

City council postpones decision on Crest Drive annexation

The most controversial issue at the Eugene City Council meeting Monday was whether to annex the Crest Drive area west of Blanton Road. The Council postponed a decision after hearing from residents both pro and con. Denial of annexation for an area north of Harlow Road was also recommended.

The major arguments for annexation were the benefits residents would receive, such as better roads, increased police protection and a sewer system.

Opponents, principally the Crest Drive Citizens Association, stressed that they would not necessarily be opposed to annexation forever, but wanted to understand the feasibility and possible outcomes more fully.

James Spickerman, spokesman for the Association, pointed out that there were no determining criteria as to why this area would be subject to annexation while adjoining areas would not, and no analysis of whether it would be desirable to increase population on the fringes of Eugene. Spickerman said the 1990 plan indicates that there should be centralization.

The argument for postponement was to wait for the outcome of various studies concerning the area. Two of these studies, the South Hills Density Study and the Ridgeline Study, will be completed in December. University departments of geography, geology and biology are participating in another study which will give an ecological description of the South Hills.

This study will define possible hazards presented by development, identify and analyze unique natural areas and assess the significance of the South Hills area to the city. It was felt by opponents to the annexation and the Council that it would be more logical to wait until these studies are completed.

In the second major action of the evening the Council recommended a denial of the annexation application of an area north of Harlow Road between Arcadia Drive and Interstate-5.

The recommendation resulted from the opposition of Arcadia Drive residents and the feeling of the Planning Commission that annexation was not called for. Residents said annexation would cause a traffic bottleneck and make it possible for the vacant land to be developed. Both possible results were opposed by residents.

EWEB General Manager announces early retirement

Byron Price, general manager for the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), will take early retirement at the end of August, EWEB President John Tiffany announced today.

Price, who is 58 years old today, joined EWEB as General Manager 16 years ago last week. He previously had been with EWEB for a year, 1953-54. Between 1954 and 1957 he was Assistant Administrator for the Bonneville Power Administration.

Tiffany noted that between 1957 and the present, EWEB experienced its greatest growth than in any similar period since it was formed in 1911. Under Price's leadership, EWEB's facilities grew from \$23-million net assets to \$166-million; total customers from 39,000 to 70,000.

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