

John Day parking projects move forward

Two lots would provide spaces for cars and a few for larger vehicles

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day has provided an updated draft for parking that looks to provide more opportunities for oversize vehicles.

The draft presented to the John Day City Council Feb. 25 for parking near city hall calls for 18 parking spots with 16 standard spots, measured about 11-by-22 feet, with one spot designated for handicapped parking, and two 11-by-80 feet oversized pull-through spaces for trailers. Five parking spots will be reserved for city staff and customers at city hall.

The design for the parking lot proposes building a “new rock retaining wall and new fencing along the shared property line in exchange for a no-cost lot line adjustment for the additional parking and restroom facilities along the southern portion of the lot,” according to the agenda for the meeting.

The proposed 10-feet lot line adjustment would also allow a place for a small seating area and a dog park



John Day is looking to budget for paved parking at the former Wright Chevrolet lot, which could take place in late 2020.

for visitors to let their dogs out. Green added that there is a 20-foot access easement for Sintay’s parking so additional city hall parking won’t affect them.

Councilor Steve Schuette recommended a parking spot next to the restroom be designated ADA accessible.

Councilor Dave Holland was concerned about the oversized pull-through spot closest to the existing curb line and the visibility with the pullouts close to the high-

way edge.

“I know that pulling out and looking west when those grasses by the hedge stone start getting high, they kind of block your visibility coming from that way,” said Holland. “That’s my only concern ... if it ends up too close to the road and blocking visibility for pulling in and out of city hall parking lot.”

The draft for parking at the Brazil Lot — the old Wright Chevrolet lot on Canton Street — calls for 16

total parking spaces with 13 standard spaces measuring at least 11-by-22 feet with one space designated for handicapped parking and three oversized pull-through spaces for trailers that measure up to 11-by-51 feet. This design includes a bathroom and infiltration area for stormwater management.

Schuette asked if large vehicles or RVs would have enough space to pull out of the oversized spaces if the other parking spots around were filled.

“There’s 24 feet between the edge of this parking and the center parking lots. Is that enough? I don’t know,” Green said. “I would need to talk to Joe (Hitz at Sisul Engineering), and we might need to run some experiments, putting ropes on the ground and trying it.”

Green said several normal-size spots could be removed to provide more space for turning.

Although the plans for both locations include restrooms, those would be built in a later phase after the lots are completed.

Green said he would take the concerns into consideration as he talks with Hitz and the Oregon Department of Transportation before finalizing the plan.

Engineers discuss development of John Day wastewater plant

City to submit funding request to USDA Rural Development

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day leaders continue to plan for the new wastewater treatment plant.

Engineering firm Anderson Perry has completed environmental assessments, an archeological survey and developed a preliminary engineering report and a groundwater technical assessment for review by the state Department of Environmental Quality, Brett Moore of Anderson Perry told the John Day City Council Feb. 25.

City staff and engineers have been completing the funding applications for the balance of the treatment plant construction cost.

Moore said a 215-page preliminary report identifies what options are available for each component of the treatment plant and provides a cost-benefit analysis.

“Once those are identified and the decisions are made, then we’ll jump into design and prepare the plans for specification for construction,” Moore said.



City Manager Nick Green gives an update regarding the wastewater treatment plant during the city council meeting on Feb. 25.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz
Brett Moore, an engineer from Anderson Perry, updates the John Day City Council and audience members on the progress made on the wastewater treatment plant on Feb. 25.



Eagle file photo
The current John Day wastewater treatment plant Aug. 15.

million gallons per day for several days that created an inflow issue at the facility. Moore said the team is working to identify how the extra water is getting in the system and said building a plant for a million gallons would not be cost effective.

He said, however, it would be difficult to find and patch all the holes in such an extensive system.

“For that reason, what we’ve done is we’re going to add a pump that we are going to call the flood pump because we are still not going to size the treatment plant for something that you’re going to use once every five years when you have a flood situation,” he

said. “We are just going to build a little concrete wall around a parking lot, and if we get one of those events we’re just going to fill that parking lot up and then we’ll drain it back to the treatment plant. We are trying to come up with different ideas to deal with those situations without getting fined by DEQ for discharges and overflows.”

The city council agreed to submit an application for funding from USDA Rural Development. John Day City Manager Nick Green said the USDA will determine the eligibility, ask for additional information and then make a funding decision, which will be a combination of grants and loans.

The city is requesting \$7.4 million dollars in the USDA Rural Development funding application. According to the agenda, “this funding will be used in conjunction with a \$2.3 million grant from the (Community Development Block Grant) program (application pending) and \$1.5 million (grant-loan) from Business Oregon’s Water Wastewater Program.”

Green said the USDA would be the largest lender of the four to five applications to come.

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Grant Soil & Water Conservation District

2020 Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 5th, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Grant County Municipal Airport, John Day, OR

Guest Speaker: Brenda Sanchez, OR Dept. of Agriculture Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) Program Lead

Upcoming Changes to Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Program

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has the authority to enforce Administrative Rules under their Agricultural Water Quality Management Program; these rules apply to private property owners or operators whose land is engaged in agricultural use.

Since 2003, enforcement has occurred on a complaint driven basis; ODA is currently proposing an alternative known as the "Strategic Implementation Area" (SIA) process.

This process will select specific watersheds within Grant County and conduct remote evaluations of private lands using aerial and satellite imagery to identify potential water quality concerns; follow up field evaluations will be initiated to further examine the accuracy of the findings conducted remotely.

The proposed schedule to implement this program on private lands includes the North and Middle Fork John Day River as well as the Crooked River basins in 2021, Middle John Day River (downstream of Mountain Creek), Malheur River and the Silvies Basin (Greater Harney Basin) in 2022 and the Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day Rivers in 2023.

The public is invited to join Grant Soil and Water Conservation District for this informative event. Complimentary refreshments will be served. More information can be obtained either by visiting our website: grantswcd.net, stopping by the District Office located in the USDA Agricultural Service Center (721 S. Canyon Blvd, John Day) or by contacting Kyle Sullivan at (541) 575-0135 x111.

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