed new restrictions on waterfront development.

2019: New and amended codes to guide future of development along the Astoria waterfront dominated city discussions

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Port of Astoria

This year saw an erosion of support for Jim Knight, the former executive director of the Port of Astoria, and the elevation of his successor, Will Isom, the agency’s sixth leader since 2012.

Knight, who was hired by the Port Commission in 2014, faced increasing criticism over several alleged missteps. Current and former tenants complained about his lack of honesty. A jury in the trial over operation of the Astoria Riverwalk Inn found Knight made fraudulent statements to a suitor, while a judge found his testimony “not particularly credible.” Matt McGrath, the Port’s director of operations, resigned and derided Knight’s performance in a letter to Port commissioners.

Isom, a Knappa native who joined the Port in 2015 as a staff accountant and became director of finance three years ago, built a reputation for attention to detail. He was appointed interim executive director after Knight’s resignation in June, and McGrath soon rejoined the agency.

Isom took the executive director job permanently in December after overwhelmingly positive reviews of his first sixth months on the job.

Timber suit

A Linn County jury in November sided with western Oregon counties in a \$1 billion lawsuit against the state over timber harvests. The counties claim the state has not maximized harvests on forestland it agreed to manage for local governments.

Clatsop County voted 3-2 in 2017 to opt out of the lawsuit, but other local taxing districts stayed in the litigation. The state is expected to appeal the verdict.

Cap and trade

Democrats in the state Legislature introduced state House Bill 2020, which would have created the country’s third carbon cap-and-trade system after California and the Northeast. The bill proposed capping greenhouse gas emissions, charging large industrial polluters for going over and investing the proceeds in climate-friendly initiatives to help meet the state’s emissions reduction goals.

The bill sparked protests by timber, logging and other industry groups worried that a resultant increase in fuel costs would disproportionately hurt rural areas and spawned the grassroots advocacy group #TimberUnity. Hundreds of loggers and truck drivers descended on Salem in June to circle the Capitol with horns blaring in protest. Fort George Brewery faced boycotts after Harris publicly supported the bill. The brewery was one of several companies, along with Dutch Bros., in a statewide coalition supporting the bill that later pulled out amid mounting political pressure.

The bill ultimately lacked the votes to pass the state Senate. Negotiations have begun on a scaled-back version of the bill for next year.

#TimberUnity activists launched an unsuccessful recall campaign against state Rep. Tiffany Mitchell, D-Astoria, over her support for the bill.

ICE detentions at courthouses

Fabian Alberto Zamora-Rodriguez was detained inside the Clatsop County Courthouse in July, where U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents used what appeared to be pepper spray against Zamora-Rodriguez’s mother, partner and immigrant rights advocates who were trying to escort him away.

Zamora-Rodriguez, who is facing felony charges that he encouraged child sexual abuse, was cited as an example when faith leaders and civil liberties activists called for an end to ICE detentions at courthouses at a rally in August outside the courthouse in Hillsboro. In November, Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Martha Walters responded to concerns by enacting a rule that prohibits ICE from detaining people at state courthouses without a judicial arrest warrant.

Brownhill retires

After 25 years on the bench, Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge Paula Brownhill retired in November.

She was appointed by Gov. Barbara Roberts to fill Judge Thomas Edison’s position in 1994 and elected four times. Throughout her career, she has been an advocate for children and has been recognized for her efforts to improve court processes for children.

Bergin retires

Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin, who was first elected sheriff in 2004, announced this summer he would retire a year before his term ended following a trying time of dealing with personal matters.

County commissioners appointed Lt. Matt Phillips, the jail commander, as interim sheriff. Phillips is running in the May election to succeed Bergin.

New county manager

Clatsop County commissioners hired Don Bohn, the former assistant county administrator in Washington County, to be the county’s new manager.

Bohn is the county’s 10th manager over the past two decades. He replaces Cameron Moore, who retired after less than three years on the job after clashes with some on the county commission.

County counsel steps down

Heather Reynolds, who has served as Clatsop County counsel for 25 years, announced she will step down.

She said the decision by the county commissioners to appoint a parliamentarian earlier this year precipitated her to leave early. Reynolds believes it is a good time for the transition now that the county has Bohn’s leadership. The recruitment and selection process to replace her is expected to take about six months. Reynolds plans to stay on until someone is hired.

Riverfront vision

New and amended codes to guide future development along the Astoria waterfront dominated city discussions for much of 2019.

City boards went back and forth on what size of buildings should be allowed and worried about a proliferation of new hotels.

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

A #TimberUnity sign stands off U.S. Highway 30.

SPECIALS FOR
JAN 1ST - JAN 7TH

MAIN ST.

Market

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
WHERE THE MEAT LOVER’S SHOP

FRESH MEAT SPECIALS OF THE WEEK



BONELESS
SKINLESS
CHICKEN
BREASTS

99¢
lb

PREVIOUSLY FROZEN



ST HELEN’S
BEEF
T-BONE
STEAKS

\$6.99
lb

GROCERY



LA CROIX
SPARKLING WATER
ASSORTED FLAVORS

\$3.99

12 PACK, 12 oz CANS

S&W BEANS
ASSORTED VARIETIES



5
FOR

\$5.00

15-15.5 oz cans

YOPLAIT YOGURT
ASSORTED FLAVORS



2
FOR

\$1.00

6 oz.

FRESH PRODUCE



HONEYCRISP
APPLES

79¢
lb



JUICY SWEET
NAVAL ORANGES

79¢
lb

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