

Firehouse: City preps for a May firehouse bond vote

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replace an aging facility on Pacific Way.

Jack Zimmerman and Harold Gable had claimed the ballot title and text were insufficient and vague and did not reflect the final costs for a new firehouse off Highlands Lane.

Given the 175-word

limit, Peterson said the proposed ballot summary sufficiently identified the purpose of the bond.

City Administrator Chad Sweet said the city is preparing a timeline for the May 22 election. The city will file the ballot title as soon as possible, he said.

Every year the firehouse is delayed, costs rise

\$600,000 to \$700,000 in increased cost due to building materials costs and labor costs, Sweet said.

This month staff will meet with consultants on the urban growth boundary land exchange report.

Gearhart has numerous members-only Facebook sites, including A Million Friends of Gearhart,

the Pacific Way Group and Gearhart Nice Neighbors. A new Facebook site, the Gearhart Fire Station Discussion Group site, has launched with the hope of improving communication and information about the new fire station. Josh Lair, a volunteer firefighter, and Brent Warren, a city councilor, are administrators.

Nevertheless, the bond vote delay rattled the city attorney.

"I see this environment of people selectively using information, or people not understanding information and then spreading it online in a manner that creates a lot of problems for cities and for elected officials," Watts said at

Wednesday's council meeting. "Correcting the record is really hard. I just did not think that we would have so many people that seem so distressed about what from a topographic standpoint is a very safe site. It's disappointing for me. I don't usually talk about my feelings, but it's kind of sad."



R.J. Marx photos

Updated coffee bar Controversial Coffee.

Coffee: Creating a safe space for all

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Conversation and talking to people and getting to know people is a different matter. "That's a good thing," Stone said. "We try to provide a safe space for people of all races, creeds and genders."

They've known each other since 2008 in Idaho, when they were in youth group together.

Stone has lived in Astoria for eight years and worked at Pacific Pearl for three. Dahlen managed Purple Cow Toys in Seaside.

They have modified the Pacific Pearl menu, but still have the same smoothies and coffee beverages. They offer rotating monthly specials and have a seasonal menu right now.

Former owner Dawn Greenfield of Pacific Pearl Coffee Co. worked with the couple during the business transition.

"I just really want to thank Dawn for working with us and being such a good boss," Stone said.

Hours are Friday through Tuesday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"We're starting to get our regulars back up and stuff now that we're open more regular hours," Stone said. "COVID was kind of hard on anybody who worked here full time because we had to shut down a couple of times. The time so I think we're finally starting to get like a rhythm and everything's going back to normal. A lot



less people who are angry about wearing masks."

October is double punch month on punch cards. "And we're celebrating our opening on Halloween weekend with 50 cents off of drinks for the whole weekend, Friday to Sunday."

Vista Ridge II: Residents describe flood, landslide hazards they already face

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a single one- or two-story home on each lot. About 2 acres would be preserved for open space.

Residents at that meeting described flood and landslide hazards they already face without the new development.

Montero and other commissioners expressed concerns to Mead last Tuesday.

Montero asked whether the developer would clear land all at once or in stages, and how this would affect nearby streams and wildlife. "I don't recall having seen anything addressed in the plans for the fish and wildlife protection plan encouraging natural habitats," she said.

Commission members sought soil and erosion stability plans, wetlands protections and a logistics plan for construction trucks up Broadway.

Neighbor Lief Morin, who launched a web page, dontclearcutseaside.com, said developers are proposing to clear-cut 6 acres of a coastal riparian canyon with a salmon-bearing stream, hundreds of old growth trees, abundant wildlife and steep ter-

rain. "They will subdivide it into 17 plots, build basic infrastructure, then sell the empty lots without building a single house," he said. "This is a cut-and-run proposal that will destroy the stream, wetlands, and forest. It will increase the risk of flooding and landslides, and provide no benefits to Seaside."

He hopes to require substantive changes to the development and to minimize the impact on the environment, the immediate neighbors, and the broader North Coast community, and to ensure that the undeveloped land is preserved in a land trust.

Since the city has a limited time to make a decision once an application is in motion, developers indicated they would waive the 120-day time limit, and start the decision clock over at the Nov. 2 meeting. This would allow the public to provide additional written or verbal testimony.

"Although the continuance was requested by the applicant, we believe it serves the best interests of the community and are grateful to the commissioners for their approval," Morin said.

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