

CITY COUNCIL

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and with a population increase of about .5 percent predicted the system will address how the system will take care of them, both through improvements and expansion.

In response to DeMayo's concerns Baird wrote "Your (Demayo's) comments about the study being biased are an unfavorable outcome are very troubling to me. Anderson Perry & Associates, Inc., does not have a biased approach to the services we provide and ethically we cannot be biased. Please let me know what you have heard from me in this process that makes you think we are biased in our approach. I need to understand why you feel this way," he said.

DeMayo told the city council Monday night that he was being stern in his correspondence with Anderson Perry to protect the city's interests. "I didn't want him to come in here and we roll out the red carpet and open the city purse strings," DeMayo said. "If he wants our money he is going to have to fight for it."

DeMayo is concerned an "unfavorable outcome" to the study would be more work and city expense done on the waste water system than was actually needed. "I find it interesting that the type of technology used in our plant was developed in the 1950's and probably earlier. It is relatively simple

and extremely reliable. Generally speaking, the greater the complexity of a system the more vulnerable it becomes to mechanical breakdown, and our plant has functioned well overall for the past 15-20 years," DeMayo said in a further email to Anderson Perry.

"Secondly, you cannot deny that you have a vested interest in the study outcomes. The spin-offs, such as rate studies etc. could prove lucrative for your company. The temptation is too great unless some means is used to prevent this from occurring. Of course, you will argue, that this is simply good business. Is it? This practice will inevitable lead to the suspicion, whether justified, or not, that needs can be artificially created. Thus truth is sacrificed on the altar of profit (good old fashioned manna)," DeMayo wrote in his email.

Baird also asked: "I would also submit that if you feel that an Update showing you need to complete significant improvements (to Heppner's waste water treatment system) is an unfavorable 'expensive' outcome, then why is the City proceeding with the Update at all?"

DeMayo eventually comprised and said "I am willing to meet halfway. Which is to say that if Anderson Perry does the study, after consulting with the city as to our concerns; in return if additional work/

study is needed, that is the City's decision. If the City chooses not to ask Anderson Perry to do the additional work, that is the City's option. It stops there. There will be no high pressure salesmanship. If there is, the contract will cease," DeMayo wrote.

After some discussion Monday night the council voted unanimously to authorize DeMayo to sign the contract with Anderson Perry for the waste water treatment system study. The council is to meet with the engineering firm Jan. 19 to begin the process.

In other business at the meeting the council voted to purchase two pieces of equipment. The city will purchase an ATV mower attachment from Heppner resident John Murray for \$1,300, and a scissor lift from RSC for \$3,300. The city crew will use the lift to put up flower baskets and change city street light bulbs. The crew currently uses a ladder and Public Works Director Brian Harmon said the lift will be a safer way to do these jobs.

The council also agreed to pay Allstott Construction \$2,400 to repair damage done to the city shop building.

In other action the council voted to appoint Sam Hornbeck to the city parks and recreation, and heard that the Farmer's Market went well last summer and organizers are wanting to do it again.

MORROW COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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-received the following attendance report: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon-262; Heppner Elementary School-196; Heppner High School-226; Irrigon Elementary School-203; Irrigon High School-328; Riverside High School, Boardman-401 Sam Boardman Elementary School-305; Windy River Elementary School, Boardman-215; Morrow Education Center (Morrow County School District students)-51; Morrow Education Center (Umatilla School District students)-22; total 2209. Burrows said enrollment figures were down, but added that those figures were traditionally lower in January because of extended family vacations following the holidays.

-recognized School Board Recognition Month as declared by Governor Ted Kulongoski, presenting the board members with gifts, praising them for their volunteer service and serving cake.

-heard a report from Burrows on State Ballot Measures 66 and 67. He said that contrary to local opinion, current statewide polls indicate that Oregon voters will pass the measures with 53 percent agreeing with passage of the measures and 40 percent against passage. He said that if the measures do not pass, Morrow County School District "has the potential" lose around \$1.5 million in funding, which most likely will result in the loss of 20 teachers or 18

student instruction days. The board earlier split on support of the measures which were enacted by the state legislature in July and will come before the voters on the January 26 election. Ballots have already been mailed to voters.

A "yes" vote on Ballot Measure 66 would raise taxes on incomes above \$250,000 for households and \$125,000 for individuals. This measure also eliminates income taxes on the first \$2,400 of unemployment benefits received in 2009. This measure, if approved, would raise approximately \$472 million currently budgeted for education, health care, public safety and other services.

A "no" vote on Ballot Measure 66 would not increase taxes. It would not include a tax exemption for the first \$2,400 of unemployment benefits received in 2009 and would leave education, health care, public safety and other services under-funded by approximately \$472 million.

A "yes" vote on Measure 67 would raise the corporate minimum tax from \$10 to \$150 for most businesses and would increase taxes for corporations with over \$500,000 in Oregon revenues. It would also increase the tax rate some corporations pay on profits; and increase some business filing fees. It would increase filing fees by \$50 for Oregon business and \$225 for out of state

businesses. The measure would raise \$255 million to fund current budgets for education, health care, public safety and other services.

