A column of appreciation to City Manager Winstanley

SKYBOX SKYLER ARCHIBALD



hile I typically try to be timely in the writing of this column, there are times where that does not work out as well as I'd like. Such is the case with this, a column of appreciation to my friend Mark Winstanley.

Mark concluded 37 years of service to the city of Seaside at the end of June and more than 20 years as the city manager. In fact, Mark became the city manager the year that I graduated high school, a fact I've reminded him of a few times in our conversations over the years.

It's incredibly difficult serving in a role like Mark has for that span of time and frankly, it's unprecedented. It's a testament to Mark's flexibility, communication and leadership that he's been able to hold that role for so long, working with numerous elected officials, leading a dynamic and growing city and responding to significant changes that have occurred over that time.

While Mark is well known in our community, I want to share some of the great experiences and lessons that I've learned from him as we worked fairly close together in our roles.

Mark has always been able to navigate the fine skill of learning what to say and when to say it. That can be incredibly challenging.

People in that type of role cannot always speak their mind in every situation. They have to be mindful of the dynamic and the weight of their voice. Despite that challenge, Mark was always incredibly honest and while I didn't always agree with his conclusions or perspective, I knew he was telling

Psilocybin mushrooms are seen in a grow room.

Psilocybin: Two-

year moratorium

headed to voters

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"As I understand it, if we

don't do this, someone else

is going to be telling us how

this is going to be regulated

in our city," Mayor Jay Bar-

ber said at the City Council

meeting on July 11. "So we

want to be able to refer this

out so that we will have con-

trol to decide if and how we

would want this marketed, if

staff report on the draft

ordinance, there is evidence

that the drug may be effective in treating depression,

anxiety, trauma disorders

and obsessive compulsive

Services Section will begin

accepting applications for

The Oregon Psilocybin

disorder.

According to the city's

it is, within our community.'



Mark Winstanley addresses the City Council at the June 27 meeting.

R.J. Marx

the truth and I could count on his word.

Mark has offered me support numerous times, going back to when I was first hired by the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District in 2015. He's been there as a resource for me to ask him questions and I know he's provided the same mentorship to many of his staff and other folks in our community.

If you've ever been around Mark, you know that he truly cares about the city and the people of Seaside. I recall many experiences of walking with him to a meeting, or walking behind him and seeing him pick up every piece of litter he saw. He had a desire to keep the city immaculate and his approach to that sets an example to me and anyone else that may have seen him.

People often tease Mark about his apparent simplicity: he had a flip phone until recently, always gets the cheeseburger at lunch and generally lives in a very uncomplicated fashion. He's been seeing the same barber since he was an undergraduate in Corvallis and most of his wardrobe is a rotation of starchy and light business professional shirts and khakis.

But what people may not see is that Mark is a chameleon of sorts. He has the unique ability to transform

and adapt to the conversation and perspectives of the current and previous iterations of the City Council.

Those conversations occur regularly and with precision: the council meets individually with the city manager to work through the issues and questions that are on the forefront in our community. Mark then translates the collective voice of the council to the staff and of course, to the many constituents that he interacts with regularly.

Despite what you may have seen or believe, I've appreciated Mark's sense of humor and general good-naturedness. He loves to laugh and finds humor in all sorts of situations that would generally get the best of people. For instance, Mark continues to support his beloved Oregon State Beavers football team even though they've lost eight straight games to the Washington State Cougars.

What I'll likely miss the most about Mark is the way he treated me during his time as a city manager: he looked at me as a peer, a colleague. He was available to listen if I had issues of my own and we worked together on issues that affected SEPRD and the city. That type of respect isn't common, as much as it should be.

The city will miss him greatly and while they're in good hands, I wish Mark the best in his future plans for travel, family, OSU athletics and hopefully some much-deserved relaxation.

Cybersecurity: City ratchets up system security

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The 20-page document outlines requirements and standards for secure use of its information systems, beginning with an inventory of equipment and ways to implement safeguards to ensure the delivery of critical services. All new hires are required to participate in security training upon hiring and on an annual basis.

"That's not to say that we don't have policies already in place around these topics but this really expands and makes it stronger," Rahl said.

The city will protect communicaelectronic tions with a firewall and network segmentation, which limits data to certain employees within the network.

The city will perform both internal and external network vulnerability assessments on a quarterly basis.

Should a cyberattack be detected, the compromised device would be removed and reported to the IT contractor and business office. The city would take actions to determine exactly what happened and the scope of the incident. Actions would be taken to ensure that the vulnerability would not reappear.

An appendix to the document lays out the acceptable use of electronic communications by city employees, with the intent to protect the employee and the organization. Inappropriate use exposes the organization to risks, including virus attacks, compromises of network systems and services and legal liability.

The policy received the unanimous endorsement of city councilors and Mayor Jay Barber.

"I read it, and I don't fully understand it," Barber said. "But I certainly recognize that it is very important for us to have this kind of safety net under us."

With its approval by the City Council, the policy will be presented to staff, the City Council and contractors doing business with the city, Rahl said.

Any employee found to have violated this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

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licensing in January. Until then, the state is in a development period, working to build the nation's first regulatory framework for psilocybin services. Rules are expected by the end of the year.

Several counties and

cities in Oregon are asking voters to approve temporary psilocybin bans in November.

AP Photo/Peter De long

The moratorium in Seaside would "tap the brakes a little bit here in the city," Assistant City Manager Jon Rahl said. "That's not to say that the voters couldn't vote against this moratorium as well," he said. "But it's really the only process available to us to do that to kind of halt the rule-making for a short period of time to wait for that to present itself a little bit more."

In public comment, Rebecca Read said she had read about the benefit of psilocybin. "I am interested in the efficacy of it as a therapy of some kind of supervised therapy of a medical nature," she said. "I'm hoping that will be part of the discussion in the future."

The draft ordinance will appear again before the City Council at its next meeting, at which time it would be referred to the voters in November.