

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
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New zoning might benefit downtown

The Sandy City Council should approve an ordinance that would amend the Sandy Municipal Code to allow some industrial uses in downtown Sandy.

The ordinance is the culmination of about two years of brainstorming by the City Council and city staff. Its intent is to allow quiet, clean and non-polluting businesses to locate in vacant buildings downtown.

Supporters say the measure would increase the number of people who work — and thus shop and spend money — in Sandy's core area.

The ordinance allows for the assembly or manufacture of merchandise or food products. It also would allow development, research and testing laboratories and offices.

One portion of the ordinance, however, should be changed. The ordinance, in its present form, would allow warehousing and storage facilities in the downtown area.

While mini-storage facilities are popular and revenue-producing, they are not needed downtown. They are primarily a combination of driveways, warehouse-type buildings and chain-link fence. They would not employ many people and would not be of any benefit to merchants downtown.

Eliminating storage facilities from the ordinance also would address the concern raised by businessman Dale Nicholls at the recent public hearing on the issue. He was concerned that downtown Sandy could be turned into a warehousing district; he envisioned increased truck traffic in the core area.

But the ordinance's first two provisions, which allow light manufacturing and offices for research or other purposes, might just help provide jobs.

In addition, there is a safety valve built into the measure. Any non-commercial uses downtown would have to be approved by the Planning Commission and the City Council.

It would be up to the people on those boards to find out if a business would be compatible with other businesses in the area.

Downtown Sandy is never going to revert to the ideal downtown some of us would like. The modern world is dependent on the automobile, and Sandy is divided by a major east-west highway.

But this measure may help boost the size of the work force downtown, and that would be good for the community.



Nutrition a matter of cook's definition

Hubs and I had a discussion about nutrition the other day. He lost.

Starch was the subject of the conversation and it cropped up because I took pity on him and decided to cook him a dinner.

Meals and menu planning at our house work this way: Whoever is home that day — Hubs or me — does the cooking.

"On the days she works, I cook dinner," Hubby explained to somebody the other day. "And on the days she doesn't work, she goes out for dinner."

Occasionally I foul up and go out to dinner on his night to cook. Nothing brightens Hubby's day more than getting a night off in the kitchen. Of course he still has to cook dinner for himself, but that is a simple matter. He fixes steak and cantaloupe.

"Steak is my protein and cantaloupe is my vegetable," he says smugly, pointing out that he took a course in nutrition in college and I didn't.

But back to the starch. On the night I promised to cook dinner I had fried



Sharon Nesbit

chicken and potato salad. "Why can't we have gravy?" came the plaintive cry. Hubs loves fried chicken gravy.

I carefully explained to him that it was summer and in summer we have potato salad with our chicken, and potato salad is a starch and if we were to have potatoes and gravy as well that would be two starches (three actually; gravy is no slouch in

the starch department) and three starches are too many for people whose buttons pop off with startling regularity.

He digested all that for a few moments and said, "Who made those rules anyway?"

"If I were running things," he muttered, "we could have two starches if we wanted to."

Things have really gone to pot, in more ways than one, since our children left the house and we don't have to set a good example anymore.

When the kids were young and impressionable, we ate from all the basic food groups. I fretted if there were two yellow foods on the plate. We dutifully ate brussels sprouts, spinach and squash. The only time we strayed from the strict path of good nutrition was when we ate out and gorged on french fries and hamburgers.

The theory was that if we taught our children good habits they would carry them down the same dietary path to adulthood. That worked

reasonably well with No. 1 Kid. But what No. 2 Kid learned from all our effort was that he preferred a cuisine of french fries and hamburgers.

Once he left the shelter of our roof, his lips never touched vegetables again, with the occasional exception of a leaf or two of iceberg lettuce.

We had led him to believe that he would grow big and tall on a diet of leafy, green vegetables. After he left our house and took up a steady diet of fast food, he grew about a foot. A mother's mind plays funny tricks. To this day, every time I see him I'm surprised he is so tall.

No. 2 Kid is too nice a person to accuse us of trying to stunt his growth with brussels sprouts, but we know he believes it.

We've pretty much shucked all the dietary rules in our house except one: He or she who cooks makes the rules.

