

Pilot Rock Newsletter



December 23, 2015

Volume 22 Issue 23
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Published by City of Pilot Rock
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City Hall is available
To assist the Community
Monday-Friday 8 AM – 5PM
Editor reserves the right to edit any and all articles for content
Next City Council Meeting Jan 5, 2016



Mayor: Virginia Carnes
City Council:
Ray Corwin, Bob Deno,
Raymond Doherty, Terry Womack
Jim Hinkle and Deacon Perkins

Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!
Safe travels for all!!

City Of Pilot Rock

Next Council Meeting January 5, 2015

The following topics were discussed at the December 15, 2015 Council meeting:

1. Brad Baird of Anderson Perry presented Council and staff with the Wastewater Facility Plan. Council agreed that the plan can be sent on the DEQ for their review as well.
2. On the Planning Commission's recommendation, Council approved the partition plat for city owned industrial property.



City Hall Services

Notary Fee	\$5 per notary
Fax	\$3 first page \$1 ea. Add.
Receive Fax	.25 per page
Copies	
Black & White	.25
Color	.50
Lamination	.50
Police Report	\$10
Copy of CD	\$5



WHAT'S GOING ON...

By Teri Porter

Public Meeting to Review the Police Chief Recruitment Strategy

On December 14th, the Council held a special work session meeting inviting citizen input regarding recruitment of a new Police Chief. We were pleased to have a full house. While most citizens in attendance are in favor of maintaining our police department, one citizen in particular, used this meeting as an opportunity to express his opinion that we do not need a police department who's main purpose is to issue tickets for ordinance violations.

See Public 1A

Thompson Hearing:

At the request of former Pilot Rock Police Officer, Gary Thompson, another hearing was held on December 15th, allowing him to be heard on the matter of his termination. Mayor Carnes opened the hearing, offering the floor to Thompson's attorney Michael Breiling who made a proposal that the City change the discharge from fired to a resignation or lay off.

See Hearing 1A

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission consists of 5 volunteer citizens of Pilot Rock, Joey Grosjaques (president), Michelle Casady (Vice President), Randy Ziegler, Carl Schriener and George Ficenec. The Commission can have as many as 6 and as few as 4, so if you are interested in serving on the board please stop by City Hall to apply. The commission will hear proposals for development of property within the city limits and urban growth boundary then make recommendations to Council

See Planning 1B

Share the Warmth

Thank you to all that have dropped off winter clothing to The Coffee Station #1 and Archie's!

We have received an amazing amount of cozy items to warm children around the community!

Your donations are greatly appreciated!



Michelle Hoeft



Storytime
At the Pilot Rock
Library
Fridays @ 11:30
Everyone is
Welcome !

Merry Christmas to All :O)

I want to give a "Very Special" shout out to all our City employees, Council, and Citizens who show great love, caring, understanding to our little Community.

I so appreciate each and every one of you! All the hard work, extra hours and going above and beyond to get the job done, God Bless you all :O)

Thanks a Billion...Sheila Buckley

Christmas Light Winners



1st place Daniel Christensen & family 710 NE Elm St.

2nd place Royce Reynolds 690 NE Gumwood St.

3rd place Richie Rowe 743 NE 4th St

Again we appreciate every house that had lights put up this year!!

Here are some honorable mentions from last night (there were even more but the addresses couldn't be seen on some)...

Dave Sloomwig- 565 NE Gumwood St.

Ray Slabik- 727 NE 5th St.

Tammy Schachtsick- 265 NE Cherry St.

Ty & Sydni Baker 220 SE Cherry St.

Greg Wart 465 SE Cherry St.

Willard Arbogast 344 NW Cedar,

Michael & Danielle Baleztena 643 SW 6th St.

Sandy Lyons 635 SW 6th St.

Lance Gambill 726 SW Cedar St,

Patty Johnson 765 SW Cedar

Andrea Munkers 923 SW Birch

Janie Giesler 711 SW Birch

Rollie Winks 753 SW Cedar

PRODUCE GIVEAWAY

All Community Members Welcome

Get great produce for

FREE !!!!

