



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

May 7, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420

(541) 269-8912

See us at <http://www.coosbay.org>

Email the city manager at bgrile@ucinet.com

STATE OF OREGON'S "NEW CARISSA REVIEW COMMITTEE" – Not long ago Governor John Kitzhaber formed the Oregon New Carissa Review Committee to examine issues arising from the vessels grounding near Coos Bay. This committee is not the same as another committee by the same name appointed by Mayor Joanne Verger. Mayor Verger's committee is functioning to provide input to the state committee, and to examine ways to capture ongoing tourism benefits from the New Carissa grounding incident. The Governor's committee is charged with identifying and developing opportunities to improve prevention, preparedness and response to protect Oregon's environment from spills.

Our own State Representative Mike Lehman chairs the Governor's committee, and Mayor Verger serves on it with him. Other members consist of state and local elected officials as well as industry representatives and members of the public. The committee is expected to meet once every three or four weeks over the next four to five months. The public is welcome to attend these meetings and can sign up to receive notices and other related materials. Every meeting agenda includes an opportunity for public input. Stay tuned for details about the committee's next meeting, which will be an all-day session in Coos Bay on May 21st at the Marshfield High School auditorium. If you have questions about the Governor's committee, contact John Betz, its coordinator. His telephone number is 503-229-6793, or send e-mail to him at betz.john@deq.state.or.us.

DIAMOND PARKING TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL FOR PRIVATIZATION CONTRACT – Tuesday evening the City Council approved a staff request to all negotiations to proceed with Diamond Parking to see if a private sector parking enforcement program would be beneficial. If so, a proposal will be submitted to the City Council for formal consideration. At first glance, it appears there is compelling justification for a new partnership here. Diamond Parking is the oldest parking contractor in the World, and may be a familiar name as it operates the public lots in Eugene as well as those at Sacred Heart Hospital. The City of Bend recently contracted with Diamond for reasons that will become obvious in the event Coos Bay staff bring a similar proposal to the City Council. You can learn more about Diamond Parking by visiting their WEB site at <http://www.diamondparking.com/>.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE FORWARDS TWO BALLOT MEASURES – [Note: This article is from the League of Oregon Cities' 04/30/99 Legislative Bulletin.] On Wednesday the Senate Transportation Committee passed SB 1301, Westside Highway Bypass Ballot Measure and SB 757, directing ODOT's expenditure of federal funds to the Senate Floor. Both were approved by votes of 4 - 2.

Senate President Brady Adams (R-Grants Pass) joined the Committee and cast his vote in support of both bills. His vote was needed to move the bill because Sen Len Hannon (R-Ashland) refused to vote for the measures, an additional vacancy occurred when Senator Joan Dukes (D-Astoria) resigned from the Committee citing time conflicts with other legislative assignments.

The first bill SB 1301 would place a measure on the statewide ballot that if approved, would direct the Department of Transportation to build a 19-mile freeway from I-5 in Tualatin to U.S. 26 in Hillsboro. ODOT estimates the cost of the project to be \$1 billion dollars. The measure included no funding source

for the new road, and if passed at the ballot would necessitate the diversion of funds from existing and scheduled road projects from across the state. Currently ODOT spends \$100 million a year on modernization projects for the whole state.

Tualatin Mayor Lou Ogden testified in support saying that “it is probably the single most important infrastructure needed in all of Washington County.” Testimony from Doug Tindal of ODOT raised concerns that the proposed road would face problems overcoming state and federal land-use and environmental regulations.

One of the opponents in his testimony, welcomed the ballot referral saying that he thought that the public would reject it overwhelmingly. In discussion outside of the hearing room the question was raised as to why anyone from anywhere else in the state would want to support a huge project in one county that would require all of the modernization funds for the foreseeable future.

The second bill, SB 757, also a referral to the ballot, would require ODOT to spend all new federal funds received from TEA-21 (the federal transportation funding legislation), for modernization. Funds would be cut from ODOT’s maintenance and preservation program and directed into modernization projects. Additionally federal funds received by cities under the Surface Transportation Program (STP) could only be used for modernization projects rather than for either modernization or preservation.

These bills change the traditional transportation budgeting process, the Governor recommends a budget for ODOT and the Legislature’s Joint Ways and Means Committee works on it and then sends a budget bill to the House and Senate. Currently the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development is working on the ODOT budget. The Subcommittee is currently discussing the allocation of funds between the different maintenance, preservation and modernization activities of the Department of Transportation. The two measures advanced by the Senate Transportation Committee, however, would deprive the Legislature and Governor from setting the transportation funding priorities.

