

Ordinance: New rules to enable enforcement

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the least impact on the community, neighbors, houses in the area, then they're going to go wherever they please. We have to either provide shelter or we have to provide public locations for them to be able to camp."

Overnight camping permits, from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., would be valid for three weeks, at which time they could be renewed.

While individual parking or camping locations were not designated, proposed locations for limited numbers of permitted vehicles include parts of Shore Terrace, Necanicum Drive, parts of Broadway, Avenue G and Mill Ponds Park.

Camping would be prohibited at all public park areas, public parking lots, restrooms or publicly owned properties within residential zoning districts, along with U.S. Highway 101, Avenue U, Wahanna Drive, First Avenue to Avenue A, Necanicum Drive and other locations. Violators could be fined \$25 per day.

'Don't push it off to somebody else'

Many in the vocal audience at the City Council meeting said they were confused by conflicting court rulings and interpretations of the law.

"Don't push it off to somebody else," James Hoffman, a resident, told city councilors. "Do your job. Do what you're supposed to do by being in these seats. Fix it. I'm tired of seeing junk, needles, drugs, everywhere we go. I'm tired of being harassed."

The 10th and Necanicum "RV experiment" is a disaster, Bruce Rosebrock, a resident, said.



Crowd at Monday's City Council meeting.

R.J. Marx

"Needles, drugs, RVs with 'for rent' signs, increased theft in the neighboring blocks," he said. "Who pays for the storage? Who pays for the demo? Lots of unanswered questions. Get this ordinance right and vote 'no' tonight until you have the right parameters in place. If this City Council gets it wrong and this town goes down the toilet, that'll be quite a legacy for all of you."

Others questioned how the city would force campers to move, the expense associated with the process, daytime parking issues and the potential lure of "free camping" for people from outside the area.

"I don't understand why they just get to be there for free," Linda Iles Martin, a resident, said. "You don't get to camp for free, everybody has to pay something. That's just part of our civilization, of our society. And these people are trying to screw up our societal program here. You just don't get to go camp in front of somebody's house."

Throughout the process, city officials have said that without an ordinance with

options for the homeless, the camp on Necanicum could not be cleared. But Josh Marquis, a former Clatsop County district attorney, said those interpretations were incorrect. He challenged the tenet that the city needed to enact the ordinance before starting eviction.

"I think this is a really serious misunderstanding," Marquis said.

The City Council ultimately relied on advice from City Attorney Dan Van Thiel to proceed with the reading of the ordinance before putting it to a vote. "I'm suggesting that we get this off the table," he said.

Mixed response

City councilors were mixed in response.

City Councilor Tita Montero, an organizer and member of the homeless task force, asked for a new look at the ordinance. She said the camp on Necanicum could be cleared with or without the ordinance. "It's our property. We have the right to put rules on anybody who was staying on that property," she said. "I'm also very concerned that we have yet to hear from CIS (City-

county Insurance Services), our insurance company, on a review of this ordinance. We have passed an ordinance without proper review. I'm very disturbed about this."

City Councilor Dana Phillips also voiced concerns that more study was needed.

City Councilor Randy Frank said it "was the right thing to do." Councilor Steve Wright said the measure was the best way to give police the tools to enforce regulations.

Mayor Jay Barber and Frank, Wright, City Councilor David Posalski and City Councilor Tom Horning voted for the ordinance. Montero and Phillips voted against it.

The ordinance goes into effect in 30 days.

City councilors agreed to consider additional public comment for amendments in a workshop scheduled for May 9 before the next City Council meeting.

"My concern is to defend the rights of both the housed and the unhoused," Barber said. "And I think we've got to work together to refine this ordinance so that it covers both bases."

Necanicum RVs and campers receive notice

For some, it's just 'down and down'

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

With passage of Ordinance 2022-04 on Monday night, the city is pressing forward with closing the homeless parking lot at 10th and Necanicum Drive. On April 20, police distributed notice to campers that Seaside was preparing an ordinance to regulate temporary camping within the city.

Campers are advised that all vehicles on the road must be up-to-date on their registration and insurance.

The letter, signed by police Chief Dave Ham, is intended to give advance notice that temporary camping rules in Seaside are changing.

