

by Emily St. John Mandel



Opposition to zoning change heard in Joseph City settles with

Dawson Ranch By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph City Council earned its keep Feb. 8, with a fourhour evening session including an executive session, and a six-hour goal-setting gathering during the afternoon.

The evening meeting began with fireworks when former council member Tyler Evans read a letter during the public comments section blasting a plan to build low-income housing in Joseph.

Evans spoke against a proposed zoning change that could allow a project in the area of North Daggett and North Lake streets.

Evans accused the applicants of being disrespectful to the city and its citizens for submitting the application. He also said the council would be complicit in an illegal act of Oregon State Land Use if they granted the application although he provided no evidence other than a vague Wikipedia quote.

"Tell them that it's an insult that they'd even ask and that the answer is 'no,'" Evans said.

The threat of a lawsuit was also mentioned. The reading went about a minute over the three minutes alloted time; however, Evans was allowed to continue.

City administrator Sandra Patterson directed the council to disregard the testimony because of a hearing Feb. 22.

"Did you just tell them to disregard my letter?" Evans asked.

Mayor Dennis Sands explained the hearing was a quasi-judicial function, and the council was obligated to remain impartial at this time.

"We're not to prejudge applications," Sands said. Evans left after the exchange.

Dawson payments

In other action Thursday, the council assented to requests for payment from the Diamond D ranch, owned by Joseph Dawson of Joseph. The ranch, which uses the city's treated wastewater for crop irrigation, had filed suit against the city in May 2017, asking \$15,000 per year for 2016 and 2017 plus expenses.

The 20-year contract between the two entities ended in 2016, and the city had exercised a five-year option to renew the deal. The ranch contended that the option allowed them to charge the city for discharging the water on its property under the new agreement.

The city initially planned to fight the request, but based on information from Joseph city attorney Wyatt Baum, resistance was dropped after the ranch offered to settle for \$7,500 per year. Diamond D accepted a counter-offer from the city to pay the ranch \$3,750 for each of five years, a total of \$18,500 from Joseph's coffers. Each party will pay its own legal expenses.

After a George Ballard motion to approve the deal, the council voted unanimously to ratify. Council member Teresa Sajonia abstained.

Citizens survey

Results from the city's survey of its citizens were presented. Street repair is the uppermost issue on the minds of the 83 citizens, and an additional 18 Joseph Charter School students who responded to the survey.

Council member Kathy Bingham, who instigated the survey, said the survey results would help the council prioritize its goals.

DEQ fine

Sands Mayor also announced that the city would pay the Department of Environmental Quality a fine in the amount of \$3,554 for discharging untested wastewater on irrigated land for two months last summer. The city had thought it only needed before and after testing but regulations also require testing during the irrigation season as well. The DEQ offered the city a chance to mitigate the fine with a reforestation project, but no agreement was reached.

Joseph to consider low-income housing proposal on Feb. 22

By Steve Tool Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph is holding a quasi-judicial land use planning hearing at the Joseph Community Center 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22. The meeting pertains to a request from Keith Wellens and Tyler Chrisman to change zoning from Residential 1 to Residential 2 on tax lot 400, near the intersection of Daggett Lane and Lake Street, presumably for the reason of building low-income housing.

Feb. 5

3:40 p.m. - Tillamook County

Sheriff's Office arrested Jeremiah

Beau Cruse, 35, of Joseph, on a

Wallowa County warrant for pro-

bation violation. Original charge

Feb. 6 5:45 p.m. - Report of a dead

deer blocking the roadway in rural

unlawful use of a weapon.

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Care District. The request pertains to lot 419, which is a lot that borders Daggett Lane and Hwy 82. The health care district is planning to build a clinic on the lot and wishes to change the location of the parking lot location from the back of the building to the front, which faces the highway.

The proposed ordinance that regulates the applications is available to view at Joseph City Hall, 210 N. Main St. A staff report will be available for nance and file info are available for purchase at city hall.

Statements or evidence concerning the ordinance must be raised in person or by letter to the council with ample time for the council to respond. Failure to do so negates appeals to Oregon's Land Use Board of Appeals on the issue.

Submit written comments or testimony at the hearing or send it to the attention of the city administrator prior to the hearing. Call city hall at 541-432-3832 and cityofjosephore gon@gmail.com.

plaint in Enterprise

The second request is from the Wallowa County Health and copies of the proposed ordi-

seven days prior to the hearing

Feb.7

11:12 a.m. - Pendleton Police Department arrested Dane Michael Schell, 27, of Enterprise, for probation violation. Original charge burglary in the first degree. He was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

6:07 p.m. – Jeremy Mitchel Hankey, 27, of Nampa, Idaho, was arrested by Washington County on a Wallowa County detainer for probation violation. Original charge DUI.

Feb. 8 8:07 p.m. - Endangering welfare of a child in Enterprise. Feb. 10 10:43 a.m. - 911 call reporting a fire in rural Joseph. Joseph Fire, Enterprise Fire and ODFW responded and extinguished the fire. 12:53 p.m. - 911 call reporting a grass fire in rural Lostine. Lostine Fire, Wallowa Fire, Enterprise Fire, Joseph Fire and ODFW extinguished the fire.

6:26 p.m. - Harassment com-

Film made by Enterprise students debuts Feb.22

Enterprise teacher Lorri Fischer's 4th and 5th grade classes have been filming a movie with Cameron Scott of Fishtrap Story Lab. The

movie is based on their reading of "The City of Ember," the science-fiction choice for younger readers provided by Fishtrap in place of the adult

LOSTINE, OR

Big Read book, "Station Eleven."

The script, written by Fischer, takes the viewer from the future to the past and explores the history of the Wallowa County Courthouse. The movie will commemorate the 110th birthday of the courthouse in 2019 and will be presented at the Big Read Kick-off event at Hurricane Creek Grange Feb. 22.

) be featured at owcase in April Costumes and props were coordinated by Morgan Green as well as various students and parents.



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The Big Read 2018 Schedule of Events

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All events are free and open to the public.

Thursday, February 22 @ 6:30pm **KICK-OFF Potluck Dinner** Hurricane Creek Grange Hall, Joseph Thursday, March 1 @ 7pm What If? Disaster Preparedness: How does setting contribute to survival? Wallowa Memorial Hospital, Enterprise Thursday, March 8 @ 7pm Comics and Graphic Storytelling with Mike Lawrence Enterprise High School Thursday, March 15 @ 7pm Love, Death, and Dirty Jokes: "Shake Common Man" with Morgan Green Fishtrap, Enterprise Thursday, March 22 @ 7pm Star Trek Voyager "Survival Instinct" Fishtrap, Enterprise Saturday, March 24 @ Noon-2pm For the full BIG READ FINALE - BBQ/Bonfire/Singalong schedule of events visit Fishtrap, Enterprise