

Lexington Town Council



The new community space in Lexington is taking shape with the installation of new fencing. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

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still on the shoulders of a few individuals.

"There should definitely be a budget," said Gordon. "Because we have no idea how much you spent. We have no idea how much revenue came in. What was profitable? What wasn't?" "Moving forward, we're going to build a budget," agreed Lemmon.

Imes added that there would be another \$1000 from the county tourism grant that Morrow County allocates to all of the cities.

"I just want to see it continue, and as it's already been expressed," she told Kennedy, "you can't do it on your own, so coming together and formalizing a team is the next step."

Also at the Nov. 8 meeting, Imes mentioned an email the town had received from the League of Oregon Cities regarding a mayors' taskforce recommendation. The LOC is trying to gather enough mayors' signatures in our region to present legislation for funding for homelessness. "Homelessness doesn't just mean people living on the street," said Imes. "Homelessness might be people who need food assistance, affordable housing."

Hess said she has received a second email that she had just forwarded to the council, which was more specific and informative. She asked that the council read it and think about what input or partnership Lexington could offer.

Imes said she thought the deadline had passed but that there was still an opportunity to reach out and be involved. "Ultimately what it would do would be to open us up to some funding to be able to have a food pantry or something," she said.

In a follow-up to October's discussion on delinquent water bills, Hess reported that she had been unable to make phone contact with the one customer whose account had been placed on a cash-only basis, so she had sent a certified letter. Someone other than the customer had signed for the letter, so she still didn't know if the customer had received the communication. Otherwise, there was only one account past due more than 60 days, and

Hess had already spoken with the customer regarding payment.

Hess also reported that she had created a revised community space town hall project and submitted it to Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG). The grant is a \$10,000 matching grant to create an outdoor community space behind the Lexington Town Hall. She had gotten a one-month extension for spending the funds received, and she reported the project was coming along smoothly. The fence is up, pipes are in in the ground and all the materials for the project have been delivered. She also told the council that she had begun gathering books for the new Little Free Library in Lexington. She said she had received free books from the Heppner Library and had reached out to the community through the town newsletter but had not received any more donations as yet. The library box is built but waiting to be installed.

During the public comment section, the council was asked about a proposed play area in Lexington and where it would be located.

"We have talked about getting playground equipment, but the discussion needs to be where in Lexington we could put it, so there's no plan to do that," said Kennedy. "There's no plan on where anything's going to go."

In old business, Hess announced that the town was in the final stages for grant qualifications. She said she was ready to submit invoices and proof of payment, as well as before and after pictures, for the small city allotment for the Upper North Hill paving project. She also said that she will soon be submitting pictures and a brief summary to the Amazon (AWS) technology grant program, which will unlock the remaining \$1,700 for funding. So far the grant funds have been used to update the town website and create a community portal page, as well as for the purchase of an Owl Labs meeting camera to make public meetings accessible online.

The remaining funds will be used to further the town website design.

The council heard a maintenance report that Lexington maintenance worker Keith Hess had installed new meter boxes on Arcade St. and had to tweak the chlorination system a little to bring up the residual levels to the state approved minimum of .20. The Upper Hill paving project is complete and looks great, but Hess pointed out the there were cones on Clay St. sectioning off an area of concern. The ground underneath had been too wet when the asphalt was poured, and there was some fear it might crack in the future.

Hess reported that all backflow testing fees and repair costs had been included in the October bills of the properties involved, due Nov. 25. She had also gotten a \$50,000 bond from Wheatland insurance for the Town of Lexington Recorder/Clerk position at a cost of \$175. The bond needs to be renewed annually. She added that the last time the bond was held was in 2014, and the town is supposed to hold an active bond.

Prior to the Nov. 8 meeting, the Lexington council also held a work session with a representative from Anderson Perry engineering firm. Hess told the Gazette that the town has a permit for a second well and has started pursuing that idea. She said the current well is meeting the town's needs, but the council is looking toward future growth for the town. Anderson Perry has been helping the town find an appropriate location for the second well and water storage, as well as directing the council toward funding possibilities for the multi-million dollar project. Anderson Perry has also done a wastewater storage study for the town toward the end of installing a town sewer system, but Hess said the well is the priority right now. There will be another work session Dec. 13.

