

**Council from A1**

symbolic state of emergency, aim to make the city carbon neutral by 2030 and organize a town hall to discuss the subject.

Nearly two hours after public comments, the council addressed the topic during the council's established time to respond, however commenters were no longer present.

Councilor Mike Fleck acknowledged the possibility for the city to take some action but raised the problem of financial and logistical barriers.

"My big concerns are around fiscal restraints of a small jurisdiction and how we manage large-scale projects," he said.

Fleck suggested install-

ing electric vehicle parking spots through grant funding.

"These are the sorts of things we can do that make sense as a city and I'm certainly open to that," he said. "But some of the comments about zero emissions by 2030 I think is just an unrealistic expectation for a small jurisdiction."

Councilor Jake Boone affirmed that he believed climate change is "real, manmade and dangerous," and echoed Fleck's opinion that solutions ought to be feasible.

"I'm more than happy to work on seeing what it is we can do," said Boone. "There is low hanging fruit to be had and I think we should go for it. ... I'm more than willing to hear anybody's ideas for con-

crete stuff we can do to make things better."

Councilor Kenneth Roberts reiterated his support for the cause but was concerned that the commenters were not present for the council's response.

"I said at the last meeting when they brought this up, 'Are they willing to carry their end of the log on this?' And I'm still feeling that," he said.

During a city manager report, City Manager Richard Meyers cited increased housing density, efficient access to the industrial district, the effluent pond, restoration of the Cottage Grove Armory, recycled chairs in the council chamber and improved transportation projects as ways in which the city has made decisions which address environmental concerns.

"These are all things that are going on. We're making a difference," he said. "I think you as a city council should be very proud of what this city has done and is doing."

A town hall on climate change is tentatively set for March 14.

**MUPTE**

Meanwhile, City Councilors unanimously passed an ordinance establishing a Multiple-Unit Property Tax Exemption (MUPTE) program in Cottage Grove.

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 MUPTE 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.

The program comes to Cottage Grove after a housing needs analysis conducted last year recommended that the city would have to build 69 units per year to meet its 20-year housing goals.

During public hearing on the topic, several members of the community spoke in favor of the program.

Local developer Len Blackstone raised the desperate need for housing in the community.

"The vacancy factor in this community is zero, practically speaking," he said. "It's actually negative if there's the possibility of having negative vacancy because ... every year we lose about 15 schoolteachers in our school district because they can't find housing."

Blackstone added that the MUPTE program would allow for developers' projects to make financial sense.

Former Mayor Jim Gilroy also spoke in support of the program, encouraging the council to consider the housing health of the community.

Outgoing Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer then spoke in favor of MUPTE, citing the program's strength in addressing the

city's needs.

"Housing is incredibly tight in Cottage Grove," he said. "We need housing and we need it yesterday."

Local resident Katie Owens expressed concerns that taxpayers may be subsidizing developers.

"We have to be very, very careful," she said. "Because I have seen developers be subsidized by public money."

Owens also pointed to Eugene units created under the program which had degraded in quality.

Councilor comments were overwhelmingly in favor of the program.

"It's desperate out there," said Councilor Fleck. "I'm here to tell you it's a huge problem and we need to do something about it. We have also not built an apartment complex in this town since the 1980s. ... And we need a carrot to incentivize these kinds of developments."

Youth Advisory Council member Emma MacDonald referred to Blackstone's statement regarding the loss of teachers.

"It really does affect the teachers in the [South] Lane County School District," she said. "When good teachers leave because they have nowhere else to go, students are filled in with substitutes and aren't stuck with a form of consistency that helps with learning."

**Bid Award**

City Councilors voted unanimously to award a \$1.3 million bid to R & G Excavation for a recycled water storage pond and pump station project. The project aims to achieve a goal of zero discharge

into the Coast Fork of the Willamette River through storage and the reuse of effluent. Councilors also authorized an additional expenditure of \$259,031 for the purchase of integration materials for the project.

**Armory**

City Councilors voted unanimously to amend a contract with Pioneer Waterproofing Company to include the performance of the remaining phases of work on the Cottage Grove Armory in the amount of \$231,814. Funds were allocated through bond sales in October. Councilors also unanimously voted to approve a contract with AC & Co Architecture Community for construction documents through 80 percent completion at a cost of \$450,820. The funds were also Armory bond proceeds.

**Road Quality Report**

A road quality report by project management company Emerio Design graded Cottage Grove's streets as "fair," though pointed out key areas where the city needed work. The company was hired by the city in 2018 to perform a pavement condition index survey of the city streets. The informational report indicated that to maintain the city's current "fair" grade over the next 10 years, the maintenance budget would have to nearly triple from its current \$500,000 a year to \$1.4 million.

The next meeting of the Cottage Grove City Council will be Monday, Jan. 13, beginning at 7 p.m.



