



# The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

April 20, 2001

**CITY OF COOS BAY**

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**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETINGS HAVE BEGUN** - Last evening the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency and City of Coos Bay Budget Committees met for the first of their annual meetings. The same fourteen individuals comprise both committees. After a short discussion, the Urban Renewal Agency approved City Manager Bill Grile's \$5.2 million recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2001-2002. The Agency Board, comprised of the seven members of the Coos Bay City Council, will now review the committees recommendation and adopt the annual budget before July 1st, as required by Oregon Law.

The City of Coos Bay Budget Committee then convened, elected Roger Gould as its chair and Jon Eck as its vice-chair then began its work for the season. Typically, four sessions are needed to review the city manager's recommended budget for the coming fiscal year. City manager Bill Grile delivered his annual "budget message" in the Coos Bay Public Library using PowerPoint – a multimedia slide show illustrating the composition of the budget and funding amounts for various funds and programs. For FY 2001-2002, Grile is recommending a \$21,716,898 budget for all funds, including reserves. The good news, he said, is that for next year and probably the year following, the City can be expected to be in reasonably solid financial shape. Three years out, however, brings cause for concern. This is principally due to the fact that under Ballot Measure 50, the City's property tax revenues can be expected to increase at just over 3% each year, which is about half of what property tax revenues had been doing prior to the new law. The picture for next year is not all roses, however. The city manager's recommended budget proposes drawing down the General Fund's carry over (i.e., planned savings) in order to meet priority expenses, and to significantly draw down the Wastewater Fund's reserves in order to continue investing in the city's infrastructure. The recommended budget also proposes a 13.4% wastewater rate hike to provide funds to continue investing in collection lines and pump station system improvements. The increase is not necessary for operations and management. Tuesday night the City Council approved a new ten year agreement with OMI, Inc. that provides a freeze in the contract cost for next year. With OMI as the City's wastewater manager, Coos Bay's operations and maintenance costs will have increased a mere 1% a year over six years. Incredible performance!

Budget meetings resume next Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Coos Bay Public Library, and then again on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The meetings are open to the public, and public input is encouraged. Sadly, not one single member of the general public attended last evening's session. "I guess I should be pleased that no one attended to complain about anything," remarked City Manager Grile from his office this morning. "But all the same, we value public input and encourage folks to become informed and to get involved," he added. The city manager's budget messages and complete budget recommendations for Coos Bay and the Urban Renewal Agency are available for viewing and download at [www.coosbay.org](http://www.coosbay.org).

**FIREFIGHTER ATTENDS ACADEMY** - Oregon Regional Hazardous Materials Team member Firefighter Bill Johnson returned this week from a two week class at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The class, "Hazardous Materials Operations and Site Practices", detailed the various aspects of hazardous materials mitigation. The National Fire Academy's training programs are sponsored by FEMA.

**EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS AWARENESS** - Don't miss this opportunity to attend the free awareness programs being presented on Saturday, April 21, 2001 at the Coos Bay Library. The programs

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are sponsored by Coos County Emergency Management, American Red Cross and the Southwestern Oregon Public Safety Association and will include information everyone should know in the event of such a disaster in our area. The programs will be held from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

**YOU ASK WHAT KIND OF A WEEK IT WAS?** - It was a week like all weeks, filled with those events that alter and illuminate our lives, and we were there.

**BROWNFIELD UPDATE** - Many eyes are focused on the redevelopment of North Front Street as various programs join forces. Summer paving, Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad track repair, the creation of design standards and modified zoning all prepare the way for those property owners who will continue with the environmental assessment process. With phase 1 ESA's behind them, participants of the EPA Brownfield Pilot Program are now ready to enter phase 1 assessment activities. These will include site sampling and testing to determine the extent of any contamination that could hinder future development plans. Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Division of State Lands, and the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department all offer advice and funding to this program's success.

**FRONT STREET** - On Tuesday evening, the City Council continued the hearing on the proposed rezone for the North Front Street area after hearing public testimony from Coos County Commissioner John Griffith and area citizens. The Council will consider property development requirements for industrial uses on the Central Dock area at the next hearing scheduled for **May 1, 2000**. If you have any questions, contact Laura Barron at the Community Services Department (269-8918).

**SPORTSMAN PEDWAY PROJECT** - The old Sportsman Building came tumbling down this week with the start of Sportsman Pedway Project. The building was razed on Wednesday with the debris hauling consuming the remainder of the week. A big surprise on Friday was the discovery of an underground storage tank. City staff will be contacting the appropriate officials to resolve the discovery. The final project includes a concrete pedestrian way with trees, planters, benches, and period lighting. The project will open up an area between the Broadway businesses and the parking lots on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. General contractor Bracelin and Yeager anticipates substantial completion date of Memorial Day weekend.

**BAYSHORE THEATER DISTRICT STREET SCAPE PROJECT** - The Bayshore Theater District project is scheduled to start on Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> with work on removing the old sidewalks along Bayshore Drive between Curtis Avenue and Anderson Avenue. New sidewalks, period lighting and the city's signature brickwork will be installed on Bayshore, Curtis and Anderson. Johnson Rock Products anticipates a completion date of mid-June. This project will make a big impact on the traveling public as it enters the downtown core district.

**BAYSHORE STREET SCAPE PROJECT** - The Bayshore Street Scape Project is ahead of schedule according to general contractor Bracelin and Yeager with the new concrete sidewalks in place and the irrigation in. The lights arrived this week and subcontractor Reese Electric is assembling those to prepare for installation. Once the power is hooked up the poles can be set and powered up. Once the grass and trees are in place this project will make a statement to public about the beautification of the Coos Bay and the Urban Renewal Agency's goal to do so.

**THE CITY OF GREEN** - Coos Bay Mayor Joe Benetti was presented with a Tree City USA flag at Tuesday's Council meeting by Jim Young of the State Forestry Department. The flag commemorates the City being named as a 2000 Tree City USA. This is the seventh year Coos Bay has received this national recognition. It is representative of the great resources we have in Mingus Park and John Topits park. Watch for the flag to fly periodically throughout the year.

**OMI PRESENTS PLAQUE TO THE CITY** - OMI Project Manager Gary Young presented a plaque to the City Council and Mayor on Tuesday to thank the City for its partnership in OMI's efforts to obtain the Malcolm Baldrige award. The award is presented to companies nation wide that typify performance excellence and quality achievement. Since 1987, 41 organizations have earned the award. OMI is this year's only winner in the service category, and the first winner ever in the water and wastewater industry. "OMI realizes that its success is built upon the relationships with the cities in which we work. We present this plaque to represent and celebrate the strong partnership we have in Coos Bay," says Project Manager Gary Young.

**OMI CONTRACT EXTENSION IS APPROVED** - In other action at the Council meeting involving OMI, the City Council directed the City Manager to sign a 10-year extension to the city's contract with OMI for waste water and storm water operations and maintenance. "I couldn't be more pleased with the services we have received from OMI in the last five years, and am pleased to bring a ten-year contract to the Council. This contract allows for NO INCREASE in the base fees for OMI for year 6 of our relationship," said City Manager Bill Grile.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT APRIL ANNIVERSARIES** - Police Department members celebrating anniversary dates with the police department in April include the following: Clerical Specialist Melanie Johnston, 3 years; 9-1-1 Dispatcher Koren Fare, 6 years; Communications Supervisor Tia Akers, 15 years; Sergeant Kevin Hedgepeth, 24 years; Corporal Dave Main and Detective Larry Mauer, 28 years, and Chief of Police Chuck Knight with 35 years. Congratulations!