

Lexington council

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quest.

Miller said she didn't think the gutters were a bad thing and that the quotes weren't "horrible," but requested that the gutters be put on the budget agenda for the next fiscal year.

"I think they need to wait and go through the proper channels on some of this," she said, adding that the fire department had a lot of expenditures lately, notably a truck and a new \$23,000 door for the fire hall.

"It's a nice door, but it's a very spendy door," Miller said.

Miller also pointed out that, while there might be room in the fire department's budget, some projected fire department income was from anticipated grants they had not actually received.

Imes said she understood what Miller was saying. Imes said she had a similar issue with the town's general fund budget.

"We have a budget that we adopted, but there's not enough money in our general fund to do all those things that are in that budget," said Imes.

The council also tabled action on hiring a surveyor for the water line reroute easement. Lexington Town Maintenance Director Larry Hess said he sent out seven requests but only received one quote. There are also additional fees included in the process, so Hess said he would work on firming up the actual cost before the council's February meeting.

Imes gave a brief update on the newly-formed Lexington Community Development Group (LCDG). Advertising had been done and applications were open, she said, and people seemed excited about it.

"They think it's great," she said. "We'll see how many applications we get."

The application deadline for the committee was Jan. 24. A subcommittee will review applications and give the council recommendations, with final appointments made by the council. Imes said she hoped to have the first LCDG board meeting in March.

The council also heard an update on the door-to-door income survey that had been conducted in order for Lexington to seek funding for its new water system.

Crumpton said they didn't get the responses they were expecting and that there were still 24 people who had not responded. The survey was funded through a grant, but Lemmon said he was disappointed in the company hired to do the income survey.

"They have really dropped the ball," he said.

Miller questioned whether participation by the council wouldn't have had a better result.

"They've tried everything that they said they were going to try. They haven't gotten it," said Miller. "I thought it was drawn out way too long, and the communication level was not good," agreed Imes.

Imes also said the city needed to reach out to Anderson Perry with an update because the grant funding cycle for the water system would be coming around again soon.

Crumpton reported that the billing update went live Dec. 18, but everyone's bills were wrong because

the system didn't take into account December payments.

She said the billing part had been straightened out, but not everything switched over smoothly.

"I've been working through everybody's accounts and making sure that they're correct," said Crumpton.

May Day preparations are moving forward, and Crumpton said the town had received the grant funds for the celebration. Miller said she would like to have shirts made for council members and staff so people could identify them at the celebration.

"I think that way people know a little better who to go to," said Miller.

Lexington Assistant Fire Chief Josie Miles reported no calls for the last month.

"It's been quiet," she said.

Meanwhile, the fire department is working on recertification and accreditation training, as well as training agreements with Lone and Heppner.

Heppner is fully accredited to provide their own instructors and in-house training, Miles said, so Lexington will have more opportunities to train there instead of having to travel to Hermiston or Pendleton.

The departments are also doing large structure walk-throughs jointly to create emergency plans for all three communities. The main structure identified in Lexington was the old school, though the Holly Rebekah Lodge might also be a good candidate.

"It would be a good one to put on our list," said Miles.

She also reported two new firefighters for Lexington, Bria Wright and Jeremy Cimmiyotti, bringing the total volunteers to seven.

Hess reported that he spent a good chunk of the previous month working on the development permit for FEMA/ESA. He hopes to have a draft before the council this month.

Miller asked about a plan for spraying weeds and mowing for the coming year.

"Because the more our town looks like a park, the more the people in the town think things are getting done," she said. "The less it looks like a park, the more they think that none of us are doing anything."

There is room in the town's budget to hire temporary help, and Hess said he was thinking of approaching Scott Lamb to help. He is also working on certification to use the motorized pump on the four-wheeler.

In other town business, the council:

- passed resolutions removing previous council members from town accounts and authorizing councilors and staff on accounts;
- authorized a transfer of funds to cover a Silver Creek invoice;
- reviewed Lexington's annual report for the Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CRE) II meeting; and
- approved the budget calendar and discussed ways to find people for the budget committee.

The next meeting of the Lexington Town Council is scheduled for next Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 6 p.m. at the town hall.

Spiritually Speaking Father Thankachan Joseph



Called to Be His Ministers

This week's readings deal with three different great persons called by God: the prophet Isaiah, Paul, and Peter and his coworkers. How did these people respond to the call of God? They all felt unworthy. Isaiah said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips!" (Isaiah 6:5). Paul felt himself unfit to be called an apostle because he persecuted the church of God. (1 Corinthians 15:9). And Peter fell at Jesus's feet and said, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (Luke 15:8). Humility is said to be the first and primary virtue in authentic spirituality.

