



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

April 28, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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BUDGET MEETINGS MOVE FORWARD WITH REVIEW OF POLICE, FIRE AND PUBLIC WORKS FUNDING REQUESTS

– The Coos Bay Budget Committee met again Tuesday evening and moved along with its work, reviewing requests for funding in the Police, Fire and Community Services departments. Items "red-lined" for closer examination later include recommended vehicle purchases for both public safety departments, the city manager's recommendation for an information technology manager, and funding for streets repair. Also red-lined is a recommended 2% salary adjustment for the city attorney, who has been compensated at \$80 per hour -- including benefits. A proposal to purchase a small paver to help the City streets crew with small street repair jobs drew focused questions from a local contractor and some Committee members, and the staff welcomes the opportunity to show that purchasing the item is in the public's best interest. "The paver will be used for very small jobs," said city manager Bill Grile this week, "and not for larger ones that will be contracted out to private contractors as has been our practice over the years." "We appreciate our responsibility to explain, defend and justify any budget recommendations we make to show, beyond any shadow of doubt, that all are in the public's interest," he added.

Coos Bay encourages public input in all phases of the annual budget process. Information about the budget recommendations under review is available online at www.coosbay.org. This includes city and urban renewal budget messages, line item detail and a PowerPoint slide show that was presented to the Budget Committee to kick off this year's meetings. The Committee meets again on May 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Coos Bay Public Library, with public attendance encouraged. Copies of the budget are also available for inspection at the Library and at the Finance Department in City Hall.

BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS – City officials were the special guests at Madison School for the Back to School Program on Wednesday of this week. Each official was assigned a student guide for the event which included lunch and a tour of the school facility. Several members of the City Council were in attendance as well as the city manager. "I'd be remiss by not commenting on the outstanding Back to School presentations city officials were privileged to see this week," said City Manager Bill Grile. The City was also represented at Milner Crest School Monday morning with the city manager attending their Back to School Program. Congratulations to principal Tom Leahy for the innovations his grant-funded program has brought to Milner Crest School program has brought to Milner Crest. Three cheers for Coos Bay Public Schools!!

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT SIDEWALKS? – We hope you'll visit www.coosbay.org <<http://www.coosbay.org>> and give us some feedback about sidewalks. Here's an interactive survey question that seeks citizen responses: "Like many other places, by ordinance and city charter the responsibility for maintaining public sidewalks vests solely with the private property owner. The city notifies property owners when complaints are received about hazardous sidewalks, and enforcement action is taken when repairs are not completed in a timely manner. Did you know this?"

Again, thanks for taking a moment to visit www.coosbay.org <<http://www.coosbay.org>> and select the answer that best fits for you. We appreciate your feedback!

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS – Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors will be hosting Business After Hours Mixer on Thursday, May 4th at Century 21, 605 North Bayshore Drive 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available from the Chamber of Commerce [269-0215], tickets in advance are \$4 per person or five for \$15 and \$5 per person at the door. All interested parties are invited to attend.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ATTENDS HOME SHOW – Fire department personnel will be attending the annual Home Builders Association Show this weekend. The fire department will be demonstrating the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Fire Safety House. The "house" is constructed on a trailer that allows it to travel all over the state promoting home fire safety. Stop by with the kids and see how fire safe your home is.

OUTDOOR BURNING – Nice spring days mean it is time to get that yard back in shape! Outdoor burning is allowed within the city limits of Coos Bay without a written permit. Yard debris may be burned in an open fire on the ground and paper/cardboard can be burned in a burn barrel with a screen on top. For more information on the burning regulations please call the Coos Bay Fire Department at 269-1191.

CABLE CAR CLASSIC TROLLEY TAKES A RIDE IN THE BAY AREA – Heads turned, jaws dropped, and smiles flashed when Don Van Hees from Metro West rolled into town with his flashy Cable Car Classic Trolley. The trolley was on his way to South Coast Business Employment Corporation for a rendezvous with Sue Holmes, Public Transit Manager. I've learned that developing a transit system takes the three C's: creativity, collaboration, and cash! After hearing Bill Grile, Coos Bay City Manager, say that projects linked to tourism had the best chance of financial support I started exploring the tourism connection. We have an existing need for expanded service to the Charleston and Barview areas along Cape Arago Highway. I've received phone calls from business owners, citizens, and the Port of Coos Bay asking for regular bus service.

Determined to spread the cost of operation as thinly as I could, I started by constructing "have" and "have not" lists. The have's were good: Coos Bay Waterfront, RV parks, motels, casino, antiques and collectible shops, Pony Village, Charleston merchants, Sunset Beach/Bastendorff Park, Sunset Golf Course, and Shore Acres. The "have not" list was short, but significant. We don't have motels that are located on the beach. Bandon does. Florence does. How could I bring people here? What if I had transportation that took people from their "motel door to the ocean shore, and more . . . " Not just any transportation, but something with a broad-based appeal. Enter the Trolley Car concept. Not only do we have a potential customer base in North Bend/Coos Bay, but the RV Park in the Charleston harbor, as well as the marina and the state and county campgrounds are full of people that could board the Trolley for a ride to the Coos Bay Waterfront, downtown North Bend's Antique and Collectible Shops, the Casino and/or Pony Village.

