

Confusion surrounds John Day ordinance amending development code

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

A proposed ordinance amending the development code in John Day is on hold as concerns and confusion dominated a recent 90-minute discussion.

At the John Day City Council meeting Feb. 23, the council reviewed Ordinance 20-187-08, which would amend the city's development code to strengthen and clarify enforcement provisions within the code.

Associate City Planner Daisy Goebel said the intention is to support the enforcement of the development code and promote the abatement of code evaluations in a way that will evenly apply to each citizen.

"The way it is structured is that we're linking the municipal code to the nuisance ordinance in order to allow those existing procedures that are already in place, rather than recreating the wheel," Goebel said. "There

is a provision that allows the city to grant permits to properties that are in violation if they agree to an abatement agreement."

The abatement process language is included in a nuisance ordinance the city already passed, and many concerns raised at the meeting were about the nuisance ordinance, rather than adding the abatement process to the city's development code.

"People thought that we were there to discuss that existing legislation (nuisance code), and that was not the legislation that was being proposed," Green said after the meeting. "A lot of the problem that people had was related to an ordinance that the city council adopted in 2015."

The reason the nuisance ordinance was included in the agenda packet was to reference the specific section of the nuisance ordinance that relates to the enforcement procedures, according to Green.

City Councilor Dave Holland

clarified during the council meeting that the amendment proposed to the development code is only connected to the nuisance ordinance as far as enforcement procedures go and that the nuisance ordinance is a separate problem to take care of at a different time.

"All we're asked to look at is, are the procedures for abatement listed in the nuisance code — because that's the only place we have procedures for abatements listed anywhere — (and) are they acceptable to use for development code procedures and violations?" Holland said. "Those same abatement procedures, not the nuisance code itself, just the procedures for abatement, that's the question and that's what we're here to decide on this particular development code ordinance."

The council agreed to continue the hearing and revisit the ordinance on March 23, while allowing for public comment through March 12.

Lawmakers considering requiring law enforcement officers have college degrees

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

A bill requiring all law enforcement officials to earn college degrees regardless of experience is making its way through the Oregon Legislature.

Senate Bill 612 would require a law enforcement unit that employs more than 50 police, corrections and probation officers to require at least a four-year degree. Entities under 50 would need to require at least a two-year degree.

An existing officer would have four years to earn a degree.

Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley said the bill is bad for rural areas.

"It will put the rural regions of Oregon in an incredible bind for law enforcement officers," McKinley said.

He said fiscally, as an "unfunded mandate," meaning there is no funding attached to the proposed legislation, it would not help existing officers attain an



Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley

education. Another problem McKinley said he had with the bill is that the legislation does not distinguish what the degree should be in.

"Somebody that has life experience would actually be more qualified than somebody with a degree in art," he said. "I think what they are after is they think it will change law enforcement as a whole, with the educational requirements, and I would really challenge that that's actually accurate."

McKinley said it's a very "flawed bill" and one of many this session that are anti-law enforcement.

He said this bill and the others will ultimately make it so difficult there will not be as many candidates for law enforcement positions.

COPS AND COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Grant County Circuit Court

A charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants against Amy B. Bray, allegedly committed on Aug. 16, was dismissed on Feb. 12 based on a motion by Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter because the breath test was invalid because law enforcement did not follow statutory protocols in administering the test.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Feb. 24:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 5
- Average inmates: 7
- Bookings: 1
- Releases: 9
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 0
- Fingerprints: 0
- Civil papers: 16
- Warrants processed: 0
- Assistance/Welfare check: 1
- Search and Rescue: 0

Oregon State Police

Feb. 17: A state trooper responded to a reported commercial motor vehicle crash near milepost 183 on Highway 26. The investigation revealed a vehicle was eastbound when it lost traction on icy roads and slid across the westbound lane of travel and came to rest in a snowbank, blocking the westbound lane. About five minutes later, another vehicle was eastbound when it started to pass the car in the snowbank. The car stopped and lost its forward

momentum. When the driver tried to resume travel, the car slid back and across the westbound lane and struck the mirror and trailer of car in the snow bank, causing minor damage. Both vehicles were pulled by Oregon Department of Transportation. While on scene, ODOT changed the status of Highway 26 to Condition B (chains required for CMVs). The state trooper facilitated an information exchange between drivers. Case closed, no further action.

Feb. 17: A state trooper was called out to respond to a single motor vehicle noninjury crash with a vehicle in Canyon Creek, near milepost 9 on Highway 395C. The vehicle had been removed from Canyon Creek prior to the trooper's arrival. The vehicle was later removed from the scene by a logging company. The driver was later issued a citation for a driving while suspended violation.

Feb. 17: Philomena J. Dutcher, 37, of Canyon City was arrested for domestic assault and harassment.