Beyond the feeling of unworthiness, these three individuals called to do God's work have something in common, mainly availability, readiness to do God's will and follow His directives. As soon as Isaiah hears the voice of the Lord asking, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" his immediate response was, "Here am I; send me!" (v.8). In the case of Peter and his partners, "they left everything and followed him" (v.11) without looking back. And Paul threw himself with so much zeal into God's work that he worked harder than all those who were called before him, though as he is quick to point out, "it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me" (v.10). We must be available and willing to do as the Lord directs us.

In the first reading, the vision that the prophet describes (6:1-2a, 3-8) is so awesome, the prophet believes a curse has fallen on him: "Woe is me! For I am lost." His awareness of "being lost" comes from his sense of unworthiness: "I am a man of unclean lips, living among the people of unclean lips!" We understand that the prophet had yet to learn that the vision of glory must burn deep and cleanse him. So, he must go through a process of purification. Thus, the seraph flows to him with a "burning coal." Isaiah feels the intense burning in his mouth, which must be cleansed first if he is to speak the messages of God. And only after purification are the prophet's ears opened to hear the call of God. Only after he is freed from his sins is he able to hear and comprehend the word of God: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" The prophet is ready for his mission: "Here am I! Send me" (v.8).

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (15:1-11) describes the call of Paul. Even though Paul did not meet Jesus face-to-face in his lifetime, his certitude that he was passing on the authentic teaching of Christ is based not on the many visions of Christ that he enjoyed but on the teaching he received from the apostles before him. "For, I handed on to you as of first importance, what I in turn had received" (1 Cor. 15:3). Paul understood his ministry as essentially that of passing on the message. To succeed in this, two things are most important: how one receives tradition, and how one passes it on.

The Gospel reading from Luke (5:1-11) illustrates the call of Peter and his co-workers, the first disciples. It happens in the context of the miraculous catch of the fish, which illustrates that when we follow the guidance of the Lord in our lives, we achieve results that will change our lives. Peter and his friends toiled all night long and caught nothing. Relying on their competence as seasoned fishermen resulted in failure. But when they followed the Lord's guidance, which did not make much sense (fishermen did not set the net in broad daylight), the result was an astounding success. Jesus said to Peter, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people" (v.10). We see that their qualification for the work of God does not come from them but from God. It is not their personal achievement; it is God's grace. That is why Paul could say, "But by the grace of God I am what I am" (v.10). The one who calls us for His mission will surely provide us with necessary qualifications to do His apostolate. Are you ready and willing to be a minister at the service of Christ?

PUBLIC NOTICE

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declaration of candidacy or petition for nomination for office with the County Clerk of Morrow County, 100 S. Court St Ste 102, Heppner, Oregon no sooner than February 8, 2025, and not later than 5:00 p.m. March 20, 2025.
Bobbi Childers Morrow

County Clerk Heppner, Oregon 97836 FILING DEADLINE FOR OPEN POSITIONS - 3/20/2025
Date: January 29, 2025
Publication Website 1/31/2025; The Gazette Times 2/4/2025 Published pursuant to ORS 255.075
Published February 5, 2025 affid 1c

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE MORROW COUNTY LAND USE HEARING

THE MORROW COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION will hold the following hearings of public interest on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Morrow County Government Center located at 215 NE Main Ave, Irigon, OR 97844. For information on meeting participation via Zoom please visit the Planning Department website <https://www.co.morrow.or.us/pc> and click on Agenda and the Zoom link will be located within the agenda dated for this hearing.

Conditional Use permit CUP-N-378-24: Victor Calvillo, Applicant, and Owner Conditional Use Permit to allow the storage and operation of a commercial trucking business on a residential property. The property is described as Tax Lot 5800 of Assessor's Map 4N2E2E0A. The subject parcel is zoned Suburban Residential (SR) and is located inside of the City of Boardman Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Criteria for approval include Morrow County Zoning Ordinance (MCZO) Article 3 Section 3.050, Suburban Residential, and Article 6 Section 6.050.G, Standards Governing Conditional Uses, Home Occupations.

Conditional Use permit CUP-N-385-25: Eudoro Ordenas Herrera, Applicant, and Owner Conditional Use Permit to allow the storage and operation of a commercial trucking business on a residential property. The property is described as Tax Lot 403 of Assessor's Map 5N2E2E2D01. The subject parcel is zoned Rural Residential (RR) and is located outside of the City of Irigon's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Criteria for approval include Morrow County Zoning Ordinance (MCZO) Article 3 Section 3.050, Suburban Residential, and Article 6 Section 6.050.G, Standards Governing Conditional Uses, Home Occupations.

Copies of the staff reports, and all relevant documents will be available on or before February 18, 2025. For more information, please contact Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director by email at tmabbott@morrowcounty.gov or Kaitlin Kennedy, Code Compliance Planner at kkennedy@morrowcounty.gov or by phone at (541) 922-4624.

DATED this 30th day of January 2025
MORROW COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Publish Date: EO - February 5th, 2025; Gazette Times - February 5th, 2025

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