



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

July 14, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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COMMISSIONER NIKKI WHITTY TAKES INPUT ON REGIONAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES -- Last night city manager Bill Grile and community services director Bill Finney participated in a sparsely attended meeting in the Courthouse conducted by County Commissioner Nikki Whitty, who had called the meeting to discuss proposed criteria and other issues pertaining to projects that may be submitted for funding through the Regional Investment and Rural Investment Fund Programs, and also to take input on items that should be included in the Coos Co. portion of the regional plan. As usual, commissioner Whitty was on top of the issues associated with these complicated funding programs. With different “pots” of money available totaling nearly \$631,000 just for Coos County, the program presents intriguing opportunities for possible projects and public benefit. Among these are advancing telecommunications through fiber optic systems, establishing a county-wide geographic information system (GIS) mapping capability, establishing a technology center on the campus of southwestern Oregon Community College. Stay tuned.

SB 622 PROJECTS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION – Tomorrow is the deadline for the submission of “Notices of Intent” for those seeking to secure SB 622 grant assistance for telecommunications projects. Without knowing specifically how a formal application can be prepared, and without wanting to close doors for possible regional funding assistance, city manager Bill Grile has called a meeting of local telecommunications advocates to discuss preparing and submitting a NOI by the deadline to keep options open for the Bay Area. “We don’t have a telecommunications plan developed for the Bay Area and this is very unfortunate,” said Grile this morning. “Without one, our ability to respond to this tremendous grant opportunity is seriously handicapped,” he stressed. With about \$60 million available statewide for grants, submitting a NOI seems advised since the effort to prepare one is minimal and the potential benefits huge. The NOI commits a jurisdiction to nothing, but serves to alert the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department that a formal application for SB 622 funding is under consideration. Stay tuned.

CITY COUNCIL TO MEET WITH CONFEDERATED TRIBES TRIBAL COUNCIL -- It will be a precedent setting meeting on July 24th when the Coos Bay City Council meets in a joint session with the Tribal Council for the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. The meeting will be held at the Tribal Hall located at 338 Wallace in Coos Bay, and is scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM. Topics for discussion will be issues of mutual concern and interest, and will include a presentation from the Tribe about its vision and future plans for trust lands, a presentation from the city about property taxes and how these are spent to benefit the community, and ways the City can support the Tribes' acquisition of property. Mayor Verger has indicated her hopes that the meeting can produce a “win-win” situation in which the interests of both governmental bodies are identified and advanced. We hope so too!

CITY MANAGER TO ATTEND ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE OF THE OREGON CITY / COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION – City manager Bill Grile will be out of town Sunday through Wednesday next week attending the annual summer conference of the Oregon City / County Management Association. OCCMA, a chapter of the International City / County Management Association, exists to promote professional management of municipal governments while serving as vehicle to study public management issues affecting local government, promote communication among Oregon’s professional local government managers, and recommend policy choices that can protect and enhance local government’s interests. OCCMA works closely with

the League of Oregon Cities. Joyce Jansen will be serving as Acting City Manager during Tuesday night's City Council and Urban Renewal meetings.

THE OREGON COAST MUSIC FESTIVAL IS HERE - Be sure to allow some time in your busy summer schedule to enjoy some of the featured musical events being held in the Bay Area July 15th through July 29th. Music Festival activities begin with a free lunchtime concert at Mingus Park this Saturday. A complete schedule of events are available at the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and local businesses.

BY THE WAY ... "CONGRATULATIONS GRAMPA BILL!" – Rumor has it that city manager Bill Grile became a grandfather for the first time last Sunday morning. It's true! Congratulations Grampa Bill. Mekenzie Michelle Brock was born at 4:44 AM. All is well.

WASTEWATER PERMIT REPORTING – Each year, the state's Department of Environmental Quality requires a report from the City of Coos Bay describing work accomplished over the past twelve months; the City's contract service provider, Operations Management International (OMI) prepares the report. The Department of Environmental Quality's response to this year's report states, "The City and OMI are to be commended for implementing and completing.....

- ▶ Cleaning of 26 miles of sewer line
- ▶ Replacement of 960 feet of sewer line
- ▶ Improvements at Pump Stations # 7, #13, #15, and # 17."

This is one more illustration of how well the City of Coos Bay is being served through its contract with Operations Management International. ATTABOY, OMI!!!!!!

SATURDAY CONCERT IN MINGUS PARK – Check this out – the first scheduled event of the Year 2000 Oregon Coast Music Festival will feature the Bay Area Concert Band performing on the brand new stage in Mingus Park. Saturday, July 15, 2000 – 12:30PM. It's free. Come out and enjoy the music on Saturday and plan to attend other Music Festival concerts scheduled from Tuesday, July 18 through Saturday, July 29. Get more information from the Oregon Coast Music Association at 267-0938.

REVIEW OF FRONT STREET BEGINS - On July 11th the Planning Commission began its review of the Front Street proposal to rezone the area so that, not only would water-dependent uses be permitted, but also commercial and residential uses. The hearing was continued to August 8th at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

MORE ON FRONT STREET – The City Council and the Urban Renewal Agency have approved funding to pave Front Street from Market Street to Fir Street – basically from Sause Brothers to the Marshfield Sun Building. The project, which also involves some work on the railroad track in the middle of Front Street, will be completed this fall. The Dyer Partnership is providing the engineering oversight for the project.

PLANTS REMOVED FROM PLANTERS IN EMPIRE - The City of Coos Bay has removed the plants in the planters in the Empire area, in order to have lighted bollards installed. The bollards will be located approximately where the 4 x 4 posts are presently situated in the planters. The contractor has to dig in the planters to install the base and the conduit for the bollard. The City felt that preserving as many of the plants as possible was a priority. After consulting the Empire Association, the decision was for the plants to be removed and then replaced once the project is complete. The City saved as many of the plants as possible for replanting. The bollards are expected to arrive this week, so work will begin soon. Any questions about the project should be directed to the Community Services Department at 269-8918.

RAILWAY PROJECT TO BE CONSIDERED – Next Tuesday evening the Urban Renewal Agency will consider a proposal by the Oregon Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. The phased planning concept would acquire land with access to the existing rail system, transfer rail equipment to that site and restore it to operating condition, build a historic replica depot in which to house a railroad museum and retail shops, add and restore other railroad cars already available to the Chapter, and establish a tourist excursion line to North Bend and Coquille. This is an exciting concept. Stay tuned for further developments.