



Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

Newly elected Commissioner Gerald Poe takes the oath of office from City Recorder Dawne Shaw at Tuesday night's city commission meeting. Below, Mark Baldwin, left, and Tom Dyer take their oaths.

Commissioners take oath of office

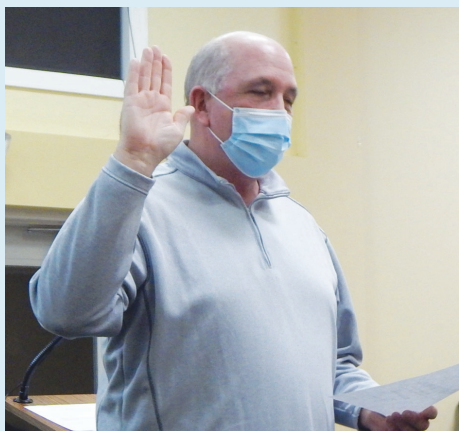
City commissioners elected by voters in November were sworn in Tuesday night.

Gerald Poe, elected for the first time in November, was the only new member; Mark Baldwin and Tom Dyer were re-elected to their posts.

Also Tuesday, commissioners unanimously selected Dyer as their mayor pro tem.

Later in the meeting, several people were appointed to various city committees.

Eileen Purcell and Karen Grass were appointed to the Warrenton Community Library board; Brooke Terry and AmyLeigh Sutton were appointed and Bob Bridgens was reappointed to the Warrenton Urban Renewal Advisory Committee.



Calls drop amid other good news for fire department 2020 brought positive changes for WFD

By **CINDY YINGST**
The Columbia Press

Warrenton firefighters had 18 percent fewer calls last year, something Fire Chief Brian Alsbury sees as a good thing.

"The way I look at it, that's 18 percent fewer people who had the worst day of their lives," he told city commissioners Tuesday night during a report on changes made during the past year.

The department answered 1,027 calls in 2020. Most of them – 700 – were rescue and emergency medical calls; 41 were fires, 74 were traffic accidents, and 212 were other types of service calls, such as removing downed trees from roads or finding out why a carbon dioxide alarm was activated.

For the first time in many years, the department answered call that saved the life of a person trapped inside a burning building.

Warrenton Fire Department has 21 volunteers, six more than when Alsbury was hired. Alsbury, former-

ly a volunteer, replaced former Fire Chief Tim Demers, who resigned in October 2019 after a variety of safety allegations were filed anonymously with Oregon Occupational Safety and Health.

"The OSHA hiccup and the resolution of that went well," Alsbury said. "Ted Aames, who was interim chief before me did a great job of getting that started and getting us on the right track."

All members of the department, City Manager Linda Engbretson, Aames and Alsbury worked quickly to resolve safety issues. Ultimately, OSHA fines were reduced from \$10,800 to \$4,100.

The department is using new computer technology designed to streamline daily operations and reporting. And it's sticking closely to state and national standards using

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Alsbury

Port has new plan for major projects

The Columbia Press

The Port of Astoria has developed a plan for tackling its largest projects.

The 45 items in the Capital Facilities Plan were prioritized by public safety, environmental compliance, maintenance of revenue sources, creation of new revenue, routine maintenance and new projects that are neither essential nor routine.

"They're things that need to be completed across four properties," said Matt McGrath, the port's deputy director.

The goal was to provide a narrative of the agency's holdings and set up

a document that provides long-term institutional knowledge of projects and their maintenance needs, he said.

"This would have been tremendously helpful to me when I first came on," McGrath said. "This is not a hard-and-fast we-have-to-do-every-one of these projects. It's a living document ... that will be adjusted as opportunities present themselves and as port priorities themselves change."

The plan was introduced at Tuesday's Port Commission meeting.

"I felt it was very helpful and instructive to be able to have a more

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