

City manager says

Inflation outraces tax rate

The tax rate proposed by the city of Sandy in its 1979-80 budget is more than two dollars higher than the tax rate for the current year. However, it is "unrealistic" to use that budget as a comparison, according to Roger Jordan, the city manager who prepared this year's budget.

In periods of high inflation, it is possible to reduce the tax rate, according to Jordan. This year, however, the city needs the additional revenue to make up for that which was overbudgeted last year. That is one place where the increase occurred.

Another major increase in the tax rate is caused by the bonds that will fall due in the 1979-80 fiscal year. The city must begin payment on bonds for the water system, the sewer system, city hall, the library and the community center. The bonds have already been approved by voters.

The reason this year's debt service is considerably higher than previous years is the 1977 \$1.5 million water improvement bond payment. That makes up over 66 percent of the general obligation bonded debt. The remaining debt services are

paid from the Water System Improvement Fund.

Jordan pointed out that in 1975, the tax base the city operated on was \$9,355.49. With the six percent increase allowed by law, that figure has grown to \$11,874.37 for 1979-80. Yet, he contended, inflation has been nearly ten percent every year since 1975.

In light of that contention, however, Jordan pointed out that the tax rate had dropped in the same period from \$7.40 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$4.14 per \$1,000 in 1979-80.

In that same five-year period, when inflation would

have risen 50 percent, according to Jordan's estimations, the special levy has risen only 30 percent. In 1975, the levy called for \$150,514.21. This year it is \$215,418.63.

Moreover, the general fund expenditures have been reduced almost \$10,000 from last year.

The public will be given an opportunity to voice opinions and questions about the 1979-80 budget proposal at a public meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. That meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall.



New bank opening

TEMPORARY QUARTERS for the new Independent Bank of Sandy on west Proctor will be a specially equipped mobile facility pictured in the background. The bank expects to open for full banking operation May 20, with construction of a permanent bank building yet underway, as pictured in

foreground. Work is progressing on schedule with site preparation and foundation work. The bank is located on the north side of Proctor Boulevard, with accessibility to the temporary mobile unit from the back side on Pleasant Street.

City schedules planning workshops

The City of Sandy is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan to comply with state requirements and to respond to recent development trends. To promote citizen involvement, a series of planning workshops are scheduled for May 8-10 in the City Council Chambers.

The workshops will include the presentation and discussion of background material which will be used to update the plan. Groups with similar interests, such as the business community, social service agencies and

citizen groups, will be scheduled at different times to allow for detailed discussions of particular areas of interest and concern.

The workshops will be conducted by the City and its planning consultants, STRAM Engineers, Inc. of Portland. The workshops are designed for small groups of 10 to 25 persons to increase group participation.

City Planning Assistant Susan Greer urged the public to attend the sessions. "They are critical in developing a plan which will adequately

respond to the needs of the community," she said.

Approximately four weeks after the initial group of workshops, a second series will be held for the same groups. This will provide the groups with a chance to review and evaluate the plan proposals resulting from the earlier meetings.

The first series of workshops will begin Tuesday, May 8 at 1:30 p.m. with a meeting of social services including schools, police, the fire district, the senior program and health services.

The general public will

have its first meeting at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday. The local committee for citizen involvement and county planning organizations will meet that evening at 7:30.

City staff will meet with state, regional and county planning agencies at 10 a.m. Wednesday. Realtors and developers will meet at 1:30 p.m. and the general public will meet again at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, business and civic groups and the parking committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. The Planning Commission and the Sandy City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m.

School's fate left up to voters

The fate of the Sandy Community School is in the hands of the voters.

The Sandy Grade School Board will wait to see what happens to the district's budget in the May 22 election before deciding on a plan for the community school program next year.

According to Clark Lund, superintendent for the district, the 1979-80 budget proposal contains a \$12,850 allocation for the community school program. That would be coupled with \$5,000 allotted in the proposed city budget to provide funding for next year's program.

In the meantime, there is a question about where the money will be spent. Mt. Hood Community College, which has sponsored the Sandy Community School, has withdrawn its support due to a number of budget cutbacks. Its participation ends June 30.

However, the college owns the trailer the school is housed in and is willing to turn it over to the elementary district for a price. The trailer has been appraised at \$8,000, but that amount is out of the question, according to Lund.

"That would nearly wipe out the proposed budget to purchase the trailer," he said. The board has in-

structed Lund to tell the college that it is not interested in purchasing the trailer.

Even if the district purchased the trailer, upkeep and maintenance would eat up a large chunk of the remaining money, according to Lund.

"We're interested in programs. We want our emphasis on people services."

The amount budgeted for the program is intended to be used for the programs, not for buying the trailer," said Lund.

With the addition at Firwood School and the new facility at Kelso School, classrooms in the Sandy Grade School would be freed for potential use by the community school, according to Lund.

Weekend burglaries strike Sandy

Sandy police are investigating a series of burglaries that occurred over the weekend of April 20-22.

On Sunday, attorney Vern Richards reported that his office had been burglarized, but nothing was reported missing.

Paul Koch Ford reported a burglary Monday. Suspects entered the building and took an undetermined amount of cash. Police reported that other valuable items were left behind.

Later that day, Bruce Erickson Engineering reported the theft of a battery from a car in the parking lot. The battery was valued at \$20.

The Sandy Post reported a burglary to Sandy police Monday. An undetermined amount of cash was reported missing.

Last Thursday, an automobile driven by Arthur Burns of Sandy struck a parked car on Pioneer

Boulevard. Burns' 1968 Dodge pickup truck then jumped the curb and struck two 1979 Monte Carlos belonging to Carlson Chevrolet. Burns was not injured.

Sandy police arrested Robert Ross Fitzgerald, 31, for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle Saturday, April 21. The vehicle was reported stolen in Republic, Wash. Fitzgerald was also

charged with a probation violation and lodged in the Clackamas County Jail.

Monday, April 22, police arrested Robert Douglas Sweeney, 29, and charged him with driving under the influence of intoxicants. He was lodged in the county jail.

Robert Barbee of Gresham was lodged in the county jail for driving under the influence of intoxicants Monday, April 30.

'Everybody Loves Opal' auditions scheduled

Auditions for the Sandy Community Players production of "Everybody Loves Opal" will be held May 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. in the Sandy Theatre on Proctor Boulevard.

Four men and two women are needed to fill roles in the play. Director Kay Ten Eyck urges those interested in auditioning to wear comfortable clothing for the

tryout.

Scripts for the play should be available at the Sandy Community School prior to the audition for those who wish to read them. However, Ten Eyck said the school should be contacted at 668-5744 to confirm their availability.

Interested persons who cannot attend the auditions can contact Ten Eyck at 666-4613.

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Mining appeal delayed

The case of Doug Sandy goes on—and on, and on...

Sandy's appeal for a permit to conduct a mining operation reached the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners last Monday morning, April 23, but a decision was delayed until May 7 so the board could conduct an on-site inspection.

The board decided not to allow any new evidence to be

introduced as testimony at last Monday's hearing. The commissioners will base their decision on results of the on-site inspection, questions from the hearing, and transcripts from Sandy's hearing with Clackamas County Hearings Officer Richard Crist held earlier this year.

Crist had denied Sandy a conditional use permit which would have allowed him to conduct a mining operation citing possible noise and dust pollution and conflict with the county's comprehensive plan.

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