

Council demands that Red Craggs owner complete paving

By Jeanne Davant

Red Craggs Bed & Breakfast's license to operate will be revoked if owner Brett Maddox doesn't pave his driveway and parking lot by June 1.

Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to take the action. Maddox has contracted for chip sealing the driveway and part of the parking lot but said the contractor was unable to meet a March 15 deadline because of bad weather.

The Planning Commission required paving of the driveway and parking lot when Red Craggs' use permit was approved in 2007. Maddox installed gravel, which has drawn complaints from neighbors and has been deemed not to meet city standards.

Maddox said Tuesday he has ordered materials for the chip sealing and anticipates the paving will be completed within 20 days.

He offered to write the city a check that could be held to assure the work is done.

Planning Director Dan Folke said Maddox has submitted a proposal that would leave some parking spaces unpaved.

"My suggestion is that we go with the original requirement to pave the entire area ... rather than change our requirements to meet the applicant's proposal," Folke said.

Council members agreed, and declined Maddox's offer of a check.

"I don't want to get into the paving business," Councilman Matt Carpenter said.

In other business, Council...

- Declined to issue a transient dealer business license to Justin Bailey that would allow him to sell hula hoops on city streets or in parks. Although the city code provides for these licenses, the city has not allowed them on public property. Mayor Marc Snyder said he feared granting the license would "open the floodgates to a plethora of people." Council members Rick Barry and Ingrid Richter voted against the denial. "I think we should extract this from the code if we're not going to follow it," Richter said.

- Heard a report from Finance Director Mike Leslie indicating that sales tax collections to date are up 9.5 percent over the first two months of last year. Leslie said the figure is artificially high because some delinquent taxes have been collected but that overall sales tax revenues "are still trending in positive territory." Taxable sales at shops and stores are up but have remained lower at lodging facilities and restaurants.

- Approved an agreement for on-call accounting and management consulting services with Clifton Gunderson.

- Approved an additional services agreement with Nolte Associates Inc. for water and wastewater system improvements.

- Approved an expansion of el 1 Studio Playschool at 325 Sutherland Place.

- Approved rezoning of several public facilities, including the water tank, water treatment plant, cemetery and public works shop.

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