

Triad baseball team wins eighth straight

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City council considers raises for members



By MAC CORDELL
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Marysville City Council is in the early stages of the process to give its members a raise.

In a memo to the city finance committee, Human Resources Director Brian Dostanko explained that rules of council direct the body to review its compensation every two years.

In 2019, council voted to

raise the salary of its members from \$7,200 to \$7,920. The council president makes 25% more than the other council members.

Under Ohio law, elected officials cannot receive a raise during their term, meaning that it is more than two years before any raise can become effective.

Dostanko presented a report with several sets of comparables, including the 14 communities used in the 2021 wage and workforce study, the 2019 Ohio Municipal League Study and the

2020 Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission annual study.

"Comparable data shows that city council is currently underpaid," Dostanko wrote in his memo. "They will no doubt continue to fall further behind without some form of future increases."

Complicating the matter is the fact that the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) establishes a minimum salary for a public employee to earn full service credit under the state's retirement plan.

"Many cities, villages and townships use this monthly level to set wages for their legislative employees," Dostanko wrote. "In order for them to receive the service credit in whole, an employee must meet the minimum salary level established. Marysville has used this minimum salary level as a standard in the past."

He informed committee members that OPERS recently made changes that increased that minimum by

1.75% this year and each of the next four years.

Dostanko recommended the council increase the salary for members either by using the OPERS minimum or by applying an anticipated cost of living adjustment.

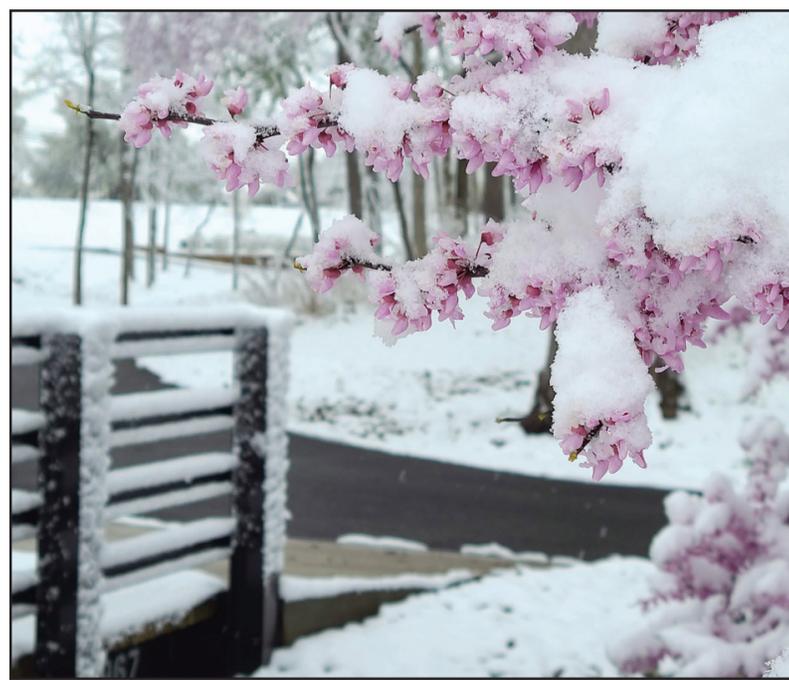
If the OPERS option is used, council salary would be set at \$8,664 for 2022 and 2023.

"This increase brings us 1% below the average comparable wage in our survey (we are current 8.6% below average)," Dostanko wrote. "We would also suggest in future years an increase of 1.75% per year to stay in alignment with OPERS increases."

City Finance Director Brad Lutz said a 1.75% increase is "lower" than what most employees receive in the private or public sector.

"I certainly don't think 1.75% is going to be a burden in any way, shape or form to the budget," Lutz said.

