

Council from A1

and traffic fines from current data.

"I find it surprising because I stopped fining people and somehow it resulted in more money," Fisher said.

In detailing crime trends, the report noted that crimes of criminal trespass and theft III (theft of items valued less than \$100) are typically reflections of poverty. Both offenses have seen a downturn in recent years.

"I don't have an answer for that, but that's encouraging," said Fisher.

Fisher also reported a successful change in the court's schedule as it has moved all non-English-speaking defendants to a quarterly fifth Thursday docket. There are three fifth Thursdays in a year.

"We don't get a large number of non-English speakers, but it's enough that when you have one, you need to have an interpreter present and there's a minimum 2-hour fee for that," he said. "If I called in an interpreter every time, it would cost a small fortune, so we consolidated it all into a single day."

Fisher said about four people on average show up on the quarterly dockets.

The judge also said the court is looking to include a Mam interpreter, which he said would service about 70 percent of the non-English speakers.

Mam is a Mayan language spoken by a significant subset of Cottage Grove's immigrant population.

In other developments, Fisher reported that at the end of the year the city will lose its local Alcohol Drug Evaluation Service provider who could provide in-town mandatory exams for DUII defendants with already

suspended licenses.

While the city searches for a replacement, Cottage Grove DUII defendants will be required to find their way to Eugene for the evaluation. The court report noted a higher failure rate for DUII diversions and more probation violations when this had previously been the case.

Lastly, Fisher reported that, "We are in the earliest of early stages making moves toward creating what is essentially called a 'Mental Health Court.'"

Fisher anticipated this court could aid people with mental health problems which contribute to their criminal activity.

"And that's actually a pretty fair number of people here - probably a quarter, maybe a third," he said.

In other City Council news:

Affordable Housing

The council returned to an ongoing discussion about city assistance with affordable housing projects such as the Cottage Village Coalition and Legion Cottages. A draft proposal was presented to the council for review in a bid to negotiate and develop a future resolution which could help housing projects with system development charges (SDCs) and building permit fees.

Among recommendations, the draft proposed that the city may contribute up to \$25,000 a year for building permit and inspection fee assistance and \$75,000 for assistance with SDCs.

Under the proposal, projects with a higher number of units would be eligible for higher percentage of SDC assistance.

Councilor comments were mainly in agreement with the draft proposal.

"It's certainly good enough to start with and

see what works and what doesn't," said Councilor Jake Boone.

"I love this idea, what it will do and the intent behind it," said Councilor Greg Ervin. "My hang up is, this feels like charity at our discretion and its public funds."

City Manager Richard Meyers suggested introducing a three-year sunset period to the program.

The program would be eligible only for nonprofit or government agencies.

The council then received an informational presentation from City Planner Amanda Ferguson detailing the Code Audit Committee's recommendations on ways to increase affordability and availability of multiple-family housing.

The committee recommended using a MUPT (Multiple-Unit Property Tax Exemption) program to incentivize redevelopment of residential properties.

The program allows new multi-family units (three or more units) to avoid property taxes on the value of new residential construction for up to 10 years. The property continues to pay taxes on the land value and any commercial portion of the property.

Developers applying to the MUPT program would have to qualify by meeting certain public benefit standards such as day care facilities, open spaces, recreation facilities and dedication of land for public use.

A public hearing on a draft ordinance for a MUPT program will be held at the City Council meeting on Dec. 9.

Comprehensive Fee Schedule Amendment

City councilors voted unanimously to amend the city's comprehensive fee

schedule to include a convenience fee for the use of credit and debit cards.

Currently, all city fees may be paid cash, check, money order or cashier's check. Payment by use of credit or debit cards, however, has not been an option due to costs charged by card processing companies.

The resolution amended the fee schedule to add a convenience fee associated with the payment of any fee by using a debit or credit card. Fees will not apply to recurring utility billing payments or utility billing payments taken online or at the finance office.

"We're trying to avoid having to increase all of the fees for everyone by charging that convenience fee for that person who wants to use a credit or debit card," said Finance Director Roberta Likens.

Supplemental Budget

The City Council voted unanimously to adopt a supplementary budget as the city has received grants, insurance proceeds and bond proceeds which were not anticipated at the time the 2019-20 municipal budget was created.

Oregon Revised Statutes requires the city to hold a budget hearing when any fund is increased by more than 10 percent.