When: 2:30-3:00 pm on the First Tuesday of Every month (Weather Permitting)

Where: Pilot Rock Pavilion

Produce brought to you by
CAPECO & Oregon Food Bank

Any Questions
Call 541-276-5073

Mayor's Minute or Two..

As 2015 comes to a close, I'm sure we are all looking forward to 2016 with renewed energy and hope for a productive, calm and rational New Year. To say we had a few challenges this last year would be an understatement! I guess what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, but I for one wants 2016 to be smooth sailing, as does the city staff and council!

Congratulations to the Christmas Light contest winners and to the PR Chamber of Commerce for so graciously providing the cash awards. There are many lovely displays and I hope you take the time to drive around town and enjoy them.

Thanks also to the 4H group and the other group led by Heather & Mike Nelson, Daniel Christensen, Jim Hinkle and others. It was a bit rainy and cold but a lot of energy was produced by all the positive voices out there.

The Nativity Scene downtown in the Memorial Park is also wonderful and appropriate as are the wreaths and other Holiday décor, the wind may have blown some of our decorations into Morrow County but we made the effort initially.

Even with the Challenges of 2015, we truly have so many things to be grateful for if I started naming them all, they would have to give me another full Page :O) right at the top of the list however would be Chief Stewart Roberts, Ryan Lenhart, the City staff and our always special, Pilot Rock Fire Department. I'd also have to add in the Sheriff's office and State Police. And the list goes on!! I might even have to add Phil Wright of the EO for his last few articles which have been pretty accurate, and his last article that went national :O).

May you have a blessed Christmas and join me in the hope that 2016 WILL BE AWESOME!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Virginia Carnes

Mayor



Community Caroling

On 12-13-15, Sunday afternoon citizens of all different denominations came together to go Christmas caroling here in Pilot Rock. It was very cold but a lot of fun, rewarding and we made a Joyful noise. A very special thanks to Daniel Christensen (speed racer) for driving us, and the use of his trailer. Also thank you Virginia Carnes for the use of your vehicle and to the Carolers, Jim Hinkel, Heather, Mike, JT and Chase Nelson, Sheila Buckley, Shandy Christensen, Felicia, Mike, Logan, Aaron, Kalix and Ali Smith. We also did a "phone Carol" to Johnathon Thorne.

Next year, at our 2nd annual Christmas caroling, we hope to see a lot more of you, perhaps you'll even open your doors to us :O)

God Bless you all, Merry Christmas :O)

Sheila Buckley

Services for Val Sampson

12/28/2015 @ 11:00 am

St. Andrews in Mission

The Ladies of St. Andrew asked that the folks coming for her Funeral would please bring a salad or dessert for the luncheon following, would be most welcome.

Craft Project

Wednesday December 30th 1-3 pm

Pilot Rock Public Library

Come make a poster to take home that will inspire you throughout the New Year.

Cut out pictures from magazines, paste them onto posters provided, write goals (if desired), bring pics from home.



City Hall holiday hours

December 24th 12:00-5:00

December 25th 8:00-5:00

December 31st 12:00-5:00

January 1st 8:00-5:00

Merry Christmas &

A Happy New Year

Have fun and be safe!!

Pilot Rock School District

Senior - Scholarship Information

University of Oregon – Pathway Oregon serves residents who qualify for the Federal Pell Grant and who have recently graduated. The UO promises to cover tuition and fees for all Pathway Oregon Recipients. To qualify for this, you must submit an UO admission application by **January 15th**.

How about EOU – Several University Scholar awards to EOU are also available. Please apply to EOU and to all of their scholarship opportunities by **February 1st** for priority consideration. For more information, visit our school's website under **senior information** or talk with Mrs. Staldine.

Attention Seniors – FAFSA is open.... The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is your key to student aid. You'll need an estimate of your parent's income – do not wait until you have your W2 as the dollars are first come/first serve. Some grants will not be able if you wait to fill out your FAFSA beyond January 15th.

