



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

January 4, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CITY COUNCIL MOVES TO DENY CONFEDERATED TRIBES STREET VACATIONS – After giving careful consideration to an application by the Confederated Tribes to vacate two public street right-of-ways, this week the City Council made a tentative decision to deny the application based on concerns that giving up the right-of-ways at this time is not in the public interest. The Tribes had requested the vacations for portions of Myrtle Avenue and North 7th Street in order to provide for a larger bowling alley / entertainment center on adjacent property than the property itself would accommodate. The Tribes had an offer pending to purchase the subject property from Fisher Broadcasting, but had said that without approval of the vacations the purchase offer would be abandoned and its project moved to another location "north" of Coos Bay. City attorney Randall Tosh will be preparing a final order reflecting the Council's tentative decision and, once this is adopted on January 15th will become a "final decision" that can be appealed to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals by the Tribes.

BEAVER HILL UPDATE – The County Solid Waste Advisory Committee is reviewing the second version of a second draft of a report that summarizes its findings, conclusions and recommendations about Beaver Hill and related countywide solid waste disposal options. A first draft of the report was reviewed by the Committee last month but was deemed too preliminary for acceptance by the Committee. County solid waste administrator Steve Allen has authored both drafts. Local solid waste hauler and recycler Les Golbek indicated about a week ago that he is considering retaining the services of an independent consultant to have the Committee's findings and conclusions reviewed for accuracy and objectivity. Golbek's concern is for the report to accurately and adequately address the \$6-8 million environmental cost associated with the County's landfills at Beaver Hill, Joe Ney and Bandon. The Committee will be meeting again on Wednesday, January 16th at 6:00 PM at the Coos Bay Library Myrtlewood Room. The local press has shown little interest in covering the Committee's deliberations. We'll keep you posted.

FIBEROPTIC DEPLOYMENT DEADLINE MISSED – According to its contractual commitments with Fiber South Consortium, PCINW, Inc., was expected to deploy its broadband services in Eugene by last week. We have learned that PCINW has fallen behind with its deployment plans. Like others, apparently PCINW has suffered setbacks due to the change in national economic conditions. Coos Bay Councilor Don Spangler serves as Vice-chair of Fiber South and confirmed Tuesday night that it is not clear whether PCINW will or will not succeed. It now appears that full deployment certainly will not be within the time frame originally set. PCINW's deployment date is April 2002 for Coos Bay, and three months later for North Bend. At this point, we must encourage both PCINW and Fiber South to consider all options to keep this important project moving forward for the benefit of our region. As city manager Bill Grile said when the Coquille Economic Development Corporation came before the City Council recently: "Competition is good!"

BAY AREA RESCUE MISSION SITE PLAN IS APPEALED – On December 31st Louis and Kathleen Leberti filed a formal appeal of the Coos Bay Planning Commission's December 11th decision to conditionally approve a site plan application submitted by the South Coast Gospel Mission for property located at 1999 Nutwood Avenue in the Industrial-Commercial (I-C) zoning district. In the I-C zone a

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"homeless shelter" is a permitted use. However, because the use will be located within 400 feet of residentially zoned property, the Planning Commission's site plan review was required. Since the Mission is a lessee of the City and the City Council is involved in approval of a lease with the Mission and other property negotiations, Tuesday night the City Council to formal action to direct the city attorney to hire a neutral and independent hearings officer to hear the Libertis' appeal and render a final decision in behalf of the City of Coos Bay. We'll keep you posted.

ANDERSON ALTERNATIVE IS ON ITS WAY! - Wednesday morning, city staff and ODOT staff "flipped the switch" to allow two-way traffic on the first two blocks of Anderson Ave. from northbound Highway 101. City Manager Bill Grile reported he drove the route twice on Wednesday, easily making the transition necessary to direct access to downtown Coos Bay from northbound Highway 101. The City Council approved the change in June 2001 after receiving much input from the public and from downtown merchants who requested the modification that was originally recommended by the 1997 Kittleson Downtown Traffic Pattern and Parking report. Try the new route, and see how easy it is to get to downtown Coos Bay - then stop, park and get out and see what the shops and restaurants in downtown have to offer!

