



Elk grazing at Gearhart Elementary School in December.

R.J. Marx

Elk: There will likely be a town hall

Continued from Page A1

Growth is expected to be substantial in the years ahead.

In 2019, Gov. Kate Brown designated the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative an Oregon Solutions Project, to develop sustainable solutions to community-based problems through the collaborative efforts of businesses, government and nonprofit organizations. Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer and Seaside Mayor Jay Barber are co-conveners, with a project team of 26 members.

No one tool will serve as a magic bullet to solve the problem, Padilla said.

To be effective, a culling strategy needs to be used in conjunction with no feeding laws, hazing, fencing, increased hunting opportunities, better road signs and rumble strips in strategic areas, he wrote in an executive summary delivered to City Councilors.

Educational programs, wildlife corridors, elk behavior modification plans and land use tools would also be utilized to increase and preserve land for elk.

There is no precise

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Gearhart Mayor Paulina Cockrum

number that can be predetermined that will mark "success" or "mission accomplished," Atwood said. "To eliminate an entire group is not feasible."

A culling plan would provide details on best methods and locations for culling outside of the city limits.

"It's a very tight space,

very urban," Padilla said. "There are probably not many, if any, areas for culling within the city limits of Gearhart."

An initial number to be culled can only be reached after Gearhart passes a resolution authorizing culling to take place and a permit sought from the department

of fish and wildlife.

All meat would be donated to local food banks.

Project team members aim for approval of a declaration of cooperation among partners for the end of February, Padilla said.

After the declaration has been signed, the project team will plan a more detailed timeline and implement the work outlined in the declaration.

"You will likely see broad community engagement about the new plan is one of the first things that happens after the DoC has been signed," Padilla said.

Gearhart Mayor Paulina Cockrum said she anticipates scheduling a town hall concerning the elk.

"All of the factors pointed out during the work session are important for the public to hear," she said. "Particularly the rich food source the urban setting provides for the Gearhart elk herd and safety factors when living near in their midst, how to keep humans and elk at safe distances from one another, and the coordinated approach we will need to take to manage the shared environment going forward."

SEASIDE CITY COUNCIL



Nancy McCarthy

Seth Morrissey taking the oath of office in 2016, administered by City Manager Mark Winstanley.

Morrissey thanks community, city staff at council farewell

Posalski elected to Ward 4 seat

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

When City Councilor Seth Morrissey was sworn in to the City Council in 2016, Mayor Don Larson called him a "wonderful, new young asset."

In his last meeting as a city councilor, Morrissey thanked Larson for his mentorship after he won election to the Ward 4 seat vacated by Stubby Lyons.

"In politics, you're always going to make someone mad, but I just try to do my best, and look at the issues objectively," Morrissey said. "I'm trying to represent the people."

A Seaside High School graduate, Morrissey, 38, studied business at Lane Community College and then at Portland State University. He is co-founder and president of Morrissey Productions and Oregon Web Solutions. He and his wife, Aimee, have two daughters, Emy and Ava.

After winning election in 2014 and serving the final two years of Lyons' term, Morrissey ran unopposed in 2016. In August he announced he would not file for reelection, with a growing citing family, and professional commitments.

City Manager Mark Winstanley led an evening of kudos for the departing councilor.

"Morrissey did the business of being a counselor the right way," Winstanley said. "I'm not sure we could get a word out of him during those first few council meetings except the appropriate vote when the vote came. But he took the time to listen. Now he has become a very, very

valuable member of this council, someone who is not afraid to register his opinion. That opinion has become a very important part of this council."

City staff and council members recalled Morrissey's efforts as a former member of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center and council liaison to the Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee. Morrissey represented Seaside on the county-wide housing task force, seeking to chart a process for one of the region's most persistent concerns.

"You are very forthright," City Recorder Kimberley Jordan said. "You stated exactly how you're feeling it doesn't matter as far as other people's opinions. You know what your opinion is and you're not afraid to state it."

Calling Seaside "one of the best-run cities in the state of Oregon," Morrissey thanked council mentors Winstanley, Larson, Don Johnson and City Councilor Randy Frank, as well as city residents, staff and volunteers.

Morrissey congratulated David Posalski, who fills the Ward 4 seat.

"Our city is blessed to have so many volunteers on committees and nonprofits tirelessly and behind-the-scenes with very little credit and we can't thank these folks enough for the time they donate," Morrissey said. "I want to thank the residents of Seaside and general for putting their faith in me as your representative, I can't thank you enough. Most importantly I want to thank my wife and children missing bedtime missing dinners as a lifelong resident of Seaside. It's been a privilege to serve."

Ham: 'I have zero issue with their decision'

Continued from Page A1

"He will not be joining the Enterprise Police Department," Enterprise City Administrator Lacey McQuead told the Wallowa County Chieftain last week. "I am not able to go into detail regarding this decision."

The decision to rescind the offer was made after a three-part hiring process, which included an application scoring committee and interviews by a panel consisting of the council's executive committee, law enforcement personnel and community

leaders. The decision was finalized through a formal recommendation made to the council by the Enterprise Police Committee.

"I always knew it was a possibility it wasn't a done deal," Ham said. "I have zero issue with their decision. They just decided to go in a different direction to look at some other candidates."

The vacancy arose after Enterprise Police Chief Joel Fish was elected sheriff for Wallowa County.

The city made the offer to the 25-year law enforcement veteran after discussing the matter in executive session

Nov. 9. He accepted the conditional offer Nov. 13.

The move was "strictly a personal decision my wife and I have thought about, contemplated and researched for the past several years," Ham told the Signal in November. "If this works out, it's a good time to make that move."

Ham, 50, was raised in Salem. He started his law enforcement career as a reserve officer in Independence and received his first paid police job in October 1995, when he joined Seaside police as a patrolman. Ham has been police chief in

Seaside since 2014.

In the new year, Ham plans to lead the department in a time of changing protocols as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

With 17 full-time officers, the department is seeking to hire a community service officer and patrol officer. He plans on introducing the city's lieutenant, sergeant and corporal promotions at a future City Council meeting.

"We're looking forward to continuing our work here in Seaside," Ham said.

Bill Bradshaw of the Wallowa County Chieftain contributed to this article.

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Sincerely, Vance Hensala - Troy, Texas



Vance is currently fighting advanced stage 4 Bone Cancer.

Those wanting to reconnect/express their well-wishes are encouraged to write him at: 310 Coby Drive, Troy, TX 76579 or email: afinnsfarm@gmail.com