



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

June 23, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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TRAFFIC ENGINEERS\ REVIEWS CITY STREET – City staff spent about 1 1/2 hours with Mojie Takallou, Ph.D., P.E. of the University of Portland last Friday reviewing City streets. He is the Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the university. We looked at several areas around the City on how areas are signed, the use of traffic legends and painting of curbs. He said several times that he was very impressed with the way the City looks, not only from an engineering stand point, but the overall cleanliness of the City. He said the City has done an excellent job of signing and other uses in problem traffic areas (i.e. chevron signs at Montana, signs and buttons around the schools, "Drug Free Zone" signs, the island at 7th & Central, bumpouts in Empire, etc). It was nice to get a good report from a knowledgeable individual. He has written several books on "Traffic Practices Handbook for Local Roads and Streets in Oregon" volumes one and two.

COUNCIL APPROVES PROJECTS – In separate actions tied to the approval of the City's budget for the 2000/2001 fiscal year, the City Council has approved street overlay and wastewater system improvement projects in locations throughout the City. Six wastewater system projects and sixteen street overlay projects will go out for bid very soon. A listing of these projects has been posted on the City's website.

MINGUS PARK STAGE – The final portions of the work to complete the stage are being completed very quickly. The stage is effectively ready for use and will be formally dedicated on the Fourth of July at 10:30 a.m. The City Council has approved policy guidelines for the reservation and use of the stage. Reservations are required in order to use the stage; these may be obtained through the City Community Services Department (269-8918). There have already been some issues with unauthorized use of skateboards on the stage structure. The stage is posted for No Skateboard use and this will be vigorously enforced by the Coos Bay Police Department. Unauthorized skateboarding on the stage structure can result in arrest and confiscation of the skateboard pending trial.

SEWER USE FEE INCREASED – Sometimes you have to do things that you'd rather not do. That was certainly the case last Tuesday night for the City Council when they authorized a five percent increase in the City's sewer use fee. The Council recognized the fiscal need for the fee increase but also recognized the financial burden the fee increase may impose. The Council's decision to approve the increase was a thoughtful and reluctant action. The fee increase will be effective July 1, 2000.

NEWMARK AVENUE PROJECT – The City Council has unanimously approved the release of a Request for Proposals to identify a firm which will develop information on improvements to Newmark Avenue. The City Council is concerned about access issues and the volume of traffic that Newmark Avenue will be able to handle in the future. The firm selected for this work will examine the portion of Newmark Avenue from approximately the Staples store to the "Y" intersection of Newmark Avenue and Ocean Boulevard.

CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – The City Council made the following appointments Tuesday night to City Boards and Commissions: Planning Commission - Mark Dailey; Library Board - Judy Lovell; Tree Board - Cora Vandervelden. Congratulations to these Coos Bay residents!

EMPIRE STREETScape - PHASE II – The Urban Renewal Agency has authorized a contract with Bracelin & Yeager for construction of this project. The construction will provide new sidewalks on Newmark

Avenue between Cammann Street and Ocean Boulevard. Period street lighting will be installed and street trees will be planted. The construction work should be completed by about mid-September. Richard Turi, Architecture and Planning will oversee the construction work.

BOARDWALK AQUARIUM – The Urban Renewal Agency has approved the construction of an aquarium that will display fish species indigenous to the Coos Bay Estuary. The aquarium unit has been developed by Tom Rumreich, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and will be located adjacent to the “main” pedestrian access to the Coos Bay Boardwalk. Tom Rumreich and volunteers will install the aquarium unit at no cost to the City of Coos Bay. This is a project that the City Council and the Urban Renewal Agency have long wanted to see completed; it will be a great addition to the Coos Bay Boardwalk area.

FIFTH STREET PLAZA – The Urban Renewal Agency heard a report Tuesday night from architect Lon Samuels regarding final planning details for the development of the plaza area in front of City Hall. Mr. Samuels reported that the “water feature,” or fountain, to be placed in the plaza will have about twice as many “nozzles” as had been originally planned. This addition will make the completed fountain a much more versatile exhibit. The Agency requested that Mr. Samuels develop a cost estimate for inclusion of lighting in the fountain display that could be coordinated with the fountain’s water display.

OREGON LIVABILITY CONFERENCE – Community Services Director Bill Finney provided the City Council with a summary report of his presentation last week at the Oregon Livability Conference in Portland. Finney presented the City of Coos Bay’s Front Street Redevelopment Project to a combined conference audience of about 1500 people. The Congress on New Urbanism combined its national conference with the Oregon Livability Conference – both professional organizations are concerned with downtown development/redevelopment issues.

PERSONAL INCOME FIGURES AVAILABLE – The new Per Capita Personal Income (pcpi) figures for 1998 by County are now available. Coos and Curry and Douglas counties are ranked in the middle of the county spectrum. Wheeler and Gilliam have the lowest pcpi in the state, with \$15,555 and \$14,353, respectively. The highest pcpi goes to Clackamas county, where per capita personal income has climbed to \$30,709. Per Capita Personal Income (pcpi) source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Coos	\$ 20,516	\$ 21,332
Curry	\$ 21,068	\$ 21,993
Douglas	\$ 19,786	\$ 20,543

Metropolitan income was sorted from the non-metropolitan areas, with the following results:

Metro	\$ 26,668	\$ 27,687
Non Metro	\$ 20,465	\$ 21,175

The counties of Coos, Curry, and Douglas match fairly closely the average Non-metro county per capita personal income. For a complete list of county per capita personal income, visit the site of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis www.bea.doc.gov