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Sheriff's Report

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referred to Oregon State Police/Gilliam County.

-MCSO received report of around six dogs out on the road on Columbia Lane, Irrigon. MCSO gave a verbal warning for having a dog as a public nuisance. -MCSO received report of a yellow older style dump truck hauling a lot of stuff failing to maintain land and traveling for around 10 miles with his left blinker on. MCSO responded but was unable to locate the truck.

-MCSO received report of a newer black Nissan with California plates failing to maintain land and driving erratically, speeding up and slowing down. The caller was unsure if the driver was just playing games on the road or was intoxicated. MCSO was unable to locate the vehicle.

-MCSO received report from a subject in lone that his 17-year-old daughter left home from Washington that weekend and was notified by some of his friends that she may be at a house with men over the age of 30. He requested phone contact and a welfare check on his daughter to make sure she is okay.

-MCSO, Irrigon Ambulance, Irrigon Rural Fire Department responded to a report of a motorcycle accident on Fourth Rd. and Columbia Lane in Irrigon.

-MCSO received report of customers irate at each other at Heppner Mobil and Circle K on Main St. in Heppner. It was determined to be a verbal argument only.

-MCSO received report of a 911 hangup/abandoned/accidental call on Faler Rd., Boardman. Boardman Fire Dept., MCSO responded and a small fire was put out.

-MCSO received report of shots fired at the Morrow County OHV Park, Heppner. The report was unfounded.

-MCSO received report of a missing person at the Morrow County OHV Park on Forest Service Rd. 21, Heppner. The camper was located and the case was to

be taken care of by Oregon State Police.

-MCSO received report of an incident at S.E. Utah and S.E. Tenth St. in Irrigon concerning a semi. The call was unfounded.

-MCSO received an additional request for people breaking into a shop on Depot Lane in Irrigon and taking things.

-MCSO received report of a trespass on E. Third St. in lone with a subject having issues with a neighbor.

The caller would like the subject trespassed from the property.

-MCSO received a noise complaint with loud music coming from a residence on Third St. in Irrigon. A deputy made contact and the music was turned down.

-MCSO received a 911 hang-up call from a residence on Daisy Rd. in Irrigon. A deputy responded to the residence and determined it was an accidental dial.

-MCSO received a 911 hang-up call from Willow Creek Rd./top of Coal Mine Hill, Heppner. The caller

advised they found a female alongside the road who was intoxicated and seizing. MCSO, Heppner Ambulance responded and transported the female to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

-MCSO received report of a female trespassing on the caller's property on Washington Lane in Irrigon. A deputy responded, but was unable to locate the female.

-MCSO responded to assist a female who reported that her door knob wouldn't unlock and requested assistance. She called back and reported she was able to get into the residence and cancelled the request.

-MCSO receive report from a subject on N.W. Water St. in Heppner that juveniles hit her window really hard, almost breaking it, and then ran away. The caller requested MCSO to

be on the lookout for the juveniles. A deputy checked the area.

-MCSO received report of a dog barking non-stop in what sounded like the Chase St. area. The caller said there were juveniles in the area who may be provoking it. A deputy checked the area, but was unable to locate.

-MCSO received report of shots fired on S.W. Third St. in Irrigon. The caller said her neighbor may have

gotten shot. A deputy responded, but no one would say what happened. The deputy reported that no blood or holes were seen at the scene.

-MCSO received a hangup/abandoned/accidental call from a Spanish speaking subject, but the call was lost while they were trying to connect with an interpreter.

-The Irrigon Fire Department, Irrigon Ambulance received report of a two-vehicle non-injury accident at, W. Fourth Rd./Columbia Lane in Irrigon. Irrigon Ambulance, Irrigon Rural Fire Department and MCSO

responded and a report was taken.

Community Thanksgiving dinner planned

The Heppner Community Thanksgiving Dinner will take place at 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 24, at the Gateway Café.

Gateway Café and Elohim Covenant Ministry will host the dinner. Participants are free to bring side dishes, salads, desserts or drinks to share.

Gateway Café is located at 168 N. Main St. in Heppner. Call Willen at 541-701-4577 or email gatewaycafeheppner@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

**DEADLINE:
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AT 5PM**



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