



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

November 22, 2002

City of Coos Bay

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CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZES THE OPTIMISTS WITH RENAMING OF PARK – At its meeting this week the City Council approved renaming of the 10th Street Park to the Optimists 10th Street Park. The park is located on South 10th Street at the end of Johnson Street. Since 1998 the Optimists have provided the majority of the maintenance in the park and have improved the park with stairs, picnic tables and a basketball court. On a regular basis the Optimists provide "Play Days" for the families in the area - including the well attended Easter Egg Hunt. Watch for a new sign and further improvements. The Optimists have great plans! The City is thrilled with this partnership and looks forward to more developments in the future.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY SCHEDULED IN DOWNTOWN COOS BAY - The 12th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in downtown Coos Bay will be Saturday, November 30th at the Bay Area Convention Center on Central Ave. in downtown Coos Bay. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Live music will be provided during the evening by the Oregon Coast Lab Band. Many others are giving of themselves or their organizations to make the evening successful, including: trees donated by Dr. Flannagan; Chris Rosman as the chorister; the City of Coos Bay and Coos Bay Downtown Association for sponsoring the event; students from Coos Bay Schools and SWOYA for the decorations; the Optimist Club is providing pictures with Santa; and the Red Lion Hotel is helping with cookies. Mayor Joe Benetti will welcome the crowd, and Santa, and then assist Downtown Association President Chris Coles with handing out the door prizes. Bring the family and enjoy a wonderful start to the holiday season in downtown Coos Bay.

PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY FACT SHEET APPROVED – The Coos Bay Mayor and Council approved a fact sheet for the December 3rd Public Safety local option tax levy at the regular meeting of the Coos Bay City Council this week. Oregon law does not allow the City to take a position for or against the levy. If approved the levy will be used solely to reduce lay offs in the police and fire departments. If the levy fails, (3) Fire Fighters, (5) Police Officers, and (1) Police Clerical Specialist are scheduled for lay off. The special election was placed on the ballot by the City of Coos Bay at the request of police and fire unions. The cost of the election is being paid for by the City. For additional information individuals may contact Finance Director Janell Howard at 269-8915, Fire Chief Stan Gibson at 269-1191, or Police Chief Chuck Knight at 269-8914.

OPTIMIST CLUB RECOGNIZED – At the Coos Bay City Council meeting this week, the Bay area Optimist Club was recognized for their outstanding work in support of the community, in particular their adoption of the 10th Street Park, which is now the Optimist 10th Street Park. The Optimist club at the same meeting presented the police department with 250 stuffed animals for their use in comforting young persons in the community. Police Chuck Knight, and Fire Chief, Stan Gibson both praised the Optimist Club for their support over the years.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FAIR BOARD – Two positions on the Fair Board will become vacant January 1, 2003. Term of appointment is for three years and responsibilities include evening meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Anyone interested in applying for the positions should have a strong interest in the Coos County Fair. A letter of interest and an application may be submitted to the County Commissioners' office no later than Friday, December 20, 2002. Applications are available from the Commissioners' Office or by calling 396-3121 ext. 408 during normal business hours.

STREET LIGHTING AUDIT COMPLETE – PacifiCorp has completed an audit of the company-owned poles in Coos Bay. The work was done at the request of the city to determine if PacifiCorp's records matched what actually existed in the city, and to determine if billing was being done correctly. There were very few changes that were found by PacifiCorp that need to be made. Community Services is using the information to update our records, and to improve our record keeping of the poles that are owned by the city in our downtown, Empire and some other small areas.

The first benefit of the audit was determining that the City's bill included billing for 11 light poles that were on

Coast Guard housing property. These bills are being moved to the Coast Guard bill. Total savings to the city will be just over \$1200 per year. Staff will be continuing to analyze our utility bills to determine what other savings might be possible.

NEWMARK AVENUE WORK TO CLOSE ROAD – Newmark Avenue between LaClair Street and the west entrance to Southwestern Oregon Community College will be closed from 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 25, 2002 until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 26, 2002 to facilitate the installation of a new culvert crossing under Newmark. After that time, if necessary, a single lane of traffic will be opened until the project is complete. It is recommended that motorists use alternate routes during the construction period. The work is being done by Laskey-Clifton Corporation in connection with the Wal-Mart expansion project. If you have questions, please contact Community Services at 269-8918.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING SCHEDULED – Community Services and Police staff teamed up for a neighborhood meeting regarding parking around Marshfield High School. The meeting was Monday, November 18th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Marshfield Cafeteria. With the completion of construction at the high school, and the start of the school year, it is time to check in with residents regarding the balance of their parking needs with the needs of the students during regular school hours. In the past there has been a parking district for several blocks around the high school. The recommendation of the residents who attended the meeting was that a small area on Ingersoll, 7th Street and Hall Street should have permit parking only for residents during general class hours. The school reports that there is plenty of space available for the students in on-campus lots. The discussion did not focus on special event parking for concerts and sports events, although the residents did provide the city with some improvements that could be made that might help at those times also. The issue will be considered by the Council at their December 3rd meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Shanda Shribbs at 269-8918.

BUILDING CODE AMENDMENTS PRESENTED TO PEO – The Community Services Building Official, at the request of the local chapter of the Professional Engineers of Oregon, presented the latest building code amendments at their last meeting at the Ramada in North Bend. The code updates centered around the design requirements for our local area concerning seismic, tsunami, and wind loads.

CITY COUNCIL IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS –The City of Coos Bay is seeking volunteers to fill positions on the Budget Committee and Planning Commission. The deadline for submitting an application is 5 p.m. December 20, 2002. Applications are available from the city manager's office during normal business hours or by calling 269-8912. Interviews will be conducted on January 7th by the City Council and appointments will be made at the January 7th City Council meeting.

The Budget Committee is established by Oregon state law and is responsible for reviewing the proposed City and Urban Renewal budgets. Applicants must be a resident of the City of Coos Bay and are appointed for three-year terms. Budget Committee meetings are held in the evenings during the months of April and May. There are currently four positions open on the Budget Committee; two positions are for three-year terms and two positions will complete unfulfilled terms which expire December 31, 2004.

The Planning Commission is established by city ordinance for the purpose of providing comprehensive planning services for the City Council. Applicants must be a city resident of Coos Bay for at least one year prior to appointment; one member may reside outside the city limits if the person owns property within the city. The Planning Commission meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at city hall. Appointments are for four-year terms and there are two positions open.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! – City Hall administrative offices and the library will be closed November 28th and 29th for the Thanksgiving Day Holiday. There will not be an update next week. We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday.