

The city of Boardman swears in new council members

-Continued from PAGE ONE about any action.

"I'm just a little concerned about letting the public know this is an item we'll be discussing," said McCauley.

"Before we go down that path, Mr. Mayor, maybe we should decide whether or not it's even legal for us to have this discussion," agreed council president Brenda Proffitt.

"We need to decide who's going to lead the city," responded Keefer.

Proffitt replied that the council might need to have another meeting, and councilor Drago suggested a special meeting.

"If we don't know, I think we should side with caution," Proffitt said.

McCauley read that section of the charter, which stated the council may appoint a city manager pro tempore but seemed to give no guidelines as to the process. Pro tempore is a Latin term meaning "for the time being." The city council rules, she said, did not address a city manager vacancy.

"My concern is not that we can't do that. My concern is if we should have advertised to the public that we were considering



Boardman Mayor Paul Keefer swears in returning councilor Isaac Williams. -Contributed photo

doing that," said McCauley, agreeing the council should hold a special public meeting for the purpose.

Keefer again asked who was going to run the city in the absence of a manager.

"Don't you think we should appoint somebody to act in the name of the city until our next special meeting?" he asked.

"We should probably be discussing more a date when we could meet, so we can have it on an agenda and let the public know this is something we're considering doing," McCauley replied.

Williams asked, first, if a special meeting required seven days' notice and, second, if the city has a flow chart outlining who was after the city manager in responsibility. Pettigrew thought there was.

"I think if you're going to appoint someone as an interim city manager, that's the next step down. Then it goes department heads, across," she said.

"Then who's running the city?" asked Keefer.

"Nobody," said McCauley. "Everybody knows their job. I guess if there was a really big crisis, you'd get a phone call."

Keefer questioned whether there was any guidance on who acted as city manager if the current manager couldn't perform their duties. McCauley said the city's policy stated the police chief could step in in that case but "it does not speak to a vacancy."

Police Chief Rick Stokoe pointed out that he was currently the assistant city manager, and that he thought it would be best to wait and hold a special meeting.

The council agreed to hold a special meeting Thursday, Jan. 12, at 6 p.m. At the special meeting, Keefer moved to appoint Stokoe city manager pro tem from Jan. 11 to June 6,

2023, or until a successful city manager is chosen. June 6 is the date of the June city council meeting.

"One of the reasons I put the date in there is that, if we are unable to choose a city manager, it allows us to come back and discuss it," said Keefer.

Williams asked if the city had received any letters of interest, and Keefer replied that they had not. Williams then asked whether it was the council's responsibility to simply choose a person as they saw fit. Keefer replied that it was.

Councilor Drago asked for clarification on Stokoe's current title, which was assistant city manager/police chief. In the absence of the city manager, Stokoe would be the one to step in and perform the city manager duties anyway.

The motion carried 5-1 with Williams voting against the appointment. Councilor Brenda Proffitt was an excused absence.

Financial report

In her report, Boardman Finance Director Marta Barajas reported that the general fund had a large receipt of revenues for the month of November. Total city revenue for the month was \$3,957,047.

"November's always an exciting month for the city. That's when we receive the majority of the property taxes, which really funds most of our activities for the general fund," she said.

The city's biggest expenditure was in the capital projects fund, which Barajas said should be the case for a while. The capital projects fund covers housing of the G.O. Bond water and wastewater projects. Expenditures for the fund were \$698,977 for November.

"We'll be seeing that for a while, while we continue with those projects," she said.

Special goose taking

The council also approved Resolution 1-2023 to establish a special Canada goose taking on private property.

Landowner Dan McCarty reported that he had found depredation of his crops due to Canada geese feeding on his property. McCarty requested a special permit for the taking of Canada geese to decrease the population. According to the resolution, the taking of the geese would be within guidelines from the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as well as stipulations from the city.

Stokoe explained that the council had allowed it in the past, and that law enforcement would be given 24 hours' notice before any shooting took place.

"Are they doing their due diligence and letting everyone know?" asked Drago.

Stokoe said they were pretty good about contacting law enforcement. The new ordinance will expire Dec. 31, 2023.

Board appointments/ Other business

The city council voted unanimously to appoint Keefer and Pettigrew as city representatives to the Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) II board with Williams as an alternate. Keefer made the nominations, saying he felt the mayor needed to be on the CREZ board and that he felt Karen Pettigrew was most qualified to be the second person.