Tuesday, December 29 – VB&G at Irrigon Tournament

Wednesday, December 30 – VB&G at Irrigon Tournament

Saturday, January 2nd – VB&G at Echo @ 1:00, leave @ 11:00

Monday, January 4th – School Resumes, JVB at Heppner @ 5:00, leave @ 3:30

Tuesday, January 5th – JVB&G home against Ukiah @ 5:00

Thursday, January 7th – JVB at Hermiston @ 6:00, leave @ 4:30

Friday, January 8th – JV/VB&G at Stanfield @ 3:00, leave @ 1:00

Saturday, January 9th – JV/VB&G at Culver @ 1:00, leave @ 8:00

Monday, January 11th – JVG at College Place (Walla Walla) at 5:00, leave @ 3:30

Tuesday, January 12th – **Basketball Pictures after school**

Thank You

Pilot Rock Elementary School

For the Christmas ornaments

On the Tree in the Council Chambers



Public

The citizen feels it is a waste of City funds that could be better used on streets and infrastructure and that our citizens are smart and do not need police to tell us when to clean up our yard etc. No one in the audience shared the same opinion and the meeting moved on to discuss other concerns that might help or hinder us from finding a Chief that is the right fit for our community. Pros and cons from residents of Weston and Athena, who now contract with the Sherriff's department, were discussed when considering the same solution for Pilot Rock. Most are in favor of keeping our own police department, so the focus shifted to what we need to do to recruit the most qualified Chief of Police. The current wage scale for the Chief position is \$5,000 to \$5,750 monthly or \$69,000 annually at the high end. A survey of neighboring cities and comment from Chief Roberts showed that we are in the ball park. One of the more controversial topics is the residency requirement. Currently Council is requiring the Chief live within the Pilot Rock School district with the hope that it would encourage ownership in the community. Pilot Rock is located in the north portion of the school district leaving about 20 -25 miles in all other directions. Some have argued that living in Pendleton would actually be closer than some areas in the school district. Opening up the residence restriction to include Pendleton would avail the City to a larger pool of qualified officers. Chief Roberts stated that in the past residency was standard but that is no longer the case because the reality is we want the best person for the job and someone we can employ long term. Most urbanized areas have officers driving an hour or two to get to work. Chief has reached out to several qualified retired officers trying to prompt them to apply, but already owning homes in Pendleton they are resistant because of the residency requirement. Comments were heard that if they are not willing to live in our community we don't want them. Chief Roberts added that candidates are challenged by the lack of college education which Oregon Administrative Rule requires. A minimum of 90 college credit hours and the ability to obtain a mid-management certificate through DPSST within the first two years of employment, but to get to that point you have to have the college credit hours. We have had applicants who have been Chiefs in other states that do not qualify to be a Chief in the state of Oregon. The rules are continually changing as the State continues to raise the bar. Candidates are few and far between that have the credentials to be certified as a Police Chief in the state of Oregon. The consensus was that we repost the Police Chief position and give it another 90 days. If after that 90 days we have not found our Chief, we will revisit the residency question.

Hearing

Breiling stated this would resolve the matter and release the City of Pilot Rock from any and all liability regarding Thompson, except for Unemployment benefits, which he understood was still pending. Thompson's primary interest is getting his credentials free of Pilot Rock. Teri Porter explained to Breiling, that before Council had voted to terminate Thompson he was asked if he had considered resigning, Thompson declined. Chief Roberts stated that since DPSST (Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training) has already been informed of Thompsons termination, you are asking us to un-ring the bell. Under statutory obligation the city would disclose to DPSST, any information they had pertinent to the separation or termination of Mr. Thompson. Breiling was not aware that the termination form had already been sent to DPSST. Breiling stated that Thompson has a constitutional right to due process, to be heard by a fair and neutral fact finder, notice and a reasonable opportunity to prepare a response. Porter informed Breiling that Thompson had been served a "Notice of Potential Termination" on October 22nd when he was also put on paid administrative leave. Thompson also had a hearing in executive session on November 10th. When asked what his understanding was of why Thompson was terminated, Breiling stated that it was his understanding that the city had a disagreement with the way Thompson allocated his budget and that one or more persons disagreed with an allocation to purchase supplies. Porter explained that the reason for Thomson's termination was that he lied, he was dishonest. Items were received for the Police Department in City Hall. When each item arrived Thompson was asked if he ordered them and each time he said he did not order them. When the invoice for \$481, was received he was again asked if he ordered them or was quoted a price, again he denied placing the order.

