



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

May 28, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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COUNCIL SCHEDULES WORK-SESSION ON CITY BUDGET – Last week the City Council agreed to a request by the city manager to meet in a work-session prior to the June 15th public hearing on the Budget Committee's "approved" FY 1999/2000 budget. The meeting is set for 3:00 p.m. on June 1st at City Hall and will allow an opportunity to informally review the changes that were made during the four budget committee meetings, and discuss possible further modifications. Topics expected to draw discussion include the hotel-motel room tax projects list and the city attorney's compensation costs. Concerning this latter matter, city attorney C. Randall Tosh has written Mayor Verger and the City Council a May 26, 1999 memo in which he suggests maintaining his current arrangement of 15 hours per week under retainer with additional hours billed at \$100 per hour. The memo also includes an analysis of the costs for providing legal services for other Oregon cities in the 10,000 to 20,000 population range. Of these 26 cities, nearly half have full-time, in house counsel. Copies of Mr. Tosh's memo are available upon request by e-mailing Joyce Jansen at jjansen@ucinet.com or calling her at 269-8912.

CITY SUPPORTS SWOYA BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB – A letter in The World's Public Forum yesterday by Jill Christiana chides the City for not making kids a bigger priority in Coos Bay's FY 1999-2000 budget. In reality, the City of Coos Bay has done more to support the Boys and Girls Club – WAY MORE! – than any other local government on the South Coast. This year's City of Coos Bay's \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant is going to help complete the Boys and Girls Club building, and City staff is administering that federal grant and all its red tape without charge to SWOYA. This year the City is also continuing its support of Boys and Girls Club operations by giving the organization a \$10,000 grant. Ms. Christiana has done much for the kids of our area as a SWOYA officer and volunteer. The City appreciates that and respects her right to express any opinion. At the same time, it's disappointing if others reading her letter should draw the wrong conclusion about the extensive and ongoing support given by the City of Coos Bay for kids and the SWOYA program. It's a shame other jurisdictions in the area can't match Coos Bay's commitment to kids!

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED – Mark your calendar for 11 a.m. Saturday, May 29th to attend the 11th annual Memorial Day parade in downtown Coos Bay. The parade will begin at 4th Street and Golden Avenue, proceed down 4th Street then onto Commercial Avenue to 2nd Street. The parade is being sponsored by the Coos County United Veterans Parade Committee and the City of Coos Bay. City offices will be closed on Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.

USED BOOK SALE – The Friends of the Coos Bay Library will have a used book sale June 5th and 6th at the Head Start office building on 2nd and Elrod. Stop in for really great deals. The hours on Saturday are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 4 p.m.

4 H EXPERIENCE – JUNE 5TH – June 5th will be the first day of the "Kid's 1st on the 1st" program created by the Coos Bay Downtown Association. On the first Saturday of every month from June through December, there will be something for children to do in the Coos Bay downtown area. The theme of the June 5th activities will be the 4-H Experience. Llamas and more will be in the downtown area for petting and learning about. The event will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grassy area near the Best Western Motel (the corner

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lot at Bayshore and Market) and on the Coos Bay Boardwalk. For more information, call Gary Rifkin at Fiddlesticks (267-5443), Rhondi Potter at the Art Connection (267-0186) or Trish Midyette at Books by the Bay (267-5535).

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN MINGUS – The July 4th family celebration will be held in Mingus Park on Saturday, July 3rd. The event begins with a Kids Run at 9:30 a.m. and the Mayor's Firecracker run at 10 a.m. The South Coast Runners Club organizes the run; for more information and registration call Pete Dawson at 267-6329. The celebration begins at 11 a.m. with the presentation of the flag and pledge of allegiance by the Boy Scouts, followed by welcoming remarks from Mayor Verger and presentation of the Mayor's Essay Contest winners. The Coos Bay Fire Department will provide the children's fishing derby, various activities for children will be around the lake, free popcorn, cotton candy and flags for all, a variety of food booths will be located along the 10th Street entrance to the park, and entertainment on the stage from 11:15 until 5 p.m. Music will feature Tumbleweed, Little Ole Opry, Mike Stewart and Opic 295, and the Frank Turner Jazz Quintet. The City's fireworks will be on Sunday, July 4th over the bay, and will be arranged by the Fire Department. The Mill Casino will have their fireworks on Saturday, July 3rd. There will be fun and entertainment for the whole family – come on out and have a great time!

NEW CARISSA DISPLAY PLANNED – The City and the Tourism Promotions Committee are working on establishing a display of the New Carissa incident. The display will be located next to the Chamber of Commerce and is expected to be open to the public by mid-June. Volunteers are needed to work in the display unit and any interested citizens are encouraged to contact Beve Saukko, Tourism Promotions Director, during normal business hours at 269-8921.

TRUCK PARKING ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED – A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 3rd at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall to take public comments on the issue of truck and trailer parking on city streets. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend the meeting; anyone who is unable to attend may submit written comments to Bill Finney, Community Services Director, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420.

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE – The Livability Committee met Thursday afternoon to begin developing an economic development/recruiting plan for Coos County. Committee Chair John Sweet will be meeting in Salem next week to present the plan and seek support from the State level. The Committee will be meeting again next Thursday at 4 p.m. to continue development of strategy and goals. Committee members include Coos Bay Councilor Jeff McKeown, North Bend Councilor Janet Rubin, County Commissioner Nikki Whitty, Port Manager Allan Rumbaugh, John Sweet of Sause Brothers, Timm Slater of Weyerhaeuser, Arnie Roblan from FONSI, and John Stephens of Rosesburg Lumber.

