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Council delays budget decision

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

Nearly 80 people turned out for the Sandy City Council meeting Monday night to protest possible cuts in senior citizen and recreation programs, but the council delayed a decision on a proposed city budget until June 1.

Many people at the budget hearing Monday evening asked the City Council to fund programs at current levels. The city budget committee, which is made up of members of the City Council and an equal number of citizens, voted last month to take \$38,941 from senior citizen programs and \$17,794 from recreation programs and put that money in the street fund.

About 30 citizens protested the cuts in front of City Hall Monday afternoon by marching and carrying signs.

Howard Berger, chairman of the Sandy Senior Center advisory committee, told the council Monday night that he opposed eliminating the "valuable human services" that the center offers.

Young people also need supervised activities, he said.

"I don't think it's wise to take dollars away from either program," Berger said. "A lot of these seniors made Sandy what it is, and we owe them some support."

Glenda Nelson, contract manager of the Clackamas County Area Agency on Aging, said she realized the city was facing economic constraints, but she said the senior citizen population was growing, not decreasing.

She said outreach programs were solving complex problems faced by senior citizens. She said transportation and lunch programs also were valuable services.

Christine Bierman-Christiansen, a member of the Sandy Recreation Commission, said it seemed inconsistent for the City Council to work so hard on juvenile crime issues and then cut recreation programs for young people.

Bierman-Christiansen presented a petition signed by 141 people who opposed cuts to the recreation program. Dorothea Bernard presented a petition with more than 230 signatures protesting the cuts to senior citizen programs.

George Berg, a budget committee member and a senior citizen, said the senior center should depend more on volunteers.



Senior citizens picketed City Hall Monday to protest cuts to the Sandy Senior Center and recreation programs.

Photo by Scott Newton

"I believe there are enough paid people here that it keeps some people out who would volunteer."

Berg said he had no complaint about the job the paid staff does, but he said the budget committee was trying to hold down costs.

"It's rough. We hate to do it, but it's got to be done," he said.

After the meeting, Brad Paluck, a member of the budget committee, said that some committee members thought Sandy residents would not tolerate the city taking the full 6 percent increase allowed for its tax base plus implementing a 2-cent per-gallon gasoline tax.

The City Council had at one time considered implementing a gasoline tax without a vote of Sandy residents. Members of the budget committee

convinced the council to put the gas tax on the ballot. Voters will decide the issue in the June mail-in election.

City Councilor Larry Buck said after Monday's meeting that he was not opposed to the senior citizen programs. He said he was dissatisfied with the way City Manager Tom Reber planned to implement the cuts.

Buck told the audience Monday night that he was opposed to the salaries being paid. He said he talked to a senior center director in Portland who was making \$22,000 per year plus \$6,500 in fringe benefits.

Buck said the director of community services in Sandy is making \$40,000 and has an assistant who is making \$25,000 a year.

According to city Finance Director

June Peterson, the director of community services, Sandra Potter Marquardt, is paid \$28,216 per year plus \$7,748 in fringe benefits for a total of \$35,964. Nancy Enabrit, recreation director, makes \$16,212 plus \$5,557 in fringe benefits for a total of \$21,769.

Potter Marquardt said that she is a department head and thus has more responsibility than the director of a senior center.

Reber said Potter Marquardt's pay was comparable to that of the seven other department heads in the city of Sandy.

Buck said he toured the Gresham Senior Center and was impressed. "The Gresham Senior Center receives no tax dollars and they offer as many activities as we offer here. It's all volunteer."

Diane Tiller, president of the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, said it was not fair to compare senior citizen programs in different counties because counties have different ways of funding programs.

Tiller said the chamber board was opposed to the cuts in senior citizen programs.

"I talked to a lot of people who would rather drive through potholes than have senior center services cut," Tiller said.

Mayor Deane Wesselink told the group the council would make a decision at a special meeting May 26, but Reber told The Post on Tuesday that council members would wait until the regular meeting June 1 because a council member was planning to be out of town May 26.

Sheriff's levy gains approval

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office will return to business as usual after a majority of voters marked their ballots in favor of a three-year serial levy on Tuesday.

According to the "unofficial final" results from the Clackamas County Elections Office, 30,137 people voted "yes" and 15,253 voted "no" on the levy request. Absentee ballots were being counted Wednesday.

"Everyone is pretty happy," said Russ Williams, public information officer for the sheriff's office. "We've got a place to work today."

The sheriff's office faced layoffs after its proposed levy suffered a narrow defeat in March. If the sheriff's levy had failed at the polls Tuesday, even approval of an emergency levy would not have occurred in time to keep the sheriff's office from shutting down at least temporarily.