Feb. 19: Oregon State Police responded to a single motor vehicle rollover crash near milepost 174 on Highway 26. The driver was westbound at about 65 mph, when he overcorrected. The vehicle left the north side of the highway, struck a steep embankment and tripped rolling once before coming to an uncontrolled rest. The driver was the sole occupant and was uninjured. The vehicle was totaled and was towed from the scene by Doug's Motor Vehicle Repair at the owner's request.

Feb. 19: OSP assisted a Grant County Sheriff's Office deputy with a domestic assault in Prairie City. After further investigation, Kenneth J. Kincaid, 70, was arrested for fourth-degree

assault and was transported to Grant County Jail.

Feb. 20: OSP responded to a motor vehicle crash near milepost 185 on Highway 26. A pickup driven and occupied by two juveniles was eastbound when they slid into an ODOT plow truck that was stalled out in the eastbound lane. Both vehicles sustained minor damage. None of the occupants were injured, and both vehicles were driven from the scene.

Feb. 22: A state trooper stopped a vehicle for speeding westbound through Mt. Vernon, 55/35 zone. Upon contact with the female driver, the trooper saw illegal fireworks in the back seat area. Upon further investigation, more illegal fireworks were found in the front passenger side floorboard area. The driver was cited in lieu of custody.

Feb. 24: A state trooper responded to an unknown single motor vehicle crash on Highway 395B near milepost 64. The trooper located the noninjury crash at milepost 73 on Highway 395B. The driver admitted to dozing off, at which time the vehicle left the roadway, traveling through a snow berm, striking a barbed wire fence and then coming to a rest 15 yards off the roadway in a foot and a half of snow. The driver's insurance company would not pay for a tow as it was considered a motor vehicle crash with property damage. The subject was warned for careless driving and provided an Oregon Police Traffic Crash Report. The subject then began shoveling a trail back onto the road for the vehicle.

Feb. 26: A state trooper responded to a reported single vehicle crash at milepost 188 on Highway 26. The investigation revealed that the vehicle was

heading eastbound, negotiating a curve, when it lost traction on snow-packed roads. The vehicle traveled onto a mound of snow and struck the guard rail and started to role. The vehicle came to an uncontrolled rest in the westbound lane of travel. The driver was uninjured, and the vehicle was towed from the scene by Frontier Towing.

Feb. 27: A state trooper observed a vehicle on the side of the road with its hazard lights flashing. After further investigation, criminal activity was observed. A consent search was obtained, revealing a large amount of marijuana. Oscar A. Perez, 26, of Baker City was cited and released in lieu of custody.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 112 calls during the week of Feb. 22-28, including:

- **John Day Police Department**
- Feb. 22: Responded to a crash between a person and vehicle at a business on West Main Street.
- Feb. 26: Along with Oregon

State Police, advised of a driving complaint. Daniel J. Goldstein, 28, of Boulder was cited on Highway 26 near milepost 158.

Feb. 27: Responded for a report of a hit and run on East Main Street.

Feb. 27: Arrested Brian Kimble, 42, of John Day for criminal driving while suspended. Also cited Debora Kimble, 37, of John Day for possession of a controlled substance.

• Oregon State Police

Feb. 26: Along with Grant County Sheriff's Office and Prairie City ambulance, responded for a rollover crash on Highway 26.

Feb. 26: Received a report of a semi slide-off on Highway 395 near milepost 99.5B.

Feb. 27: Advised of an 18 wheeler that spun out and was blocking Highway 26 near milepost 180.5.

• Grant County Sheriff's Office

Feb. 24: Responded to a theft on Screech Alley Lane.

Feb. 25: Warren Dunn, 30, was cited for speeding and driving while suspended.

Feb. 27: Responded to a report of dogs chasing livestock on Highway 26 near milepost 159.

• John Day ambulance

Feb. 24: Dispatched for an elderly woman on Valley View Drive to be transported to the hospital.

Feb. 25: Along with Monument ambulance, dispatched for a man who had a large hay bale fall on him on Longview Lane.

Feb. 26: Responded for a child having seizures on Highway 26.

Feb. 27: Along with Seneca ambulance, responded for a patient with chest pain on B Avenue.

Feb. 27: Along with GCSO, responded for an 87-year-old man who had fallen in the snow on Marysville Road.

Feb. 28: Responded for a 65-year-old man who was unable to speak or move on South McCallum Avenue.

• Mt. Vernon fire

Feb. 25: Paged for a house fire on Cottonwood Street.

Feb. 28: Responded for a chimney fire on Aslin Avenue.

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Qualified candidates require field and technical skills, have the ability to work independently and as part of a team as well as possess strong oral and written communication abilities.

Salary: \$35-\$45K DOE, plus benefits.

For a complete job description and application, please visit www.grantswcd.net or contact Kyle Sullivan 541-575-0135 ext. 111, sullivan@ortelco.net Application Deadline is 3:00 PM (PST) March 8th, 2021.

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- Roosevelt Elk (Typical & Non-Typical)
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ADMISSION

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