TREE BOARD APPOINTMENT - The City Council has appointed a new member to the City's Tree Board at its' last meeting on January 2, 2002. The new appointment is George Oliva who will fulfill the unexpired term of Craig Cheney. The City would like to thank Mr. Cheney for his commitment to the Tree Board since its' inception in 1992. Mr. Oliva is owner/operator of George's Gardening Service here in Coos Bay. Welcome aboard George. The tree functions as a committee to over see the trees in the right of way and the City's parks. One more vacancy is still unfilled from the Downtown Association, one individual must be appointed by the Downtown Association Board and approved by the City Council.

SOUTH TOWN TRUCK PARKING TO BE MODIFIED - In an action at its January 2 meeting, the City Council agreed to modify on-street truck parking in the South town area to respond to citizen complaints regarding trucks parking on S. 7th St. Streets Division staff will be posting S. 7th St. from Kruse to Johnson as a "No Truck Parking Zone." However, to respond to the need for truck parking in the industrial/commercial zone that makes up most of the area south of Johnson, the Council directed staff to add truck parking on Kruse between S. 7th and S. 5th Streets. Modifications will be complete within the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Community Services at 269-8918.

COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ESTABLISH PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - In order to provide the best possible information to the City Council regarding the condition of the city's street infrastructure, staff requested that the Council allow staff to use funds targeted for a vehicle to purchase pavement management system software. Funds will also be used to pay for the consultant services to establish the database and train city staff on how to use the program to its best advantage in order to provide dependable information on which to base decisions about street maintenance. The program to be purchased is used by 29 counties and over 30 cities in Oregon, and over 300 cities and counties in California. Both North Bend and Coos County have recently established their own programs using the same software and consultant services. It is hoped that the database and system will be completed prior to budget for this year, and prior to making final decisions on the Newmark Ave. modernization project.

DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION REVIEWS THE DOWNTOWN PLAN - The Coos Bay Downtown Association will meet in a open house format at the Design Renaissance, 160 S. 2nd St., to review the final report presented by the Oregon Downtown Development Association, and to begin to develop further action plans around the recommendations. City staff will be available to help answer questions. This is a time to look at the recommendations, provide your best input to the Downtown Association and offer your help in building on the advantages downtown Coos Bay has to offer. The open house will begin at 5:30 PM on Thursday, January 10th. Contact Chris Coles, Downtown Association president at 269-4065 if you have any

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questions, or to request copies of the ODDA final report and recommendations. Following the open house,

at 8:00 am on Friday, January 11th, at the Coos Bay Library, individuals interested in being involved in improving downtown and developing and implementing a recruitment plan for downtown will meet to finalize short term and long term goals and a starting action plan.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS - Congratulations to Susan Spargo and Jeff Marineau on their appointments to the Coos Bay Planning Commission. Thanks to everyone who applied for the positions; we appreciate your interest in volunteering.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP - The Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters Association will once again be picking up Christmas trees. The pickup date will be Saturday, January 5th. Trees will be picked up within the city limits of Coos Bay or you can drop your tree off at Pepsi or Farr's. Canned food donations will be accepted. If you would like your tree picked up please call the Fire Department at 269-1191 to leave your address.

NEW POLICE OFFICERS HIRED - After an intensive recruitment process, the City of Coos Bay is pleased to welcome three new police officers to the Police Department on January 2nd. Officer Paul Foster returns back to Coos Bay after spending the last 18 months working at Woodburn Police Department. The other two new officers, Ryan Wolgamott and Chris Chapanar, are just beginning their careers in law enforcement and have been scheduled to attend mandatory training at the Oregon Police Academy for the next several months. Ryan Wolgamott is from the Eugene area and will be attending the Police Academy at the Eugene Police Department. Chris Chapanar is from the Bend area and will be attending the Police Academy in Monmouth, Oregon.