See Hearing 1B

Hearing

Both Steve Draper and Porter asked him about the purchase of the items and each time he denied placing the order. When the marketing company was called to let them know the City had no intention of paying for these items as no one from the City ordered them, a recording of Thompson placing the order was played. Breiling stated that it is his understanding that there is a disagreement about the conversation Porter had with Mr. Thompson. After informing Breiling that Thompson had lied to Draper, Chief Roberts as well as the Unemployment office regarding this matter, Breiling stated that he was not aware of any of these issues and that these are things that need to be discussed. Chief Roberts explained that untruthfulness is one of the six violations of the moral turpitude standards for the state of Oregon for a certified police officer. The meeting was closed by stating that we will take everything Breiling has suggested under advisement and confer with the City attorney's and that perhaps some of the information Breiling has now received will make a difference.

Planning

for final approval. On Monday, December 21, 2015, the Planning Commission met to consider the following: A Conditional Use Development Permit for Jim and Sam Byrnes, to add more storage units to their mini-storage facility at 425 NE Elm. After hearing no opposition the commission voted to recommend to Council that the Conditional Use be approved. Needing the room for their additional units, caused the Byrnes to discontinue the RV storage area. Folks were given 30 days to remove their trailers/RV's. It was a bit of a scramble as folks tried to figure out what to do with their RV's. Patrick Doherty of Capital D Investments, having room at his metal reclamation plant which is located in an industrial zone, was given approval to have an RV Storage lot on that site as it is a permitted use in an industrial zone. Greg Elliott owner of the Pilot Rock Hardware store, submitted a development permit application to also store the trailer/RV's in the already fenced area behind the store at the "Y". It is a good location as the dump station is right outside, but being in a commercial zone, would require a Conditional Use permit. Another consideration was the proximity to the creek and the flood zone. A public hearing was held at the December 21st meeting, hearing no opposition the board voted to recommend to Council to approve the Conditional Use permit allowing the RV Storage lot behind the Hardware store, but they stipulated that the units should be parked perpendicular to the creek and be spaced 4-5 feet apart which would not hinder the flow of water if ever that 100 year flood should hit. At the October 19th Planning Commission meeting the board considered a Development and Variance Permit for the property at 344 S Alder. At that time the board voted to approve the permit and variance. When it was presented to Council for final approval on November 8th, the Council tabled the item and sent it back to the Commission for further review, after it heard opposition from the neighbors on either side of the proposed lot as well as hearing from our former planner, that it was her understanding that it was an unbuildable lot. The lot is 43 feet wide by 154 feet deep, the zoning ordinance passed in 2001 created a rule that lots must be at least 60 feet wide by at least 100 feet deep. After further review of Pilot Rock Municipal Code 18.95 Non-Conforming Use, and consultation with other city and County planners the Planning Commission found that the lot having been created prior to 2001 when the new zoning ordinance went into effect, is a buildable lot. The new zoning ordinance did not intend to render properties that were created prior to 2001 unbuildable causing their value to decrease. The commission feels it is a win win situation, as it will promote growth within the City limits, revenue for the City by way of property taxes, and a happy land owner who has restored value to his property.

It is my intention to include articles such as these in each newsletter to keep our citizens informed. I will make every effort to include all sides and present as much of the facts as possible. If you have questions please stop by City Hall and Steve Draper or I will be happy to answer them to the best of our ability. You are also invited to drop questions in the payment box and if appropriate we will answer them in the newsletter.

Teri Porter, City Recorder