



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 19, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420

(541) 269-8912

See us at <http://www.coosbay.org>

Email the city manager at bgrile@ucinet.com

FY 1999-2000 BUDGET PREPARATION – Finance director Janell Howard and city manager Bill Grile have now all but completed meetings with department heads and next year’s “recommended” budget is coming together. “I’m pleased to be able to say at this time that our carry-over will allow us to pretty much maintain a status quo budget for still another year while increasing our General Fund reserves,” said Grile. “I’m also looking at ways to step up our current maintenance program without recommending a street serial levy next fiscal year.” he added. No layoffs are being considered at this point.

The FY 1999-2000 budget will be delivered to the Budget Committee on April 13th, with budget committee meetings scheduled for April 22, 27 and 29, and May 6th.

FOURTH AND ANDERSON and ANDERSON ALTERNATIVE – Kudos to Brad Carlson and our streets crew. They were up at 4:00 a.m. Tuesday morning completing the scheduled improvements to the intersection and 4th and Anderson. Check it out! This should have been done at the very beginning of the conversion. Staff will have a recommendation to the City Council on April 6th regarding the two-way alternatives for Anderson between 4th and Bayshore. This week the City finally received an updated recommendation from Phill Worth with Kittelson & Associates, presenting his refined recommendations for Anderson Avenue. These will be incorporated into the staff report that will be given to the City Council for consideration on April 6th.

URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY EXPRESSES INTENT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY FOR FRONT STREET REDEVELOPMENT – Tuesday evening the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency adopted Resolution 99-1, “declaring the necessity and purpose of acquiring and authorizing the purchase of certain real property located in Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon.” The resolution declares “that the Urban Renewal Agency for the City of Coos Bay should and must acquire, and shall take all steps necessary to acquire, certain real property owned by Everett A. Bachman Trust and more particularly described as Lots 5, 6, 9 and 10, Block 6, Plat of North Marshfield, Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon.” This property is more commonly known as the site of former businesses, “Bay Cities Glass” and “The Shakemill Tavern.” Details about the use of the property will follow, and relate to implementation of the Front Street Master Plan. Stay tuned.

MARSHFIELD CHEER TEAM PARTICIPATED IN CHAMPIONSHIP – The Marshfield Cheer Team recently competed at the UCA West Coast Championships at Disneyland and placed 3rd in the Small Varsity division (12 teams). In all, 10 states were represented with a total of 107 teams participating. This is the first national competition that MHS Cheer Team has been involved in and they represented our school, community and State proudly. Way to go Cheer Team!

FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES RESCUE BOAT FROM COAST GUARD – The Fire Department took possession of a 19 foot rigid hull inflatable Zodiac Hurricane rescue boat. The boat was purchased through the federal equipment purchasing program. The program provides surplus government equipment to state and local agencies. The boat, built in 1990, is powered by twin 70 hp outboard motors and is capable of operation in rough water conditions. The department will use the boat for rescue operations and boater assistance within the bay, sloughs and Coos River.

BURN TO LEARN PROVIDES FIREFIGHTER TRAINING – Last Tuesday, firefighters practiced fire suppression techniques on a condemned house on South 7th street. The owner of the house arranged with the department to burn down the house in a controlled manner. This method of demolition is beneficial to both the property owner and the fire department. The owner saves on demolition costs and the fire department has the chance to introduce new firefighters to fire behavior.

SECOND EDITION OF FOCUS ON THE AIR – The second edition of the City of Coos Bay's community program, Focus, began airing this week on the government access channel. Featured speakers with Mayor Verger are school superintendent Dr. Giles Parker and teacher Dale Inskip. Items discussed were the use of school resource officers, school safety, and students at risk.

MEETING WITH STATE STAFF – Four members of the Oregon Economic Development Department's staff met last week with City Manager Bill Grile and other City staff persons. Chris Claflin, the Economic Development Department's South Coast Regional officer, arranged the meeting with the objective of discussing how his Department's staff and resources might assist the City of Coos Bay in achieving at least some of its adopted goals. State staff representatives from Engineering, Grants Management and International Trade sat in on the three hour meeting which concluded with an extended walking tour of Front Street. The meeting was considered a great success in having the state representatives achieve a "hands-on/real-time" understanding of the development potential in the Front Street area. Once again, Chris Claflin, the state Department's local representative, has served the City of Coos Bay very well in putting this meeting together.

