

Flory is named planning director

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal



City of Seaside
Seaside's code compliance officer Jeff Flory.

Jeff Flory was named planning director May 20, effective immediately. Flory has served as interim director since March after the retirement of Kevin Cupples.

As Seaside's first code compliance officer, Flory processed complaints, conducted safety inspections and enforcement designed to cut down on quality-of-life issues related to vacation rental dwellings.

Flory joined the community development department in 2020 after spending more than 12 years with the Bea-

verton Police Department and three years with both the Hood River County Sheriff's Office and Mount Hood Meadows Ski Resort, where his work focused on patrol, enforcement, safety, guest service and security.

In Seaside, Flory has ramped up vacation rental dwelling inspections and enabled an upgraded online complaint process.

Assistant City Manager Jon Rahl said the hiring process invited both internal and external candidates.

"Jeff has shown himself to be incredibly capable," Rahl said.

He singled out Flory's organization skills and ability to adapt quickly. "You're talking about an individual that came into a brand

new position that came with a bit of controversy," Rahl said. "If you go back and you look through vacation rentals and how that position was created, his ability to come in and create a program that really works has been well-praised."

"Jeff joined us two years ago and took on a brand-new position as the code compliance official," City Manager Mark Winstanley said in a statement. "He's flourished since Day One, showing himself to be an extremely resourceful and capable employee. We have great faith in his ability to continue to grow and serve the citizens and community of Seaside."

Park District: New hires are proposed

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The school is now up and running for preschool, sports and office lease, pandemic restrictions are for the most part lifted and the five board members have served harmoniously.

"I believe we're in a strong financial shape," Archibald said. "I think that's due thankfully to increased tax revenue, strong grants and grant efforts, and good fiscal responsibility by the district staff and board working together. I feel confident in the position we're in right now. We're trying to be optimistic, hoping we're going to have a normal year."

Budget preparations began in mid-January this year and have been reviewed by department heads.

"The budget represents our best efforts to fiscally prepare and account for the district's programmatic and maintenance needs over the next 12 months," Archibald wrote in the budget message. "It is anticipated that we will continue to regain the traction lost during the pandemic and even increase our fitness offerings as we make our way into the 2022-2023 fiscal year."

The largest portion of the department expense is administration, budgeted at about \$685,000. This covers the executive director and director of finance, among other full-time personnel, for a total just over \$500,000.

Overall, the district has 65 employees, up about 18% from last year.

With a new finance manager, human resources coordinator, lifeguard staff, patron relations specialists, youth program leaders and maintenance leaders, more hiring is on the horizon at the district.

"We are budgeting for a patron relations specialist to help provide the high level of customer service that our patrons have come to expect," Archibald said. "We are also budgeting for two maintenance department employees to be added. Both will work to maintain the cleanliness and professional appearance of the building."

Current staff is budgeted for a 5% cost-of-living adjustment. "You'll see a pretty significant increase across the board in personnel expenses," Archibald said. "I think everybody in our community knows that it's a competitive environment for employees. We decided we really needed to increase our wages."

Maintenance and aquatics each see about a 10% rise in personnel costs.

Youth program personnel are budgeted at \$628,900, compared to last year's \$475,000.

Park district revenue is generated from property taxes, timber taxes, donations and grants, program fees and facility rentals. The district's permanent tax rate is 0.9280 per \$1,000 of assessed value, generating about \$1.89 million in tax resources to be collected.

This is the first full year of the Sunset Recreation Center, which will begin the first year of its cost recovery process. The district purchased the property from the Seaside School District in January 2021 for \$2.15 million.

The capital improvement fund will have \$388,000 after this fiscal year, Archibald said. "That's a flexible amount we can use down the road, either at the SRC or other locations in the district," he said.

The district financed the building for \$2.5 million even though the cost was \$2.15 million. "We knew that excess would be needed for repairs," he said.

Heating is No. 1 on the list, with the roof and exterior likely to follow, he said.

"In the SRC we are budgeting for a capital improvement to address the inefficient operation of the building HVAC system," he said.

Budget committee member Kyle Gorman praised the staff efforts and called the budget "awesome ... really easy to follow. It's all right here."

With the committee's unanimous approval, the budget will go before the park district board next month.

A personnel services breakdown will be included in the budget as an addendum.

"It was a very nice budget process thanks to the great volunteerism and expertise offered by the budget committee members and the preparation of the budget by district staff, particularly finance manager Chris McCollister and director of operations Darren Gooch," Archibald said. "While the budget is the largest amount in SEPRD history, we are mindful of our fiscal responsibility and opportunities for growth in the coming year with programs, improvements and the exciting potential of the Sunset Recreation Center."