Funds raised by the motel tax are a logical source of revenue. Funds earmarked for Economic Development need to support this! Advertising is another potential source and hopefully, benevolent gifts. Fares will generate some revenue, but not enough. It makes little sense for Coos Bay and North Bend to develop tourism projects independent of each other. I have no doubt that the Trolley Car could be successful. This project would link together the Cities, the County, the Port, our business community and our tourists. The price tag is big, \$120,000 - \$130,000 for a vehicle that can seat 26 people and stand eight. However, the potential return is much bigger. We can create a tourist attraction that helps to meet the transportation needs of our local citizens (and have fun doing it!). *[submitted by Sue Holmes, South Coast Business Corp]*

LABOR TRENDS – Non-farm employment in Oregon rose by nearly 10,000 in February. Nearly all of the net increase occurred in non-manufacturing. Increases in education, public and private, helped boost employment in government (+6,800) services (+3,700). Retail trade jobs decreased by 2,600, primarily due to layoffs in stores that had boosted hiring for the holiday season. The greatest retail reductions occurred among department stores, clothing outlets, and non-store retailing (mail-order, e-mail, phone orders, etc.). Business services declined by 800 over the month and temporary help firms also laid off workers in response to seasonal declines in retailing. Construction employment rose statewide by 1,200, in spite of layoffs in residential building. Manufacturing employment rose by just 200, overall. The largest gains were 300 jobs in transportation equipment and 200 jobs in electronic equipment. This offset a reduction of 200 in canning and preserving. Over the year, manufacturing increased by 2,100 jobs. A large increase in transportation equipment offset reduction in other sectors, including the nondurable paper, textiles, chemicals, and plastics industries. Losses also took place over the year in durable goods sectors such as sawmills and mobile homes in the wood products industry, primary metals, machinery, including computers, and instruments.

(Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)

LITTER PATROL – The litter patrol finished the litter pick-up along Highway 101 on the south end of town on Monday. They have been working along Ocean Boulevard starting at Newmark Avenue & Ocean Boulevard intersection and working their way east.

REPORT ON DESIGN FOR FIFTH STREET PLAZA – The City Council recently approved design plans submitted by Architect Lon Samuels for development of the Fifth Street Plaza. The following report was submitted by the architect for inclusion in The Friday Update.

The Plaza, and particularly the fountain, is a major investment in our City. The Plaza Project will not be "built-out" completely in Phase 1, so here are my thoughts on how to keep it developing properly: The concept for the Plaza is a "gathering" place. Rather than having just a place to "walk-through", I would like to see the space used by a variety of people. By creating an open area, the City will be able to bring in various groups, (ie: Fun Festival, Blackberry Arts Festival, etc.), plus the fountain will attract "visitors" to the downtown area, "to see what the fountain is doing today". In order to carry through with this concept, I propose the City create a group to oversee the development in the Plaza, such as "Friends of the Fountain". They could oversee the development of the following: (a) "Ceremony" area. This will be for special events, awards, etc. (b) Dedication Area: This is for plaques, engraved bricks, etc. for special "events". (c) Commemorative Area: This is for plaques, etc. for special "people". (d) Art Works: Need a space for sculptures...this could be one added every 10 years or so at special events. This could extend from the Plaza to the new Historical Museum and to the Art Museum also. Need a space for Murals...I would like to see some "points of interest" around the county included in this...maybe on the fountain windbreak (as a brick mural) or painted on Skeltons. If you look out the front doors of City Hall you will see the side of the Hall Building...On one of the walls facing City Hall I could see a giant mural of Pre with his classic "breaking the tape" pose. On the other wall facing City Hall could be other runners who competed against him...chasing him...Seattle has Gary Payton 50' tall...we will have Pre. (e) Citizen of the Year Circle: This could be where awards are presented or special events are started. I would like to see the city give special recognition to employees, citizens, businesses, best new building in town, best landscaped business, etc. Also, I would like to start a list of Mayors, City Councilors and City Managers who have directed this City... lets give some history to this town. (f) Dedication Plaque: I will include a spot to mount a dedication plaque for the fountain and the Plaza. (g) Fountains: If this is successful, future fountains might be proposed to continue the excitement and downtown character. I have seen a 40" diamete granite ball supported on a water stream that can be moved by a child. It is amazing. (h) Flowers, trees, etc. that are proposed to be added to the Plaza could be reviewed through this organization. (i) Benches: Will these be dedicated to individuals, organizations, etc.? Or can someone buy a bench and dedicated it??? (j) Donors? Now that someone has provided a substantial donation to the Museum with few requirements, except to recognize their husband with a plaque, I think we could assume that there are others who would like to do something similar. (k) Timeline: Could a timeline be developed in the brick walkways that shows the relative time for the development of Coos Bay, Mayflower landed, Moon walk, etc.? This could extend from the Plaza to the Museum...something for visitors to follow on each side of the street. (l) Historic Monuments: As you know, we are using brick strips in the sidewalks to provide a way of running electrical conduit from light to light. This also enhances our idea about "creating special elements" in different neighborhoods. Why not embed "markers" designating historic names of buildings, events, etc. throughout the city? This could provide a way of starting a self-guided walking tour using a brochure with map.