"We are giving you advance notice so you have reasonable time to make arrangements for other camping accommodations, to get current with your DMV registrations, and to prepare for moving from your current location, as the proposed ordinance will prohibit and not allow camping at this Necanicum Dr. location," it states.

"Although I can't give you an exact date as to when this proposed ordinance will be in service, you should expect it to happen within the next couple of months," Ham said Monday.

For those who have been sleeping in cars, trailers or buses on the property, the future is uncertain.

Robert, who lives on a bus parked on the Necanicum lot, said about 25 to 30 people live in the camp.

When he moved into town he was making \$100,000 a year, he said. Now he is living on \$840 a month disability and unable to work. "I've got a tumor in my spine," he said. "I've blown out everything in my back over the years. I literally gave the last of my back to pouring the sidewalks and light poles on Holladay street four or five years ago."

The issue of RVs aban-

doned or left overnight — sometimes for weeks or months at a time — came before the City Council in April. Necanicum between First and 12th, residents said, had become a long-term parking area and a safety and health hazard for residents.

Police ticketed the cars along the roadside, and, over the summer, many vehicles migrated across the street to the Necanicum lot across from Goodman Park, previously used as a construction staging area.

But as numbers continued to grow, so did complaints. Neighbors presented a petition with more than 100 signatures protesting the encampment and seeking its shutdown.

The city was not sanctioning the area as a place to go, City Manager Mark Winstanley said in January, but without a place to relocate people, the city was in a "gray area." The ordinance is designed to remedy that by providing alternate permitted locations.

The notice provided referrals to social services in the county, including Clatsop Community Action and their homeless liaison. Seaside police's community service officer will also provide transitional assistance.

Jason, who lives in an unregistered vehicle donated by a Seaside neighbor, said he had "no idea" where he would go next.

Robert is more hopeful.

"My vehicle is already licensed and insured," he said. "I'm a good licensed driver. Yeah, I can drive around but it's really unfair for the people that aren't able to because people can't afford to. I mean, it's \$1,500 a month almost for a one-bedroom apartment, \$1,200 for a studio apartment. When somebody works full time at \$15 an hour, they're bringing in just enough to pay their rent, their insurance and their bills, and they have nothing to eat off of, nothing, no food to eat, no money. "It's just down and down."

"If I could afford it I'd go into a campground or preferably back into a house or tomorrow," he said.

Field: 'We're running out of time and options'

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be stable over the short term, "let alone the long term," he said.

"The geotechnical concerns are pretty crucial," added Josh Modin, with ZCS Engineering. Additionally, the wetlands study revealed wetlands in anticipated areas and encroaching on the playing field itself, which could create unsafe surfaces for the softball players, he said.

Upon receiving these results, the team tentatively moved on to the second option: Broadway Field. They met with leadership from the city's planning department and Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District in early April.

"Everyone is onboard to try to make this a nice complex as an option for the community and for the school district," Hardebeck said.

The main concern with this site is whether a field of adequate size will fit — a determination that can be made quickly.

"There is a range of dimensions allowed as per (the Oregon School Activities Association)," Modin said, adding the field outlined in the rough diagram presented at the meeting portrayed the maximum size. "That's part of why doing another test-fit run is so important: to make sure we can fit this on this site. We're pretty confident we can if we utilize that range, not just the maximum."

Broadway Field presents several advantages, including an established parking lot; existing infrastructure for water, power and other utilities; and a concession stand and batting cages. The site also doesn't pose wetlands or geological concerns.

"There are a few less hoops to jump through," Modin said.

Board member Chris Corder voiced concerns about rushing the process and questioned the viability of Broadway Field because of concerns about the complex fitting there.

"I'd love for it to be at

Broadway, because it's amazing," he said. "But also, are we going to shove something into a spot that's not going to be a great facility for years and years and years to come?"

Several factors are influencing the softball complex project, including budget and timeline.

"We're running out of time and options," school board member Mark Truax said.

Another site on the table is the city's property by the old Seaside High School, referred to as the North 40. The school district would have to negotiate a new intergovernmental agreement with the city to develop on the property.