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**Worship Directory**

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|--|---|---|
| <p><b>COTTAGE GROVE:</b><br/><b>6th &amp; Gibbs Church of Christ</b><br/>195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822<br/>10:00am<br/>Christian Education:<br/>Pre-K through 5th<br/>www.6thandgibbs.com</p>  | <p><b>First Presbyterian Church</b><br/>3rd and Adams St<br/>541-942-4479<br/>Rev.: Karen Hill<br/>Worship: 10:00am<br/>Sunday School: 10:00am<br/>fpcgrove.com</p>   | <p>St. Philip Benizi, Creswell<br/>552 Hallbrook Lane<br/>Sunday 8:30 AM</p>  |
| <p><b>Calvary Baptist Church</b><br/>77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290<br/>Pastor: Riley Hendricks<br/>Sunday School: 9:45am<br/>Worship: 11:00am<br/>The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm<br/>Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm</p>               | <p><b>Hope Fellowship</b><br/>United Pentecostal Church<br/>100 S. Gateway Blvd.<br/>541-942-2061<br/>Pastor: Dave Bragg<br/>Worship: 11:00am Sunday<br/>Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday<br/>www.hopefellowshipupc.com<br/>"FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"</p>  | <p><b>St. Andrews Episcopal Church</b><br/>1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050<br/>Rev. Lawrence Crumb<br/>"Church with the flags."<br/>Worship: Sunday 10:30am<br/>All Welcome</p>   |
| <p><b>Church of Christ</b><br/>420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565<br/>Sunday Service: 10:30am</p>  | <p><b>Living Faith Assembly</b><br/>467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612<br/>Worship Services Sundays: 9a &amp; 11a<br/>Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)<br/>Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)</p>  | <p><b>Seventh-day Adventist Church</b><br/>820 South 10th Street<br/>541-942-5213<br/>Pastor: Kevin Miller<br/>Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am<br/>Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40<br/>Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00</p>  |
| <p><b>Cottage Grove Bible Church</b><br/>1200 East Quincy Avenue<br/>541-942-4771<br/>Pastor: Bob Singer<br/>Worship 11am<br/>Sunday School: 9:45am<br/>AWANA age 3-8th Grade,<br/>Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm<br/>www.cgbible.org</p> | <p><b>Non-Denominational Church of Christ</b><br/>1041 Pennoyer Ave<br/>541-942-8928<br/>Preacher: Tony Martin<br/>Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am<br/>Sunday Worship: 10:50am &amp; 5:30pm<br/>www.pennoyeravecoc.com</p>  | <p><b>Trinity Lutheran Church</b><br/>6th &amp; Quincy • 541-942-2373<br/>Pastor: James L. Markus<br/>Sunday School &amp; Adult Education<br/>9:15am<br/>Sunday Worship 10:30 am<br/>Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue &amp; Thur<br/>5:00pm TLC Groups<br/>tlccg.com</p> |
| <p><b>Cottage Grove Faith Center</b><br/>33761 Row River Rd.<br/>541-942-4851<br/>Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueff<br/>www.cg4.tv<br/>Full Children's Ministry available<br/>Services: 9:00am &amp; 10:45am</p>                               | <p><b>Old Time Gospel Fellowship</b><br/>103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999<br/>Pastor: Jim Edwards<br/>Sunday Service: 10:00am<br/>Join in Traditional Christian Worship</p>  | <p><b>United Methodist Church</b><br/>334 Washington 541-942-3033<br/>New Pastor Craig Pesti- Strobel<br/>Worship 10:30am<br/>umcgrove.org</p>  |
| <p><b>Delight Valley Church of Christ</b><br/>33087 Saginaw Rd. East<br/>541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend<br/>Two Services:<br/>9am - Classic in the Chapel<br/>10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium</p>                          | <p><b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches</b><br/>1025 N. 19th St.<br/>541-942-3420<br/>Father John J. Boyle<br/>Holy Mass:<br/>Saturday Vigil - 5:30 PM<br/>Sunday - 10:30 PM<br/>For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website<br/>OLPHCG.net<br/>Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM<br/>Saturdays or by appointment</p> | <p><b>"VICTORY" Country Church</b><br/>913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913<br/>Pastor: Barbara Dockery<br/>Worship Service: 10:00am<br/>Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"</p>  |
| <p><b>First Baptist Church</b><br/>301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242<br/>Pastor: David Chhangle<br/>Sunday School 9:30am<br/>Worship Service 10:30am<br/>Youth Wednesday 6:30pm<br/>cgfirstbaptist.com</p>                                  |   | <p><b>CRESWELL:</b><br/>Creswell Presbyterian Church<br/>75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419<br/>Rev. Seth Wheeler<br/>Adult Sunday School 9:15am<br/>Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am<br/>website www.creswellpres.org</p>  |

**Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in this newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, contact us today!**

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