PEACE TEAM MEETING NUMBER EIGHT – This week the city manager met a group of department heads and bargaining unit representatives in what has been called "the Peace Team" meetings. Topics of discussion included cost of City legal services, the ODOT jurisdictional exchange proposal, Coos County's budget problems and other matters. The meetings have proven beneficial to both management and labor, it seems safe to say.

By the way, during the meeting, City streets maintenance staffers came up with a good recommendation for better maintenance of local streets. This recommendation is included in the staff report that is before the Council Tuesday evening concerning the ODOT jurisdictional exchange proposal.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ORDERS NEW VEHICLE – Last week the Fire Department met with Jim Morgan of Evergreen Emergency Vehicles and finalized the plans for the new rescue vehicle approved by the City Council on May 18, 1999. Total cost of the new rescue will be \$91,800. The vehicle will be a year 2000 Ford chassis with a 12' all aluminum box on the back. Anticipated delivery date is March of 2000.

This vehicle will be used to respond to emergency medical calls out of station 1 as well as provide a mobile air supply unit for the departments air packs. The current rescue unit will be moved to Eastside St. 3 where it will respond to EMS & brush fires in that area of the city thus putting less wear & tear on the large fire engine currently housed there.

CITY GRAPPLES WITH ITS OWN STREETS AND ROADS CHALLENGES! – Tuesday evening the City Council will be giving careful thought to the City's own streets and roads issues as it considers a proposal by the Oregon Dept. of Transportation to relinquish State control of 23 lane-miles of roads within the City limits, giving these over to the City for maintenance responsibility in exchange for grants to the City totaling \$4.75 million over the next two years. ODOT's regional manager, Paul Mather, will be meeting with the City Council in a work session before the evening's regularly scheduled Council Meeting in order to allow an in depth discussion of the State's proposal. This meeting, like all City Council meetings, is open to the public. The work session begins in City Hall at 6:45 PM. Your attendance is welcome. The meeting will also be filmed on Channel 14, Coos Bay's Government Access Channel.

LEGISLATURE GRAPPLES WITH TRANSPORTATION ISSUES – By a slim margin House Republicans yesterday passed a transportation funding bill, including a gas tax increase, on to the Senate for further consideration where HB 2082 is expected to face major debate. The League of Oregon Cities' May 21, 1999 "Legislative update" describes some of the background leading up to yesterday's House action: "The full House is expected to vote on HB 2082, Transportation Funding early this week. On Tuesday, the House Revenue Committee, chaired by Rep. Ken Strobeck (R-Beaverton) voted 7-2 to move the bill to the House Floor with a favorable recommendation. Voting for the funding bill were: Chair Strobeck, Vice Chair Anitra Rasmussen (D-Portland), Rep. Deborah Kafoury (D-Portland), Rep. Jeff Merkley (D-Portland), Rep. Dianne Rosenbaum, (D-Portland) and Rep. Lane Shetterly (R- Dallas). The two votes against the funding package were: Rep. Jim Welsh (R- Elmira) and Rep. Bill Witt (R-Cedar Mill).

The League appreciates Chair Strobeck's leadership in authoring an amendment, that was adopted, substituting a six-cent gas tax increase for the four-cent increase in the bill reported from the House Transportation Committee. Other provisions of Strobeck's amendment doubled funding for the special city allotment program of grants to cities with populations of less than 5,000, establish a three-million dollar program to offset declining federal forest revenue, and establish an additional \$10 per year registration increase for Marion, Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties. The funds from the additional registration fee in those counties would be spent by agreement between ODOT, the county, and the cities of the county.

The bill funds a higher percentage of the increase to cities and counties in the first two years. Two cents of the increase is allocated for bonding by ODOT for capitol projects. Issuing bonds for 20 years would raise \$600 million for adding new projects on the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). There are many issues that have been "linked" to the gas tax including ODOT efficiency measures, reform of the state access management policies, funding for High-speed rail and elderly and disabled transportation and the elimination of the weight-mile tax on trucks. Progress is being made on the first three issues and the third, the weight-mile repeal, failed in the House Revenue Committee by a 4-5 vote. Some are urging the defeat of the funding bill in retaliation for the defeat of the weight-mile tax repeal.

Of the 6-cent increase in the gas tax, two cents would be effective October 1, 1999 and the remaining four cents effective Jan. 1 of 2000. 2.05 cents is dedicated to repay \$600 million in state bonds issued to add new road projects The 3.95 cents is split by local government counties 60%, cities 40% for two years then 50/30/20 between ODOT/counties/cities. The \$10 biennial increase in the Vehicle Registration Fee, would be split ODOT 60%, Counties 24%, cities 15.5% for two years then 50/30/20. The \$10 dollar vehicle registration fee becomes effective January 1, 2000 with the split going to 50/30/20.

The \$10 annual vehicle registration fee increase in Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah and Washington Counties would become effective January 1, 2000. The funds must be spent by agreement of ODOT, county and the cities with in the County. The Small Cities Program (additional \$1 million a year) and Small Counties Program (additional \$750,000) double and a new Eastern Oregon Safety Net Program (\$3 million annually) is created to help counties that suffered drastic reductions in federal forestry revenue.

Preliminary estimate of additional revenue cities will realize from the package. All amounts are above

existing allocation.

1999-2000 \$4.60 per capita (11% increase)	2000-2001 \$16.50 per capita (38% increase)
2001-2002 \$13.40 per capita (31% increase)	2002-2003 \$10 per capita (23% increase)

The allocation will remain stable at the ten dollar level thereafter. The bill is expected to be on the House floor early next week.”