Additionally, they would need to add a storm drainage system and build a new parking lot, bathrooms, concessions, batting cages and other infrastructure. Giving a rough estimate, Modin projected the North 40 could be about \$1 million more to develop than Broadway Field, making the latter option the "most eco-

nomical and the most desired from the community."

"We're trying to fix this the right way, so that you've got a facility that will last you," he said.

At the meeting, the board approved for the consulting team to move forward with investigatory work on Broadway Field and potentially the North 40, with Broadway being the preferred location.

In other news:

- The board approved Juneteenth — a federal holiday as of 2021 — as a district-recognized paid holiday. Staff will receive their holiday leave the Monday after Juneteenth, or Freedom Day, which takes place Sunday, June 19, this year.

- The board approved the 2022-23 school calendar. Classes will begin for elementary school students, sixth graders, and ninth graders on Sept. 6. Classes will begin for remaining middle and high schoolers Sept. 7. Graduation is set for Thursday, June 8, 2023.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

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4:12 p.m., 1300 block S. Roosevelt: A person reported blowing bubbles into traffic is reported as a hazard; after police observe for a while and determine there is no hazard.

5:37 p.m., 10th and Necanicum: Caller reports someone erecting a tent in a known transient camp.

9:45 p.m., Avenue U: Caller reports dog at large; dog runs away when it sees police and runs straight home. Police follow it to its home and sees it is secure.

April 22
12:15 a.m., 600 block S. Roosevelt: Caller reports dog at large.

10:42 a.m., 10th and Necanicum lot: All units and occupants receive notice.

12:08 p.m., 10th and Necanicum: Caller reports old dog walking in the road.

12:23 p.m., Beach near 12th: Dog complaint.

12:33 p.m., American Legion: Caller reports two loose dogs on the property and requests

an officer pick them up.

12:43 p.m., Fourth and Prom: A loose dog is reported.

2:08 p.m., 800 block 13th Avenue: Caller reports their two large dogs are missing.

5:18 p.m., Beach near Avenue G: Caller requests welfare check on crying children after the caller says the mother was yelling at them.

5:29 p.m., U.S. Highway 101 and milepost 23: Citizen brings in a dog they say they found on the highway. Oregon State police were notified of the whereabouts of the dog.

5:40 p.m., 1100 block Broadway: EMS call.

10:44 p.m., N. Wahanna Road: Caller reports a domestic disturbance. On arrival, police advise the parties involved are having a verbal disturbance.

10:46 p.m., Goodman Park: An unknown situation is reported in the park.

Good samaritan

A dog found April 22 on U.S. Highway 101 near milepost 23 was brought to the Seaside police department by a good samaritan. At 5:40 p.m., a state trooper brought the dog, described as a black lab, to the Clatsop shelter. The dog had no name tag or any other identifiers.

Car versus deer

A woman crashed into a deer April 22 at 9:28 p.m. on U.S. Highway 101 near Sunset Beach Lane. She stopped on the shoulder after the collision but believed it was unsafe to stay there due to heavy traffic. She then drove home and notified police what happened. They said she would be mailed a crash report.

Drug influence

A caller reported he'd been robbed and stabbed in the woods of Ecola Park April 22 at 11:19 p.m. The dispatcher thought the caller sounded under a drug influence. He gave the wrong location to dispatchers so troopers went to Ecola State Park, Indian Beach and the Tillamook Trail

Head where they saw a man on the north facing hillside of Tillamook Head who did not respond to a loud siren or emergency lights. Two troopers hiked up the hill side and located the alleged stabbed man along with all his gear and reported stolen items. He was given water and a courtesy ride into town where he was dropped off. The man was not injured and admitted to using meth.

High-speed motorcyclist

Troopers saw a motorcyclist traveling at a high rate of speed April 23 at 1:09 p.m. on U.S. Highway 26 at milepost 10. Lights were activated but the motorcyclist picked up speed and unsafely passed another car. Pursuit was discontinued. Another trooper also saw the bike traveling at a high rate of speed further along the road and a second traffic stop was initiated but the motorcycle continued to elude. What was likely the same motorcyclist was seen a bit later on U.S. Highway 30, still going very fast, headed eastbound. This pursuit was also dropped for reasons of safety.



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