The three-year serial levy, which replaces one approved in 1984, was for \$33.8 million, or \$11,275,585 per year. The tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation will increase from \$1.20 to \$1.34.

Brooks cut more than \$1 million from the levy after it failed at the polls in March. The loss was the first at the ballot box for the sheriff's office.

Sheriff Bill Brooks told The Post on Monday that if the sheriff's levy was approved, it would be because of the efforts of a political action committee called Citizens for Effective Law Enforcement.

The political action committee was headed by an Oregon City doctor, Craig Smith, and a Clackamas lawyer, Dean Fitzwater.

Brooks said Citizens for Effective Law Enforcement garnered numerous endorsements from city councils, chambers of commerce and other groups.

"What was interesting was that we had virtually hundreds of volunteers from every walk of life roll up their sleeves and work hard. We had farmers, truck drivers, bankers and real estate agents," Brooks said.

Reader boards up and down

Turn to SHERIFF, Page 4.

Man charged in Sandy High barn fire

A 20-year-old Sandy man was arrested Friday in connection with a Jan. 12 barn fire on Sandy High School property that resulted in damages of about \$8,000.

Michael D. Miller, 38200 Nettie Connett Drive, has been charged with second-degree arson and second-degree burglary, said Jim Gallagher, fire marshal of the Sandy Fire District.

The Sandy Fire District investigated the cause of the fire and the Oregon State Police arson

division conducted the criminal investigation, Gallagher said. Sandy police were at the scene when Miller was arrested Friday morning at his home.

Miller was taken to the Clackamas County jail, where he was lodged until Monday. He was released into the custody of his mother, said Russ Williams, public information officer for the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office.

An indictment against Miller was handed down by a Clackamas County grand jury on

April 23, Gallagher said.

The roof and loft of the barn received the most damage in the Jan. 12 fire, which occurred about 10 p.m.

Gallagher said the building was worth an estimated \$12,000 and that it had received \$6,000 worth of damage.

Small animal cages, portable bleachers and other contents were damaged in the fire, with an estimated loss value of \$2,000, Gallagher said.

Gresham woman killed in accident outside Sandy

A Gresham woman died Sunday when the car in which she was riding left the road and struck a tree near Sandy.

The accident occurred on Marmot Road northeast of Sandy.

Lottie Margaret Foland, 68, of 31836 Proctor St., died at the scene, said Russ Williams, public information officer for the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office.

The woman's husband, Eugene Edward Foland, 71, was the driver of

the car. He was taken to Providence Medical Center where he was treated for minor injuries and released.

The Folands were in a 1973 Cadillac. Mrs. Foland was wearing a lap seat belt, Williams said.

The car went around a curve into the opposite lane, left the roadway and struck a tree. No other vehicles were involved.

The accident occurred about 3½ miles east of the intersection of Marmot Road and Shipley Road.

Voters reject levy for Welches school

Voters in Hoodland rejected a Welches School District levy by a margin of 347 to 279 in Tuesday's election, according to unofficial final results from the Clackamas County Elections Office.

Absentee ballots were being counted Wednesday.

Voters were asked to approve a one-year operating levy of \$105,140. The levy would have increased the tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation from \$4.50 to 5.25, a 16 percent increase.

Superintendent Dan Barker said the district asked for the operating levy because increased enrollments had caused a need for additional staff members and additional supplies and equipment.

In preparing for the current school year, the district planned for 360 students but has had as many as 404, Barker said. The district expects to have 420 students next year, which compares with 308 students in the fall of 1983.

Dawn Morrison, chairwoman of the Welches school board, said she was disappointed at the loss.

"We've had a lot of changes. It would have made things a lot simpler if the levy had passed. We'll (board members) have to meet and see

where to go from here," Morrison said.

The board recently hired a new superintendent, Judy Warren, who is currently principal at Firwood School in Sandy. In addition, Jerry McMahan is due to join the board in July.

'We'll have to meet and see where to go from here.'

— Dawn Morrison

Morrison said McMahan and Dave Enna, another board member, had spoken to several local groups in an attempt to garner support. A telephone campaign as conducted and several people put out signs on the highway seeking support.

Morrison said she wonders if people were confused by the school safety-net measure, which also was on the ballot and was approved by voters statewide.

The district received an updated tax base in 1984.



Photo by Scott Newton

Power pole down

Power lines were draped over Highway 26 Thursday when a truck and trailer, driven by Thomas Lyle Wilson of Prineville, hit a pole as he was pulling up to the curb on Pioneer Boulevard near Beers Avenue. According to a Sandy police report, the pole was leaning at about a 20 percent angle when the truck pulled up to the curb. Traffic was tied up briefly as one lane was closed.