State and local grants totaling \$121,500 will be allocated toward transportation improvements and safety enforcement while a grant expenditure of \$3,000 was authorized for the Shop with a Cop program in collaboration with the local Walmart.

Following the completion of bond financing in September, about \$1.1 million in bond proceeds will be allocated toward water meter upgrades around the city and \$1 million will fund rehabilitation of the Cottage Grove Armory.

The supplemental budget also authorized repair and maintenance of damaged water pumps at the wastewater treatment plant, which has received \$32,215 in insurance proceeds.

Climate

Local organizers Rob Dickinson and Cristina Hubbard spoke on behalf of climate awareness advocates during public comment of items not on the agenda. Following September's Climate Strike event

and subsequent public requests to the city for a town hall on climate change, a declaration of emergency and a commitment to reducing the city's carbon footprint, Dickinson and Hubbard promoted ongoing monthly climate change related educational events in the area.

The next educational event will be held on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Rural Organizing Project building at 632 E Main St.



MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT IS NOW THRU DEC 7TH FOR 2020

Choice Insurance Agency
Fred Owre - Agent/Owner

541.729.8853
Email: owre@oip.net



WE HAVE ICE MELT!

Family owned and operated for over 47 years.

BOYCE & SONS LANDSCAPE AND BUILDING MATERIALS
Open 7 days a week!
79149 N. River Road
541-942-4664

U-HAUL AUTHORIZED DEALER

BINGO COUPON
COTTAGE GROVE ELKS LODGE
755 North River Road
Information 942-3554

PUBLIC WELCOME

Every Wednesday (except Holidays)
Warm Ups 6:30pm Regular Games 7:00pm
Frequent Smoke Breaks, Exciting New Game Program
"Bingo Burger Menu" Available

2 PROGRESSIVE JACKPOTS
Bring this coupon and receive a 2nd Warm-up Pack FREE



Free Appraisals I'll Come to You!

BUY & SELL

Gold, Silver, Scrap, Men's Jewelry, Costume Jewelry, Pieces & Parts. Even Junk!

25+ Years Experience

2001 Franklin #3 Eugene, Oregon

The Jewelry Girl, LLC
LISA RUSSELL
(541)556-9598

The Flower Basket and Gift Boutique

Buy 2 Ornaments Get 1 FREE*

*Free ornament of equal or lesser value, no additional discounts (valid 12-4-19 to 12-10-19)

119 S. 6th Street • 541-942-0505

SAGINAW VINEYARD

Live Music Every Friday
6 to 9 pm || No Cover Charge

Dec 6 • **Tatiamo**
Acoustic Folk-Rock


Dec 13 • **Ben Johnson & Co**
Blues, Rock, Soul, Country

Dec 20 • **Killer B's**
Classic Country & Old Time Rock-n-Roll

Open Daily 11am for Complimentary Tasting
942-1364 • www.saginawvineyard.com

Comprehensive Family Medical Eye Care and Optical Services

Welcome Anthony Grillo, MD



A southern Oregon native, Dr. Grillo is a board-certified ophthalmologist specializing in cornea, external disease, and refractive surgery. Call for an appointment today!


Pacific ClearVision INSTITUTE

Call 541-942-5000
257 N. 8th St. • www.pcvl.com
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm


OREGON Official LASIK and Eye Doctors of the Oregon Ducks and Eugene Emeralds

SOUTH LANE COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

The Only Emergency Medical Transport Service in South Lane County



Call 541-942-4493 for info. FOR EMERGENCY DIAL 911
Serving South Lane County.
www.southlanefire.org



Win with Oregon West RV

OUR HAPPY FAMILY will make YOUR FAMILY HAPPY

OREGON WEST RV
www.orwestrv.com

Email: oregonwestrv@msn.com
83319 Hoagland Lane
Creswell OR, 97426

Office: 541-895-3599
Fax: 541-895-3732

Free Winterization for 4 Years on any new or used RV Purchase good until 12-31-19

Frenchy's

HAPPY HOUR TIL 7PM!
\$5 HAPPY HOUR BURGERS
3PM TO 6PM

View our menu online. To-Go Orders Welcome
541-636-3692
85944 Hwy 99S
Goshen, OR
frenchygoshe.com



OPEN 11AM-10PM EVERYDAY