FRONT STREET ZONING – An important element contributing to the development potential of the Front Street area is a change in the zoning designation for some properties immediately adjacent to the water. The details of accomplishing that change are technical and convoluted, involving the state's Department of Land Conservation and Development as well as the City of Coos Bay. Last week, City staff and staff from the Department of Land Conservation and Development met to assure each other on the position each would take when the City presents its case to the Land Conservation and Development Commission in Salem this Friday, March 19th. The City is fortunate to have the assistance of the firm of Johnson & Sherton in making this presentation to the Commission. This assistance is being made possible, in part, through resources identified to the City by Chris Claflin of the state's Economic Development Department.

TENNIS COURT CONVERSION – Look for more parking next to the softball field in Mingus Park; the Coos Bay Council at the March 16th meeting approved a recommendation from the Parks Commission to turn tennis court "B" into a parking lot. This came about due to the cost to maintain this court because of the low area that it is built in. The court was resurfaced just three years ago and is ready to be redone. The work would have to address resurfacing the court and address the water which weeps up under the new surface causing a bubbling effect. The cost of these repairs was considered prohibitive by the Parks Commission. The City Council agreed, but directed that alternative sites for a replacement court be examined.

SPRING BRUSH PICK-UP – The spring brush pick-up has been scheduled for April 26th to May 14th. As in previous pick-ups, the City is requesting residents to call in their address (269-8918) after 5 p.m. and leave your address on the answering machine. Please call in before April 22nd. Brush should be placed along the curb or edge of the road for easy pick-up. The City can not come onto private property to pick-up brush due to liability issues. Have your brush ready to go by 6 a.m. on April 26th; the City will make only one pass through the City. Do not place brush around water meters, retaining walls, or other structures that could be damaged during the pick-up. Remember, no plastic bags are accepted.

DAVIS CARNIVAL COMING TO TOWN - The Davis Carnival of the Northwest will be coming to town between May 4th and May 10th. The Coos Bay City Council accepted a proposal from Larry Goodman of Bay Broadcasting to use the parking lot between 2nd Ct. and 2nd St. and north of Curtis. Since the parking lot was just overlaid, a bond will be posted to cover any damage that may be done.

TREASURES OF OREGON – The Oregon Historical Society along with the Coos County Historical Society is bringing the “Treasures of Oregon” to Coos Bay on March 21st & 22nd. The exhibits are housed in a 45 foot semi-trailer and will be at the north lot of Chamber of Commerce building in downtown. For exact times and more information on the exhibits call the Coos County Historical Society at 756-6320.

STAPLES STORE -- FINAL ORDER – The City Council approved the Final Order for appeal of the Site Plan and Architectural Review for the Staples Store on Newmark Avenue. This approval action, taken at the Council’s March 16, 1999 meeting will allow work on construction of the store to proceed following a required 21 day review period. The Final Order resulted from the City Council’s consideration of the appeal at the Council’s March 2, 1999 meeting.

WASTEWATER RATE STUDY – The City Council held a work session on Thursday evening this week to review the progress of work on an analysis of the City’s wastewater rates. Mr. Marv Winer, senior economist with Brown & Caldwell, the firm performing the analysis for the City, presented an overview of the process his firm is using to develop information for the City Council’s use. That process includes analysis of the City’s Capital Improvement Program, current operation and maintenance costs, system design capacity, customer/user profiles and current and projected system use. Mr. Winer indicated that his firm’s work on the data-gathering and analysis portion of the overall study was very nearly complete; the next step to be the development of alternatives for the Council’s consideration.

CITY RECEIVES NEW CARISSA FLAG AND LIFE RING – Last night New Carissa representative Bill Milwee came to a special City Council meeting and presented Mayor Verger with the wind-tattered and oil-burned flag from the now legendary beached, torched and sunken vessel. He called this "the prize artifact," and we'd have to agree! The flag was recovered from New Carissa on March 2nd, and will become one of the cornerstones of a new maritime museum planned for Front Street. Milwee also gave the city a life ring from the vessel, inscribed with the words: "MV NEW CARISSA PANAMA." One of New Carissa's two life boat's has also been pledged to the City.

Courtesy of BLM, you can view an excellent photo of the stern section and a partially burned life boat at <http://www.or.blm.gov/coosbay/images/sternview.jpg>. New Carissa's flag and life ring will occupy a secure shelf in the Finance Department's vault at City Hall until a proper and suitable public display format is chosen.