



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

December 22, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS – The library and city hall offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25th and 26th for the Christmas Holiday and on Monday, January 1st for New Year's Day. The City Council and staff wish you and your family happy holidays.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP - The Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters Association will once again be picking up Christmas trees. Pickup dates will be December 30th and January 6th. Christmas trees will be picked up within the city limits of Coos Bay or you can drop your tree off at Fire Station No. 2 at 189 S. Wall. Canned food donations will be accepted and envelopes will also be dropped off for donations. If you would like your tree picked up please call the Fire Department at 269-1191 to leave your address.

CITY CLEARED OF UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE ALLEGATION -- In what is expected to be the final word in a dispute that has lingered on for about a year and a half, this week the Oregon Court of Appeals upheld a ruling by the Oregon Employment Relations Board (ERB) completely clearing the City of Coos Bay of charges brought by the Coos Bay Firefighters Association alleging the City had committed an "Unfair Labor Practice." The Firefighters Association had charged wrongdoings by city manager Bill Grile and Fire Chief Stan Gibson in the steps taken to reorganize the Fire Department according to Chief Gibson's plan. ERB had ruled against the Firefighters, but the Court of Appeals upheld the employment board's ruling without issuing a detailed written opinion. Chief Gibson's reorganization plan is now clear to proceed. The city will be seeking relief for its legal expenses in the prolonged dispute. City Attorney Randall Tosh represented the City before the Court.

CITY SIDEWALKS REPAIRED - The City of Coos Bay's street crew, along with Bob Vanderveldon Construction, has been repairing sidewalks around town that abut City property. The last section of sidewalk in front of the Downtown Fire Hall was completed on Tuesday. Ordinance #69 requires the property owner to repair sidewalks abutting their property. The abutting property owner is liable to any person injured because of failure by the owner to maintain the sidewalk in good repair and safe condition. The city is pleased to have completed this project and repair sidewalks prior to them becoming a safety hazard for its citizens.

FULL STEAM AHEAD - Plans to facilitate the construction of a historic railway museum along the waterfront moved forward Tuesday as Coos Bay City Councilors enacted an ordinance which will allow the Urban Renewal Agency to acquire property for the proposed project. The South Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historic Society is spearheading the endeavor, which will feature the 1922 Locomotive 104 and several other vintage rail cars. The Historic Society envisions the addition of a depot to the complex with a short run between Coos Bay and North Bend. This highly visible attraction along Highway 101 will draw tourists and local railroad enthusiasts of all ages to the downtown waterfront. The Railroad Historic Society is actively seeking grant monies and private donations to help finance their dream.

EASTSIDE BOAT RAMP GETS MORE LIGHTS - The entrance road to the Eastside Boat Ramp will finally get the two remaining lights that were planned when the road was constructed. The light poles were salvaged from the Downtown Street Scape and Parking Lot Lighting Project. Three light poles were installed during the original road construction and the other two light poles bases were constructed and wired ready to have a pole set at a later date. The new light pole will have new wire and new bulbs installed during the placement.

CENTRAL AVENUE STORM WATER OUTFALL OIL - Monitoring of the possibility of continued oil entering the bay at the Central Avenue storm water outfall has become a new city responsibility. The US Coast Guard determined that the most likely source for the occasional oil entering the bay was oil sitting on top of the water table in downtown Coos Bay and filtering into the storm water system after heavy rain events. The city has hired Foss Environmental to place a 100-foot boom around the outfall. City staff from the Fire Department will monitor the area daily and call in Foss Environmental to clean up and dispose of any oil entering the bay. Community Services staff is working with the Department of Environmental Quality to establish the parameters for future activities. City staff is extremely appreciative of the efforts the US Coast Guard made for quick resolution of the immediate situation, and assistance with transition to city responsibility. If you have any questions, please contact Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs at 269-8918.

AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXT OF LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE 93 FOR EMPIRE DESIGN REVIEW - On November 14, 2000, the Planning Commission recommended approval of amendments to the text of Land Development Ordinance 93 to create and implement architectural design review for the portion of the Empire district extending west and abutting Newmark Avenue from Ocean Boulevard (the "Y") to Empire Boulevard. The purpose of the design goals and standards is to evoke the appearance of the prevailing architectural styles of buildings, as they might have existed if constructed in the Empire area during the mid-to-late 1800s.