



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 26, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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MAYOR'S 4TH OF JULY ESSAY CONTEST – Announcing the Mayor's 4th of July Essay Contest "*What the 4th of July Means to Me*". All elementary and middle school students are eligible. The essay can be of any length and can be either written or typed. Please make sure the writer's name, address, age, school, grade, and telephone number are included in the entry. Winners must be present at the celebration to read their essay and receive their award. Entries must be received at Coos Bay City Hall by Monday, June 21st at 5 p.m. Entries may be mailed to "July 4th Celebration", City Manager's Office, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420. For more information call 269-8912. Prizes: One \$50 US Savings Bond for the winner in grades 1, 2 or 3; one \$50 US Savings Bond for the winner in grades 4 or 5, and one \$50 US Savings Bond for the winner in grades 6, 7 or 8.

The July 4th Celebration in Mingus Park will be held on Saturday, July 3rd beginning with the Mayor's Firecracker Run at 10 a.m. The event will begin at 11 a.m. with the salute to the flag and continue with family activities and entertainment through 4 p.m.

COOS COUNTY REPUBLICANS "PASS THE TEST" – Err ... the "urban renewal pop quiz," that is. Last evening city manager Bill Grile and finance director Janell K. Howard, CPA, made a presentation about urban renewal and tax increment financing to the Coos County Republicans Central Committee. Thirty-two folks in attendance had some fun taking Bill and Janell's "pop quiz," which provided 25 "true or false" questions about urban renewal in general, with specifics about Coos Bay urban renewal issues and projects, etc. To try your hand at the quiz, e-mail the city manager <bgrile@ucinet.com> and request a copy of it. He'll e-mail you one with answers provided. A copy of a short publication entitled, "Urban Renewal in Oregon: A Summary," was produced by the pair and will also be e-mailed to interested parties upon request.

"We're always pleased when given the opportunity to meet with local groups to discuss urban renewal and other matters of interest to our community," said the city manager. "Just let us know when your group meets and city staff will do its best to accommodate your schedule," he added.

THANK YOU SOUTH COAST LEGISLATORS! – It was good news to learn that the Oregon House has passed a bill that would require the Dept. of Land Conservation and Development and Oregon Dept. of Transportation to secure approval of their respective appointed commissions before allowing agency staff members to appeal the land use decisions made by local elected officials. Representatives Lehman and Messerle both supported the bill. Thanks! And thanks in advance to Sen. Tarno. There is no question at all about his support for measure such as this. Hooray!

LOCAL BUILDING CODES PROGRAMS UNDER ATTACK – According to the League of Oregon Cities: "This session, a coalition of various construction industry organizations, along with the state Building Codes Division (BCD), is questioning whether or not cities should have authority to offer local building code programs and to locally manage those programs.

The general theme offered by these critics of the current framework for building code administration is that the proliferation of local programs has prevented "consistency" and "uniformity" under the statewide code. There are complaints about timeliness, especially for plans reviews, and allegations of "cherry picking" are lodged against cities. In addition, BCD Administrator Joe Brewer has stated that he believes the level of problems in local programs warrants changing the system. Two bills presently before the Senate reflect these

issues.”

Our experience at the City of Coos Bay is that local contractors are quite satisfied with the services they have been receiving. In fact, that’s why they helped pass an amendment to the City Charter a couple years ago to finance the local program through user fees, thus ensuring continuance of local inspection and plan review services.

“PEACE TEAM” MEETING NUMBER FIVE – The City of Coos Bay’s new “union/management committee” – dubbed “the Peace Team” – met yesterday as scheduled for the fifth time. Only Clint Haynes from the streets crew was present to speak for represented employees. Finance director Janell Howard, CPA, community services director Bill Finney and police chief Chuck Knight were present for management, along with city manager Bill Grile. “I was disappointed we didn’t get a better turnout from our bargaining unit members, but we’ll keep offering these meetings as a way to ensure that communication is flowing well from top to bottom, and vice versa, throughout the organization,” said city manager Bill Grile after yesterday’s meeting. Most of the session was spent discussing urban renewal and taking the “pop quiz” given later in the day to the Coos Co. Republican Central Committee.

