



Caught doing good ...

Spruce Up Warrenton founders Brenda and Norm Hoxsey work on the sign for the Hammond Fire Station. They also renovated the Warrenton station's sign.

Leaders: Commissioners assess their behavior

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asked city staff to review and take action against three properties in the city where truckloads of infill have been dumped without permits. One of those properties is owned by Newton. At one point during the Aug. 24 commission meeting, Newton was explaining his calculations of the amount of infill on his property and Baldwin interrupted, saying "Horsecrap," which drew anger from Newton, who had the floor,

and then all of the commissioners began speaking over each other.

A few days later, Newton requested a hearing on three issues:

- The mayor's inability to keep order at the Aug. 24 meeting.

- A statement made by Baldwin, which was reported in The Columbia Press, following Newton's abrupt departure during the May 25 Urban Renewal Agency food pod discussion. Immediate-

ly after the mayor closed the meeting, Baldwin said "There should be a penalty for that: 'I'm going to take my ball and go home.'"

- Commissioners personalizing issues, creating hostility between members, and distracting from the issues of the city.

That hearing was held in open session during Tuesday's City Commission meeting. It, too, turned into a bit of a therapy free-for-all.

"I'm just really disappointed" it came to this, Commissioner Tom Dyer said. During his years as an Oregon State Police officer, "you get a lot of crap thrown at you and you let it slide off your back." Turning to Newton, he said, "I appreciate very much all you bring to this commission. A lot of times you say things without thinking (as well) ... Others also have their strengths and weaknesses."

Baldwin said it was not his intention to be antagonistic or belittling.

"If I think something needs to be said, I say it," Baldwin said. "I'm embarrassed to be a part of this right now."

Having passion over issues that are important can sometimes lead to strong language, Commissioner Gerald Poe said. "I think you have a tendency to hold on to these things, Rick. I think it's time to let it go."

With that, Newton stood up, walked over to Baldwin and offered his hand. Baldwin stood and shook it.

The three hearing items were dismissed.

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