"I just think since she's been on there, she brings a lot of history, and with people leaving, and we're getting a lot of new people,

I think it's very important that we have a person who's been on there from the beginning," he said.

The CREZ II board is made up of two members each from the City of Boardman, Morrow County and the Port of Morrow.

The council appointed Pettigrew to the North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT). NEACT is an area advisory body chartered under the authority of the Oregon Transportation Commission and covers Morrow, Baker, Union, Umatilla and Wallowa counties and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Williams was appointed to The Loop (Morrow County Public Transit) advisory committee.

In other business, the council:



Boardman Mayor Paul Keefer swears in returning councilor Roy Drago, Jr. -Contributed photo

-received a written report from the Boardman Chamber of Commerce and Boardman Community Development Association with a review of 2022 and upcoming events;

-set the date for the annual council retreat as Jan. 28. from 8-11:30 a.m.;

-removed Leslie Pierson as a bank signer since she is no longer a council member;

-appointed Barajas as 2023-24 budget officer and approved the 2023-24 budget calendar. The budget committee will meet May 16, and a budget hearing will take place June 6;

-reappointed Alejandra Mendoza as a budget committee member for a term ending Dec. 31, 2025.

-reappointed Jacob Cain and Jennifer Leighton to the Boardman Planning Commission. Both terms expire Dec. 31, 2025;

-appointed Mike Connell to the planning commission for a term ending Dec. 31, 2025.

-heard from Board Police Chief Rick Stokoe, who reported that Boardman Police Department had more than 600 cases for the year, which is a record for the agency. The department also sent two officers to a class to become trainers on handling active shooter events;

-heard that the building department had a total of 854 building permits for 2022. Of those, 197 were for Boardman, with seven manufactured placement permits, 32 new home construction permits and 148 apartment unit permits;

-heard that public works reported no new meters installed for December but a total of 36 for the year. In 2022, public works completed 105 work orders, completed 332 locates to mark water and sewer lines prior to digging and replaced 37 broken meters;

-read the city manager's report in which Pettigrew stated that the city made a payment to the construction bond Dec. 14. Projects already started are going well, and the city will be bidding out the second phase of the water project, which is the storage tank and new water building. She also reported attending a lunch to meet Oregon's new Speaker of the House, and that the small cities

meeting planned for Boardman in January had been moved to Salem;

-heard from Drago that he had received good comments on how quickly the city picked up the live Christmas trees;

-learned from Stokoe that Public Works Director Kevin Kennedy has been with the city 26 years this month. "That's a pretty good tenure for the city. We thank him for his years of service in the department," said Stokoe;

At the end of the meeting, councilor Cristina Cuevas noted the presence of several high school students who had attended the meeting as a senior class requirement. She said she appreciated their attendance and hoped it had been a good experience. Keefer echoed the sentiment.

"I would just like to point out that you don't have to be perfect to do a position like this, to be elected for your community," Keefer said. "You just have to love your community, be involved in your community, listen to your people, listen to your constituents, try to do your best."

"Kudos to you for coming. Get involved in your city. Have a voice. Share your concerns. Don't be silent," he added. "If I can do it, you can do it."

New roof for Windy River

-Continued from PAGE THREE

azon funding has put it back on the table. MCSD Business Manager Gabriel Hansen said the district received \$2.5 million from Amazon, which was put into the capital projects fund.

The current shingle roof will be replaced by metal roofing; Combe said the style is the same as was recently put on Clara Brownell Middle School in Umatilla. The contractor hopes to begin work in March, with an estimated three months to completion. Because the new roofing is metal, work can't be done during the high summer temperatures.

The contract is administered through the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA) through Intermountain ESD. AEPA contractor

Tremco collected three bids, of which the board chose WTI, and will also serve as the project manager. Paying Tremco to manage the project raises the cost, but Sweeney said she thought their expertise and experience made up for it.

"It's money well spent," agreed MCSD Superintendent Matt Combe.

The dollar amount on the bid is a jump from the quote of \$1.38 million the district received in 2020 when it was collecting figures for the proposed bond. Sweeney said that the jump wasn't a surprise, since so many costs have jumped in the recent, post-COVID economy. However, costs have seemed to stabilize recently.

"I don't think we're going to get it much cheaper," said Sweeney.

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