COUNCIL SCHEDULES WORK-SESSION ON \$4.75 ODOT PROPOSAL – The City Council will be meeting at 6:45 P.M. at City Hall on June 1, 1999, just before the regularly scheduled Council meeting to be held that evening, in order to talk with Oregon Dept. of Transportation Regional Manager Paul Mather about ODOT’s \$4.75 million proposal whereby it would relinquish jurisdictional responsibility for 23 lane-miles of state highways inside the city limits in exchange for that sum of money. The proceeds would arrive at the City over the next three years, as proposed. Last week the Coos Bay Budget Committee approved the plan’s funding by including the amount in the budget being forwarded to the City Council for approval. Final approval by the full Council is necessary in order for the proposal to be accepted and move forward.

NEW POLICE OFFICER JOINS COOS BAY FORCE - Coos Bay has filled the second vacant police officer position by hiring Steve Myers. Officer Myers holds an A.A. Degree in Criminal Justice and a B.S. Degree from the University of Oregon in Psychology, and most currently worked for the Coos County Sheriff’s Office as a Corrections Officer. Welcome aboard, Steve!

CITY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS – The City of Coos Bay is seeking volunteers to serve on the Library Board and the Tree Board. Information and applications are available from the City Manager’s office at City Hall during normal business hours and will be accepted through May 28, 1999. Interviews and appointments are scheduled for June 15, 1999 Council meeting.

Applicants for the Library Board must reside within the boundaries of School District 9, have the ability to attend monthly library board meetings and other meetings as necessary, and have a genuine interest in the library and concern for its welfare and progress. The Tree Board has two citizens at-large positions open, the Board meets every other month on the 2nd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, applicants must have an interest in trees, and must reside within the city limits of Coos Bay.

ART MUSEUM FLEA MARKET & ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW – The Coos Art Museum will be holding a fund raiser on May 8th beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$1.50 for adults, under 12 free.

The event will feature art dealers – on-the-spot appraisals (three items for \$5) – food and drink on sale – antiques – collectibles – garage sale treasures – recycled art – vintage clothing – old tools – plants – and much more! For information please call the museum at 267-3901).

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE – Mark your calendar for 11:00 a.m. Saturday, May 29th to attend the Memorial Day Parade in downtown Coos Bay.

RHODODENDRON SUNDAY – Shore Acres State Park will be hosting Rhododendron Sunday on Mother's Day beginning at 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

SOUTH COAST EMPLOYER COUNCIL BEST IN NATION – The South Coast Employer Council (SCEC), serving employers in Coos County, received an award from the National Employer Council distinguishing the group as being the most outstanding local employers' council in the entire nation from a small community during 1998. Committee Chair, Jim Halidman (of Cardinal Services) and Steve Metz, Coos Bay Area Employment Department Manager recently traveled to Washington D.C. to accept the award on behalf of the committee. This is the first time in over 20 years that an Oregon Committee has received top honors.

Competition for this recognition was stiff. Employer councils from all over the nation compete first on a state level. The winning councils from each state and from this group, one council from a large metro area and one from a small community are selected for national honors. During the past year SCEC members have conducted numerous local low cost educational seminars for area employers, funded scholarships for local students, helped to start another employer committee up the coast, advise the Employment Department, and conduct mystery shopping services for local employers who want to measure their customer service levels. Congratulations to the employers and staff of SCEC for a year of hard work and great accomplishments!

DEDICATED AND COMMUNITY MINDED - The City of Coos Bay has many dedicated employees and one of them has their fourth anniversary this month with the City, Leo Langlais. Leo is the Boardwalk Caretaker and "official" greeter to tourists who visit the downtown boardwalk. Leo keeps the boardwalk interpretive exhibits cleaned off and notifies staff of immediate maintenance needs as they arise on the boardwalk. Congratulations and thanks Leo!

CONGRATULATIONS, JOE MCCLAY -- Joe McClay is celebrating his fifth year anniversary with the City of Coos Bay this week. Joe came to the City in 1994 as a Codes Inspector I and has advanced steadily to his current position as Building Codes Administrator. Joe walks a fine line in being responsible for enforcement of the state's building code provisions without being heavy-handed about how that's accomplished. He does a really excellent job. Congratulations, Joe -- we're glad you have been and continue to be here!!!!

MARINE BOARD GRANT APPLICATION APPROVED -- The City Council has approved the development and submission of an application to the State Marine Board for a grant to provide a sewer pump-out and dump station at the Coos Bay City docks. These facilities would benefit boats that use the dock as well as users of the bay and surrounding waterways. The Marine Board will consider the grant application at its June 30, 1999 meeting.