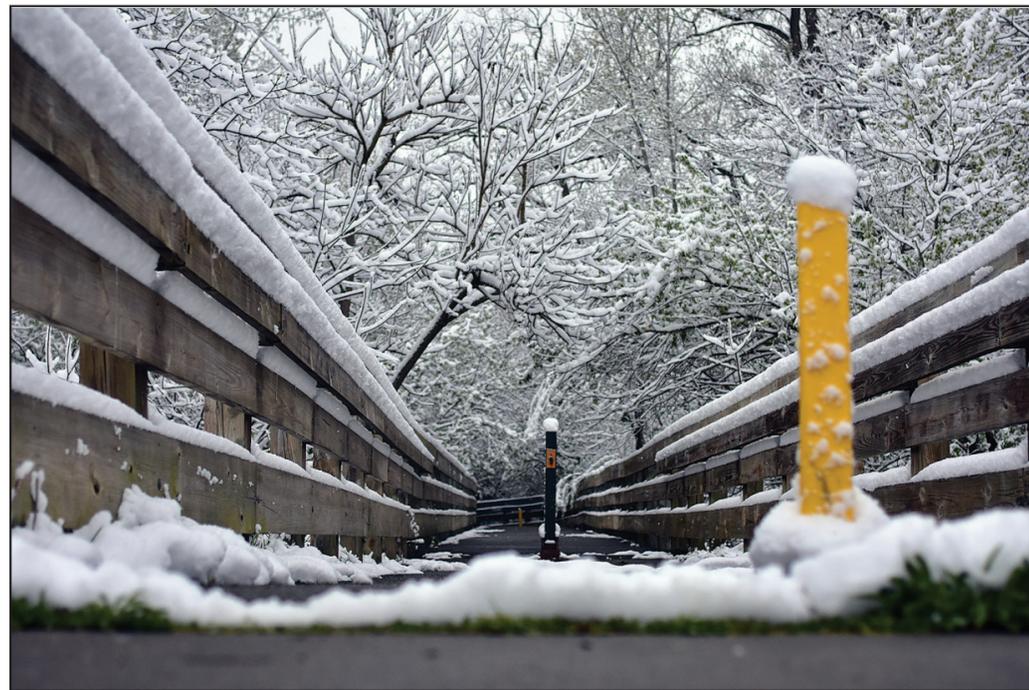
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Does this count as April showers?

Local residents woke up to find more than four inches of snow in some areas of the county Wednesday morning. With spring leaves emerging, the flakes clung to the branches, causing many to droop as shown in the accompanying photos from around the city.

(Journal-Tribune photos by Mac Cordell, Sam Dillon and Kevin Behrens)



Jerome residents continue to decry development



By Kayleen Petrovia
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A group of Brock Road residents pleaded with Jerome Township Trustees Tuesday to slow development in the area.

"Many of the people in the community are standing up and saying, 'Enough,'" said Heather Sargent.

A number of her neighbors also spoke out in response to a rezoning application that would pave the way for a residential development called The Homestead at Scotts Farm.

The trustees ultimately closed the public hearing without rendering a decision, adding the verdict will come at their May 5 meeting.

If the land is rezoned from Rural Residential District (RU) to Planned Develop-

ment District (PD), developers propose bringing 248 single-family homes to a 139.4 acre area on the south side of Brock Road between Hyland-Croy Road and the overpass with U.S. 33.

The development will have 44% open space at a density of 1.79 units per acre.

Bill Westbrook, with T-Bill Development Company, said he has aimed to cooperate with and appease neighbors throughout the planning process.

Westbrook and Gary Smith, of G2 Planning and Design, said moving the development entrance is the most notable change that stemmed from neighbor feedback.

In order to move the entrance on Brock Road closer to U.S. 33, Westbrook said developers had to purchase an additional 8.99 acres of land at a cost of approximately \$500,000. He noted that the changed location was not

required, but "based entirely" on neighbor requests.

Westbrook said current Brock Road residents also expressed concerns surrounding traffic congestion and safety.

In response, he said developers are contributing \$300,000 to create a right-turn lane from Brock Road onto Industrial Parkway before residents move into the new development.

Smith said neighbors also requested a direct connection with Glacier Ridge Metro Park, which the property abuts.

He explained that developers would like to create a direct path, but Metro Parks rejected a request to do so twice, as there are not currently pathways in that area of the park.

Still, Smith said developers will connect a path to the sidewalk system in neighboring development Glacier Pointe,

which then leads into the park.

Since the solution is not exactly what residents requested, Westbrook said developers are also contributing \$50,000 to Harry Wolfe Park.

Nearly all residents opposed to the development admitted that they felt Westbrook was receptive to their comments and said they appreciated his consolations.

Even so, opponents argued that the proposed neighborhood still does not meet Jerome Township development standards.

Safety on local roads, connectivity and the density of the development were among the issues repeatedly raised during public comments.

Sargent said the right-turn lane may alleviate traffic congestion on Industrial Parkway, but said she is worried about

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Relief, caution as Floyd verdict absorbed

NEW YORK (AP) — When the verdicts came in — guilty, guilty and guilty — Lucia Edmonds let out the breath she hadn't even realized she'd been holding.

The relief that the 91-year-old Black woman felt flooding over her when white former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin was convicted for killing George Floyd was hard-earned, coming after a lifetime of seeing other cases end differently.

"I was prepared for the fact that it might not be a guilty verdict because it's happened so many times before," the Washington, D.C., resident said. She recalled the shock of the Rodney King case nearly

three decades ago when four Los Angeles officers were acquitted of beating King, a Black motorist.

"I don't know how they watched the video of Rodney King being beaten and not hold those officers to account," Edmonds said. About the Chauvin verdict, she said, "I hope this means there is a shift in this county, but it's too early for me to make that assumption." Still, she added: "Something feels different."

The same sense of relief, of accountability served and crisis at least temporarily averted, was palpable across the United States on Tuesday after a jury found Chauvin

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