COOS BAY WASTEWATER PLANTS RECEIVE RECOGNITION – Coos Bay wastewater plants will be featured in the plant profile section of the *Water Environmental Federation* magazine. This is a national publication sent to every wastewater facility in the United States. The article was submitted by Coos Bay’s OMI Manager Gary Young – Great PR for Coos Bay.

COOS BAY LIBRARY CLOSED DURING REMODELING – The library closed on Monday, March 22nd for three weeks while the children's department is moved into new quarters and staff work areas are temporarily relocated to the newly constructed meeting rooms. When the library opens again to the public on Monday, April 12th a new wall will have been built through what is now the circulation desk, walls at the back of the existing library will have been removed, and services will be available in both new and old portions of the building. Then in June, the library will experience closures off and on until final completion of the project at the end of the summer. The grand opening will feature a renovated library with a sparkling new building addition!

During the three week closure from March 22nd through April 11th books and other library materials other than videos will be due daily after regular loan periods and may be returned to the outside book drop located near the parking lot. All videos should be returned to the library before the March 22 closure. Materials may also be returned to other area libraries. Library users who need to renew materials or place holds on items will need to do so through another library. Coos Bay materials will be available for check-out through holds placed at other libraries.

Copies of tax forms will be available to pick up in the lobby of Coos Bay City Hall during the library closure as well as at North Bend Public Library and Southwestern Oregon Community College Library. Both of those libraries will have access to books of reproducible state and federal tax forms and can photocopy the forms for a small charge.

MINGUS PARK POOLHOUSE BOND SALE – The City’s finance director, Janell Howard, closed the \$500,000 bond sale on the Mingus Park poolhouse Friday, March 19, 1999. This was a private bond sale with Security Bank at an interest rate of 3.8% with final payment in June 2002. The bond was approved by taxpayers in the November 3, 1998 election and will cost taxpayers approximately \$0.35 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

FIRE DEPARTMENT HOLDS ANNUAL BANQUET – The Fire Department held their annual awards banquet last weekend. Besides the great meal and fun had by all, awards were presented to the following firefighters: Career Firefighter of the Year: Mike Seldon; Volunteer Firefighter of the Year: Chuck Hanners; EMT of the Year: Matt Fare; Officer of the Year: Randy Booker; and Rookie of the Year: Jay Ringo.

Awards were also presented to the World and KCBY for their continuing support of the department. Congratulations to all recipients!

POLICE DEPARTMENT CANINE PROGRAM – The police department will be seeking donations to fund two police utility dogs as it seeks to revitalize the police department canine program. The department developed an award winning canine program in 1975, but the program was later disbanded as a result of several factors including funding issues. Chief Knight is excited about rebuilding the program with donated funds and has given Officers Rob Scoville and Andy Osborn approval to begin a fund-raising effort for the program.

POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT – Three vacancies are coming closer to being filled in the Police Department. This week two individuals were given conditional offers of employment. Background investigations are continuing on a third applicant. Upon completion of background investigations applicants are required to pass a physical and psychological examination. All three vacancies should be filled within the next few weeks.

SPRING BRUSH PICK-UP – The spring brush pick-up has been scheduled for April 26 to May 14. As in previous pick-ups, the City is requesting residents to call in their address (269-8918) after 5:00 p.m. and leave your address on the answering machine. Please call in before April 22. 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 6:00 a.m. on April 26; 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 4 and May 10. The Coos Bay City Council accepted a proposal from Larry Goodman of Bay Broadcasting to use the parking lot between 2nd Court and 2nd Street and north of Curtis Avenue. Since the parking lot was just overlaid, a bond will be posted to cover any damage that may be done.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT – The City received information this week on the two Transportation Enhancement projects along Cape Arago Highway. The ODOT Region 3 Selection committee has not recommended the City's projects for funding in the upcoming State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), but did recommend that they were worthy of funding. Six projects were funded using up the \$2,760,000 Enhancement funds available in this region.

