



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

February 23, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM - The draft 2002-2005 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for the South West ACT area will be presented to the public at a meeting on March 1st at the North Bend public library from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. STIP is Oregon's four-year transportation capital improvement program and includes projects on the federal, state, city and county transportation systems, multi-modal (highway, passenger rail, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian) projects, and projects in the National Parks, National Forests and Indian tribal lands. The meeting will provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposed projects and transportation priorities in the State. Public comments will be received by ODOT through March 31st. To view the entire Statewide program, contact Michael Baker at ODOT 541-957-3658 or download from the internet at www.odot.state.or.us/stip

COOS ART MUSEUM LOOKS AHEAD - Last Saturday morning a group of arts supporters gathered for a planning meeting at the Coos Art Museum. With facilitation by Lynda Shapiro and Rondi Potter, a number of creative ideas and suggestions were recorded for further consideration by the Museum's planning committee. It's been five years since a similar effort has been undertaken. The thinking currently underway is looking ahead to a five-year planning horizon. A number of creative ideas emerged Saturday morning, including recognition that the Museum needs to develop a marketing plan and program designed to produce, among other things, public awareness that "the Museum is more than a building." Assisting the City with ideas about public art downtown drew some interest as did the notion that the Museum is important to the success and revitalization of downtown. Parking and access to the facility was identified by some as a concern. Representing the City, City Manager Bill Grile outlined the benefits that would accompany the two-way "Anderson Alternative" - including diagonal parking directly in front of the Museum. To learn more about the Coos Art Museum, visit: www.coosart.org.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES AVAILABLE ONLINE - Want to follow the events and activities of the Oregon Legislature? Visit the League of Oregon Cities' WEB site at <http://www.orlocalgov.org/loc/legpage.html>. It's all right there at your fingertips.

METHAMPHETAMINES. NOT HERE. NOT NOW. NOT ANYMORE! - The City of Coos Bay is serious about ridding our area of Methamphetamines, it is for that reason we are active participants in the fight to remove Methamphetamines from our community. The next meeting for interested persons to get involved is March 1, 2001 at St. Catherines' in Coos Bay. The town hall meeting last week was attended by more than 150 people from the community, including City Manager Bill Grile, Police Officer Hugo Hatzel, and Police Chief Chuck Knight.

CITY COUNCIL OPTS AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY SPECIAL OPTION LEVY - Acting on direction from the City Council, Tuesday night City Manager Bill Grile outlined details for a three-year special option tax levy for public safety. The City is currently bargaining contract extensions with the Coos Bay Police Officers Association and Coos Bay Firefighters Associations. The special tax levy, explained Grile, would be used to cover the cost of salary increases that could be imposed by an arbitrator should the unions and City fail to reach an affordable settlement. Under Oregon law, neutral arbitrators determine the salaries for police

and fire personnel when negotiations fail to reach settlement at the bargaining table.

While the police union has proposed salary increases of 18% for police officers and 22% for dispatchers, the fire union is expected to come forth with its own salary proposal in the near future. According to Coos Bay Finance Director Janell K. Howard, the proposed tax levy would have cost about \$138.00 a year for three years for a \$100,000 house, generating enough money to cover 8% increases for both unions. Balking at this, the Council in its wisdom decided against proceeding with a decision to have City voters vote on the matter this May.

Two weeks ago the City Council directed 5% salary increases for all management and non-represented City employees at a total cost of about \$25,000 for FY 2000 - 2001. Finance Director Howard estimated that police and fire compensation would cost about \$1.6 million over the next three years if an arbitrator were to award increases less than those currently proposed by CBPOA and likely to be proposed by CBFFA.

“We will be bargaining in good faith with both unions and truly hope we can reach an agreement that the City can afford,” Grile said this morning. Police bargaining continues this afternoon. Fire bargaining is scheduled for next Tuesday. Under direction from the City Council and pursuant to Oregon law, all City collective bargaining meetings will be open to the public.

FAMILY ACADEMY DEVELOPMENT - The Coos Bay Police Department is in the process of developing a family academy for the family members of police department staff. The purpose of the academy is to inform family members of the issues their police officer family member must deal with on a routine basis. Topics such as emergency notification procedures, stress reduction, City of Coos Bay policies, how to access the Employee Assistance Program, and others will be addressed in the academy.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PLANNING & GOAL DEVELOPMENT - Police Department supervisory staff will be meeting February 21st to work on planning issues and goal review and development. Topics to be covered include recruitment issues, drug recognition training, performance appraisals, grant review, and will conclude with a futuring work session where we will think, talk, scheme, consider, plan, etc., for mutual training needs, standards, and criteria. Lt. Larry Leader Coos County Sheriff's Office will facilitate the futuring segment.

