

Fees: Rental license revenue slightly exceeds costs

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and enforce local codes related to items like noise, litter and parking.

There are currently 411 vacation rental units in Seaside, including vacation rental dwellings, transit rental condos and bed and breakfasts.

Fees start at \$475 annually for smaller rentals, increasing to \$500 for those dwellings with six to 10 occupants and \$550 for 11 and more occupants. The money covers the \$95,000 salary for the code enforcement officer and related expenses for the department.

The city anticipates about \$165,000 from the license fees. After itemizing costs related to the code compliance officer and expenses, they are estimating a surplus of about \$29,000.

If the council wanted to, it could look at reducing the vacation rental licenses by as much as 15%, which would be about \$75 apiece, Winstanley said. "But that would kill any residual



City Manager Mark Winstanley, left, with members of the City Council, Tom Horning, Dana Phillips, Randy Frank, Mayor Jay Barber, Steve Wright and Tita Montero.

money."

There will be continuing increases in costs, he said. "I think that's a given in fact that's all the conversation is taking place right now around the United States is the fact that costs are

increasing on an ongoing basis and the costs associated with the code enforcement officer are going to increase."

Winstanley presented options of keeping the fee as it is, or reducing it by an

amount to evenly match city expenses associated with vacation rentals.

"My sense is that even vacation owners are feeling more supportive of their role and managing their own business," Barber said.

"Let's go another year, see how it goes and see where we come out."

Vacation rental dwellings are the topic of a City Council and Planning Commission joint work session on Nov. 29.

BUSINESS LICENSE FEES

Business license fees are distributed to support the community development department, the Seaside Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Association, City Manager Mark Winstanley said Wednesday.

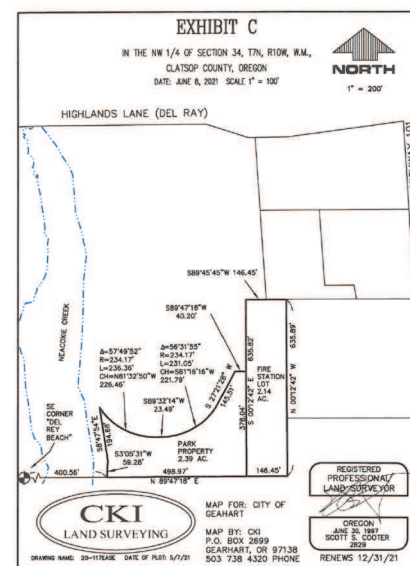
Additional money available goes to the Seaside Civic and Convention Center for use in their capital improvement program.

Those fees should remain at their current level, Councilor David Posalski said. "I don't believe that there's a change that we would want to implement for this coming year. But I think it should be on the calendar early next year to discuss changes for the following year."



LEFT: Proposed location of a firehouse and police station on Highlands Lane.

RIGHT: Property designated for a proposed Gearhart firehouse and park.



City of Gearhart

Fire station: Public meetings, open house ahead

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at Gearhart subdivision off Highlands Lane into the city's urban growth boundary in a land swap for acreage in the state's no-build line. The land would be used for a firehouse and police station. The current proposed location off of Highlands Lane had been scheduled for November, but a ballot challenge

bumped that until next spring.

Despite delays, City Administrator Chad Sweet said the process is moving forward, with a team forming around the fire station and councilors and members of the public coming out and wanting to assist.

"At this point in time we are building our information, starting to put together better graph-

ics and newsletters and that sort of thing," Sweet said. "And then in about a month, month and a half, we'll begin getting that information out to the public for people to debate and discuss."

There will also be scheduled public meetings to present some of this information in the near future as well, Sweet said, beginning right around the

new year. "We'll continue the discussions as often as we can."

In October, the fire department held an open house during the Great Oregon Shakeout, a tsunami preparedness event. Another open house is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 21, from noon to 3 p.m., interim Fire Chief Josh Como said, with grilled burgers and hot dogs.

Gearhart: City's intention is to go to voters in May

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boundary exchange by next spring because of the public notice and hearings that must take place. "Public notice is really important to make sure we follow all those rules and make sure that those are done properly," Fregonese said.

After the report is available, public hearings with the Planning Commission, City Council and county Board of Commissioners would follow, which Fregonese recommended take place concurrently.

"That should save us months as we move forward through this with a

goal of April having something that is brought to council that can be adopted as a comprehensive plan change and a UGB expansion," he said. "I don't want to make any promises but that's the goal. We're working toward it now."

Right now, the plan is to proceed with the UGB

exchange without waiting for the election.

City Administrator Chad Sweet said the city's intention is to go to voters in May for a firehouse bond vote. "That is ultimately the council's decision," he said. "That is what the staff is heading toward with the help of these other folks."

Encampment: 'We're all people. You don't know how we got there'

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The parking has grown to a dozen families, City Councilor Tita Montero said.

Their activity has disturbed the neighborhood and lowered property values, residents said.

"You want to take the property value of that whole section," Tom Veazey said. "Not by a point, but by 10 points. You should be ashamed of yourselves, absolutely ashamed."

The delivery of the petition coincided with conclusions from the city's homelessness think tank, a group seeking strategies to manage the growing homeless population.

Among the recommendations, the group advised establishing a managed carp park to enable the city to comply with federal legal rulings and a state law related to homeless camping. "We cannot move people out of where they are camping and where they are residing in their cars if we don't have a place for them to go to," Montero said.

Since the parking lot off Necanicum is already in use, the think tank advised the city to "acknowledge the reality" and enforce health and safety measures at the site.

Activist Seamus McVey, who serves on the think tank, shared his own experience with homelessness,

which he said began the day he left the military.

"I'm the person that everybody wants to kick out," McVey said. "During my time being homeless, I've been spit on, assaulted and had garbage thrown at me. Not by other homeless people, by people who just didn't like the way I looked. If people don't deserve to live in a neighborhood, where do they deserve to live exactly?"

"We're all people," McVey said. "You don't know how we got there. I'm lucky enough to be off the streets now. But I'll be hanged if I'm going to let somebody try to treat others in the position I was as filth and garbage not deserv-

ing of a place to lay down, not deserving of the basic human dignity and respect that we would all want for ourselves."

The city's priority is to locate a car park or RV park somewhere within the region so people could move from the homeless camp, Mayor Jay Barber said.

"This is not a permanent site," he said. "This is sitting on property that's there for construction purposes. One of the priorities that we're looking at is locating a permanent site that would be managed, hopefully by a nonprofit organization, that has experience in other cities. It also protects the rights of housed people."

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