A "no vote on Measure 67 would retain a \$10 corporate minimum income tax rather than raise it to \$150 and would not raise corporate profits taxes. It would leave current education, health care, public safety and other services budgets under-funded by around \$255 million.

-learned from Burrows that the district will set up Twitter and facebook accounts to facilitate communication throughout the district. Burrows said that electronic communication such as Twitter and facebook may prove helpful in the event of school closures, for example. "We're being dragged into the 21st Century," laughed Burrows.

-approved the following extra duty contracts: Rick Gerard, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School head baseball coach; Matt Weseman, Riverside Junior High School head wrestling coach.

-approved unpaid leave for Mary Koertje, Windy River Elementary School ed assistant.

-heard the following announcements: January 14, end of the semester; January 18, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day holiday; February 8, next board meeting, Riverside High School.

-held an executive session to discuss legal issues and negotiations.

Heppner Elks Most Valuable Students place in district contest

The Elks Most Valuable Student district contest was recently held with winners from 10 local lodges competing. Emily Thompson placed third

for the girl's division and was awarded \$1,200. Eric Jepsen placed fourth for the boy's division.

The 10 lodges competing in the district

included: Baker, Condon, Enterprise, Heppner (Ione), Hermiston, Hood River, LaGrande, Milton-Free-water, Pendleton, and The Dalles.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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to have a great team to work with and it didn't take me very long to figure out who would fit that bill," she said before honoring Babette Wall, Joanne Burleson and Doris Brosnan.

To Wall, Bates said, "Babette - you amaze me every time you put your 'decorations' hat on. You are one talented lady and I am so thankful to have you as part of the community volunteers who do so much. I can always count on you to come through (of course it takes a storage shed or two to hold all of your decorations). Thank you for being such a strong proponent of the events and activities that the Chamber has hosted in

the past. I look forward to many years of having you as part of my team."

About Burleson, Bates said, Joanne - I honestly don't know when you have time to sleep. You have so much energy and commitment to being involved in community events. I can always count on you to carry through with whatever it is that we are planning ... and you have been a life saver when it comes to being a very involved 'volunteer' and I just wanted to say thank you for all you do to help the events and you are always a welcome team member to any event planning."

And to Brosnan she said, "Doris - you have supported me in so many

different capacities, and although you are taking a 'little' heat for being gone during this year's St. Patrick's event, I have found that I can always count on you to be a great team player, one that steps up and gets things done. You are committed as a great volunteer and step up and take the lead and do it well. You always have the energy and are willing to adjust your schedule to accommodate whatever is needed. We will miss you during St. Patrick's."

The chamber elected Heppner Mayor Les Paustian as vice president and Dean Antonucci as second vice president. Lianne Currin will continue to be treasurer.

BOARDMAN GRANTS EXTENSION

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Some Boardman business owners in the audience asked the council not to extend the agreement, fearing the businesses located within the city would be hurt. Jack Triperinas, new owner of the C & D Drive In, told the council he may not have purchased the C & D if he had known of the city's agreement to sell the land to Love's. Jim Magoteaux of MJ's Motel said Love's would advertise their business in both directions along the interstate and customers would bypass Boardman altogether. Rich Devin of Devin Oil is concerned about the city businesses being able to compete with Love's. He said the city could also see a loss in lodging tax revenues should Love's draw hotel developers to their Travel Stop.

Mr. Ille assured the Council Love's would be a good neighbor to the City

of Boardman. He added they wish the businesses of Boardman well and believes their project would actually increase business for all. He said Love's participates with local Chambers of Commerce, they donate to local athletics and charities, and to local high schools. He said the Travel Stop project would bring 50 new jobs to the area, and bring in contractors for six to seven months during the construction phase.

After a lengthy executive session, councilors voted 6-0 in favor of extending the agreement to sell the land to Love's. Mayor Phillips explained it was a not an easy decision and the council took all considerations into account before deciding in favor of extending the agreement.

Love's is headquartered in Oklahoma City, OK, and has been in business since 1964. If the project proceeds as planned, this

would be Love's third such project in Oregon, adding to the over 200 nationwide they currently own.

In other city news, councilors set the date for their Strategic Plan Workshop for Saturday, January 9, at 7 a.m. at City Hall. The council also passed a budget resolution for a \$7,000 grant from Morrow County Needs & Issues. The city was awarded the grant for new lights at the city's basketball court and soccer field, as well as for new picnic tables. The city manger and mayor were appointed to serve as the city's representative on the Columbia River Enterprise Zone and councilors appointed Mr. Cullen Martin to the City's Planning Commission.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Boardman City Council is Tuesday, January 19, at 7 p.m. at Boardman City Hall.

PGE Employee Giving Campaign to make donation to United Way of Umatilla & Morrow Counties

The United Way of Umatilla & Morrow Counties will received more than \$13,900 in donations from Portland General Electric's Employee Giving Cam-

aign. The donation amount includes PGE's 50% company match.

United Way of Umatilla & Morrow Counties is a featured agency of

the campaign and received approximately 30 pledges from employees and retirees during the campaign and has received approximately \$101,200 since 2003.



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