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City manager candidates Spencer Kyle, Matthew Selby and Esther Moberg at the gathering to meet the candidates and provide feedback.

City manager: 'We look forward to welcoming the Kyle family into our Seaside community'

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"That was a great experience for me," Kyle said at last week's community reception. "I got to be hands-on in almost every different department and service the city offers."

Kyle has a master's in public administration from Brigham Young University Marriott School of Business and is a credentialed city manager from the International City/County Management Association.

In describing his philosophy as a city manager, he said he appreciated that "no two days are the same."

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Spencer Kyle

Kyle suggested a collaborative approach to issues.

"For me, it's about commitment to finding out what is working out there," Kyle said. "What are the best practices and what are the ideas? Give us all the options. There isn't going to be one answer that fixes everything, but there are little incremental

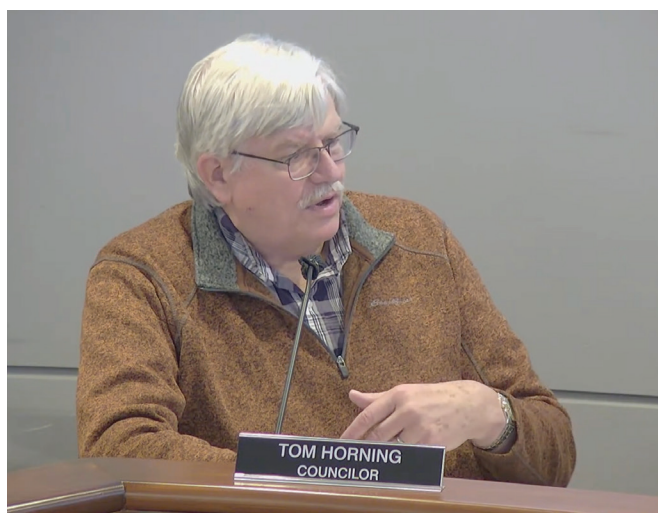
things that we can do that will make a difference."

At Monday's meeting, Kyle was back in Utah as Barber and city councilors unanimously voted to approve the hiring.

"Our retiring City Manager Mark Winstanley has served for over 20 years in this role, and is in fact

Seaside's longest-serving employee with 37 years of service," Barber said. "On behalf of the City Council, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the process of selecting our new city manager and we look forward to welcoming the Kyle family into our Seaside community."

Camping sites: First RVs could apply for permits by the end of the week



City Councilor Tom Horning proposed alternate sites for overnight camping.

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The ordinance, passed in April, goes into effect this week and will enable enforcement of no camping rules coming into effect.

The Mill Ponds parking lot plan comes with strings attached, City Councilor Tom Horning said. The city accepted \$250,000 from the state Watershed Enhancement Board in 1998 to buy the property, which has environmental importance as a freshwater salt marsh and wildlife habitat.

"I don't believe that the homeless that will camp and the tents that you're proposing for them to camp will necessarily stay there," Horning said. "I think they'll spread out and they will come into the conservancy's property and have to be removed from them."

Violations of the contract could lead to the city forfeiting the property or fines of \$250,000.

Horning presented an alternate plan to use part of the "North 40" at the former high school near the ball fields for tent campers.

Police Chief Dave Ham



R.J. Marx

A sign on the gate advises campers of the new city ordinance regulating overnight camping. Between 16 and 19 RVs will be permitted for overnight camping beyond the fence to the right; up to 30 tents will be located in the area to the left.

ANONYMOUS PURCHASE

The council may have additional property options, Mayor Jay Barber added.

An anonymous donor has purchased land formerly owned by the Oregon Department of Transportation along the east side of North Roosevelt Drive near 21st Avenue which could be used for overnight campers.

The site comes with concerns, including road access, riparian, flooding and firefighting concerns, but was seen as a step in the right direction to meet future demands.

"This anonymous donor that's coming forward is exactly the kind of thing we need," Council President Steve Wright said. "If nothing else we could put tents there."

said that camping Alder Mill site could benefit the nature area by enabling enforcement of illegal campers. A designated area would meet the terms of the ordinance and provide shelter on an overnight basis.

The policy, which can be changed at will by a majority

of councilors, was adopted by the council.

"But there will be abundant opportunity for citizens to make comments, suggest items to be added to the policy or any changes that you think you need to make," Barber said during the regular meeting following the work-

shop. "We will also be revisiting the ordinance for some amendments after it becomes effective."

Mowing will begin at the RV site this week, Public Works Director Dale McDowell said Tuesday, and the first RVs could apply for permits by the end of the week.