



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 31, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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ITS BUDGET TIME AGAIN! – City manager / budget officer Bill Grile and finance director Janell K. Howard have been sharpening and resharpening pencils for two weeks now as the final touches are put on the FY 2000-2001 budget recommendations that will be presented to the Budget Committee next month. "Janell has done a fabulous job helping me evaluate options and identify opportunities for this years recommendations," said Grile late yesterday from his office. "I think the Budget Committee will be pleased at the overall sound fiscal health of our organization," adding that, "Except for the Wastewater Fund, we're in very good shape." The Budget Committee will begin its review of the FY 2000-2001 Budget at 7:00 p.m. on April 20th at the Coos Bay Public Library auditorium. The meetings will be taped and broadcast on Channel 14 for viewing by those not able to attend.

FIFTH STREET PLAZA – Lon Samuels, the architect selected by the Urban Renewal Agency to do the design work for the Fifth Street Plaza project, will present his design concept to the Agency next Tuesday night. The Fifth Street Plaza is located in the Central Avenue right-of-way between City Hall and Fourth Street. Lon Samuels' preliminary work on the project's design promises to be quite innovative - a distinctive addition to the downtown area. Plan to attend the Agency's Tuesday night meeting or watch the discussion on Channel 14 – this could be very interesting.

CITY MANAGER EXECUTES AGREEMENT WITH ODOT FOR \$4.8 MILLION – As authorized by the City Council, this week city manager Bill Grile executed contract documents with the Oregon Dept. of Transportation that will result in the City accepting jurisdictional responsibility for 23 lane miles of (formerly) state highways inside the City Limits in exchange for the state transferring \$4.8 million to the City of Coos Bay over the next couple of years. The money will be invested with interest earning used for maintenance of city streets and new capital projects. One of them may involve widening Newmark from Wal-Mart to "The Y." This proposal will be before the City Council next Tuesday evening.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS HOLD BANQUET – The Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters Association recently held their annual awards banquet. Award recipients were as follows: Volunteer Firefighter of the Year: Kyle Evans, Career Firefighter: Jason Wilson, Volunteer Officer: Mike White, Career Officer: Randy Miles, Emergency Medical Technician: Randy Carpenter and Rookie of the Year: Moe Kelsey. Years of service awards were also given out to Sid Collins (5 years), Matt Fare (10 years) and Steve Auer (10 years). Volunteer Firefighter Casey Page retired after 15 years with the department. Congratulations to all award winners!

TSUNAMI SIREN – Just a reminder to Empire area residents that the City's tsunami siren located at Empire Fire Station No. 2 is tested on the last Saturday of each month around noon. The siren goes off three times in the test mode. If there is an actual emergency the three siren series will sound multiple times to alert area residents.

TREE CITY USA – The City of Coos Bay has been selected again for Tree City USA. This is the sixth year in a row that the City has received this award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. To become a Tree

The Friday Update – March 31, 2000

Page 2

City USA, a community must meet four standards: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

WORK AT JOHN TOPITS PARK – The City Parks crew along with Shuttlers Creek inmates worked with John Topits at the park on March 17, 2000 removing down trees and snags that were a possible liability. City crews cut the trees and logs and the inmates removed them to the trails to be hauled off. The area is located to the northwest of the Falcon Cable property and across the trail that leads to the upper lake parking area. John was very pleased with the work performed by all involved.

SUNDAY HOURS FOR BEAVER HILL DISPOSAL SITE – Spring is clean-up time! Beginning April 9th and running through October 15th the Beaver Hill Disposal Site will be open Sunday afternoons from 12:00 noon to 4 p.m. (Except for Easter Sunday, April 23rd) and the Sunday before Memorial Day (May 28th) and the Sunday before Labor Day (September 3rd).

COUNCIL TO REVIEW CABLE SERVICE – As required by City ordinance, the City Council will hold a public hearing on April 4th as part of the performance review process for cable service provided by Charter Communications (Falcon Cable). Comments may be given at the meeting either orally or in writing. The City Council meeting will be held at city hall beginning at 7:30 p.m. A work session will be held at 7 p.m.

BROWNFIELD PUBLIC FORUM – Property owners within the Waterfront Heritage District and other interested parties met with the environmental consulting firm, URS, Corp., on Monday, March 27, 2000 to discuss elements of the upcoming site assessment program. Jeff Wallace, project manager for URS Corp., was joined by Mike McCann of the Department of Environmental Quality, Crystal Shoji of Shoji Planning and Development, and City staff to field questions about the assessment process. Sponsored by an Environmental Protection Agency grant, this work is designed to promote the redevelopment of properties that are currently abandoned or underutilized because of environmental concerns.