EASTSIDE FINAL! – Conditions of approval for the Port of Coos Bay's Eastside Comprehensive Plan amendment have now been completed. The Port may proceed with the first phase of development through a site plan and architectural review.

COOS BAY GOES TO SALEM – Community Services Planning Administrator Laura Barron went to Salem March 19th to appear before the Land Conservation and Development Commission. Laura's in-depth analysis and splendid graphics were presented to give a realistic sense of the effect of proposed rule changes that would affect Coos Bay's waterfront. The objective of the presentation to the Commission was to demonstrate the need for changes to the rule that would work to address the lack of fit between the current rule and current realities. The presentation, supported by attorney Al Johnson, was well received. The Commission will make a decision on the proposed rule changes early in May.

LEGISLATURE ADVANCES TRANSPORTATION FUNDING – Here's an update from this week's league of Oregon Cities Legislative Bulletin: "The House Transportation Committee, chaired by Rep. Bob Montgomery (R-Cascade Locks), passed HB 2082, Associated Oregon Industries' Transportation Funding

Bill on a 6-4 vote. All of the committee's Republican members voted for the bill while all the Democrats voted against. The Democrats voted against the bill not because they opposed increasing funds for transportation, but because they thought that the four cents included in the bill was insufficient to address Oregon's transportation needs. Voting for the bill were: Chair Montgomery; Rep. Jim Hill (R-Hillsboro); Rep. Jeff Kropf (R-Halsey); Rep. Jerry Krummel (R-Wilsonville); Rep. Jane Lokan (R-Milwaukie); and Rep. Larry Wells (R-Jefferson). Voting against the bill were: Rep. Mike Lehman (D-Coos Bay); Rep. Richard Devlin (D-Lake Oswego); Rep. Jackie Taylor (D-Astoria) and Rep. Vicki Walker (D-Eugene).

HB 2082 was initially filed by the Associated Oregon Industries (AOI) and included a 6-cent increase in the gas tax, as well as a ten-dollar vehicle registration fee increase. The committee amended the bill to mirror the package advanced by \$10 Republican leadership. The amendment reduced the gas tax increase in the AOI bill to four cents and altered the distribution formula so that 65% would be split, with ODOT receiving 50%, counties 30%, and cities 20% (versus the current 60/24/16 split). The remaining 35% would be split 70% counties and 30% cities. The Committee rejected unanimously the provision of the Republican leadership's plan that would have (sunsetting) the increase on January 1, 2001.

Rep. Krummel proposed maintaining the six-cent increase. His motion was defeated on a tie vote, 5 to 5, with all the Democrats plus Krummel voting in support and all of the Republicans voting against. A motion to allocate the entire four-cent increase to cities and counties was made by Rep. Lehman; his motion was defeated on a 5 to 5 vote.

Chair Montgomery stated after the votes "that not a member sitting here thinks that four cents is enough, anyone who thinks it is, is as crazy as the Dickens." There was a clear sense of frustration among the committee members who wanted to pass a bill that would make a major impact on our transportation system but felt limited by the politics of what they thought could ultimately be passed.

Rep. Lehman stated clearly that unless the Republicans had 36 votes to pass the package they would require Democratic support. His statement was a clear shot across the Republicans bow, signaling that to pass the bill, the Democrats and Republicans would have to come together and negotiate a compromise. The bill now moves to the House Revenue Committee which is chaired by Rep. Ken Strobeck (R-Beaverton). In addition to the House action, important work was beginning in the Senate, where Democrat and Republican senators were beginning to meet to discuss the differences between their respective funding proposals. It is encouraging to see the amount of time and effort being devoted to resolving the transportation funding issue by leaders of both parties. Many obstacles still remain including the issue of truck taxation which will be taken up next week by the House Transportation Committee.

Progress was also made this week in advancing other components of the funding package. On Monday, the House Transportation Committee passed and sent to the house floor HB 3531, appointment of the ODOT Director by the Governor, to the House floor. This bill makes the Governor the appointing authority for the ODOT Director rather than the Transportation Commission, it still retains confirmation by the Senate."