OFFICER RANDY SPARKS - Coos Bay is fortunate to have Officer Randy Sparks back on staff. Randy had been with the police department for three years prior to leaving for another position. He later moved to Colorado to be with his father when his father had a stroke. Randy applied for a vacant position and was brought back on staff February 1, 2001. Randy was introduced to the City Council last Tuesday evening.

OFFICER DENNIS BURGE - Coos Bay Officer Dennis Burge has tendered his resignation to accept a position at Grants Pass Police Department. Dennis accepted the position for a considerable wage increase and for what he believes to be greater career advancement.

CANDIDATES FORUM SCHEDULED - The League of Women Voters will hold a candidates forum on Wednesday, February 28, 2001 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Coos Bay City Hall. Eight candidates are vying for four positions on the Southwestern Oregon Community College Board and include incumbent Marcia Jensen of North Bend and Clara Radcliffe of Coos Bay for Position 2; Incumbent David Bridgham of North Bend and Scott Frasier of Coos Bay for Position 4; Carol Oelke of North Bend and Gary Marconi of Coos Bay for Position 5; and Michael J. Murray of Gold Beach and Scott Malby of Coos Bay for Position 7. All positions are for four-year terms. The SWOCC Board sets policy for the community college, including budgets, personnel, facilities and academic goals. The candidates will speak briefly and there will be time for written questions from the audience. For further information call 267-6508.

THANK YOU GEORGIA-PACIFIC EMPLOYEES - Coos River Highway received a face lift on Saturday, February 17th, by fifteen Georgia-Pacific West, Inc. employees. The employees picked up over 3-

1/2 yards of garbage and litter! GP employees filled the garbage bags supplied by the City and left them by the side of the road to be picked up by the City street crews. City resources don't always go as far as we would like, and these kinds of public/private partnerships are critical to maintaining and improving the city in which we all live. If your group or business would like to pitch in and take on a small (or large!) project, please contact the Community Services Department at 269-8918. The City will supply garbage bags and "litter patrol" signs to place at each end of the project.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION - Operations Management International (OMI), the local wastewater contractor for the City of Coos Bay, was recently spotlighted in the monthly newsletter, Of Mutual Interest, for their innovative Helping Hands program. The project donated backpacks, school supplies, and personal hygiene items for local children starting school this year. Funds collected from rebates and misc. fund raisers throughout the year provided the money to purchase the items for needy children in our area. The Helping Hands team hopes to make this community involvement event a yearly activity. The City commends OMI employees for this caring gesture.

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS BRING REVISIONS FOR LOCAL SIGNALS - Local signals on City streets and State highways will be changed in the near future by Department of Transportation signal personnel to improve the signals' function when there is an accident or malfunction. Once changed, all approaches to an intersection will be red blinking rather than the existing configuration where the major approach roads are blinking yellow and the minor approach roads are blinking red. State Transportation officials believe having all approaches red blinking will be safer during emergencies for officials directing traffic and for the general public.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT FEE WAIVED - The City Council acted Tuesday night to eliminate the permit fee for a Home Occupation while city staff work to update the current land use ordinance to make it more responsive to the changing technology environment and the growing advent of internet-based businesses. Business licenses continue to be required. Home Occupation permits are required, but have a zero cost unless a conditional use in a residential zone is involved. Conditional uses continue to require Planning Commission approval. If you are operating a business out of your home, please contact the Community Services Department at 269-8918 to apply for a business license and Home Occupation permit. Information received from individuals completing applications will be useful to Community Services staff to improve and update our land use ordinances.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES NEW VEHICLE - The Fire Department recently took possession of a 2001 Chevrolet Suburban. The new vehicle will replace the current 1983 Ford Bronco. The Suburban is a larger, heavier vehicle which will provide greater safety for personnel. The new unit also has 4 wheel drive capabilities for utilization in areas of rough terrain. The vehicle is being outfitted and will be ready for service around the first week of March. The vehicle was purchased through the State Of Oregon Purchasing Program saving the community thousands of dollars.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ATTEND FIRE ACADEMY - Six Fire Department personnel will be attending classes in the months of February and March at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Personnel will be attending classes in "Hazardous Materials Incident Management", "Challenges For Local Training Officers", "Leadership & Administration" and "Fire Cause & Determination". This FEMA sponsored training provides the department with a training opportunity that would otherwise be out of reach.