That's why we didn't have gravy with the potato salad the last time I cooked. And Hubs knows it.

It took the starch right out of him.

Oregon business climate improves

by GOV. NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT
Special to The Post

Much has been said over the last decade about the need to improve Oregon's business climate. Rightly or wrongly, this state has acquired a reputation for being unresponsive to the needs of business.

One measurement of a state's business climate is the cost of doing business. For many years, Oregon's costs have been comparatively higher than the national average in several important areas.

That is one reason so many Oregon businesses closed down or moved out of state in the earlier part of this decade, when Oregon had the fourth highest bankruptcy rate in the country.

The 1987 Legislature took concrete steps to cut the cost of doing business in Oregon, and showed a real willingness to reform laws that hinder business development.

These changes could make the difference in the survival of one of Oregon's most important economic assets — an existing business.

First, the Legislature reformed the workers' compensation system to reverse the trend of high rates for the

employers and low benefits for the injured worker.

Second, for the first time in recent history, Oregon reduced personal and corporate income tax rates. Some 647,000 Oregonians will pay less personal income taxes. Corporate taxes, now in the mid-range among states, will drop to the lower third.

Third, a single agency will now regulate insurance and financial institutions and will report directly to me. This will help lower the cost of doing business and provide tough insurance regulation.

Fourth, Oregon's corporate code was revised and simplified to make it easier for businesses to incorporate. This legislation demonstrates that state government will listen to the problems of business and respond with answers that work.

These actions, combined with our quality of life, natural attractions and the productivity of Oregonians, are a major boost to the state's business image.

There is still much to be done, but we are headed in the right direction.

Our resources are better focused, and the state's ability to help rebuild Oregon's economy has been improved.

Vetoes good news, bad news package

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

About three weeks after each regular session of the Oregon Legislature, a bit of good news-bad news emanates from the State Capitol in Salem.

The event stems from one of those constitutional checks and balances in government and involves gubernatorial vetoes of certain measures enacted by the Legislature.

And it often occurs at that particular time because the Governor has 20 days, excluding Sundays, after each session in which to sign bills or they become law without his signature.

Of course vetoes can be overridden. But only by a two-third votes in both House and Senate. Bills are seldom vetoed during sessions, thereby temporarily precluding an override. Temporarily, because consideration of vetoes is always the first order of substantive business whenever the Assembly reconvenes in special session or meets again for the next regular session.

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt issued his first version of the good news-bad

news package last week. In the process he nixed 15 of the more than 1,000 measures enacted by the 64th Assembly earlier this year.

Vetoes are referred to as having good and bad potential because they nearly always involve controversial subjects and vetoes generally please those who oppose the measure and displease those who sought its passage.

Initial reaction to Gov. Goldschmidt's 15 vetoes appeared to be one of surprise, considering the perception that he had worked in exceptional harmony with this Assembly. On the other hand, his veto messages explained his action in detail and for the most part were aimed at substantiating efforts to protect voters' rights and maintain distinct separation of powers among branches of government.

In several instances the Governor actually favored the main thrust of several of the vetoed bills but killed them because of flaws that he and his staff figured were more damaging than the good parts.

In other instances he indicated he would work to obtain similar or the same results administratively

without strict statutory provisions.

Yet another reason he gave for several vetoes was the perception the proposals would create unnecessary and excessively expensive bureaucracy.

While 15 might appear to be a large number of vetoes, readers only have to recall that two years ago then-Gov. Vic Atiyeh interdicted 32 measures and excised portions of three more. Following the lengthy and calamitous 1983 session he killed 40 and utilized line-item power on yet another.

Altogether, Atiyeh — only the fourth Governor to serve through four biennial sessions of the Legislature — exercised his veto power 112 times. That puts him second on the all-time veto list, exceeded only by Gov. Oswald West, who axed 72 in 1911 and another 41 in 1913 for a total of 113 in only two sessions.

More modern comparisons reveal that former Gov. Bob Straub's highest number of vetoes was 20 in 1977. The late Tom McCall vetoed a high of 16 in 1973 and former Gov. Mark Hatfield vetoed 23 in 1963.

No one is offering odds on whether any of Goldschmidt's vetoes will be overridden when the Assembly next gathers in Salem. But it's interesting to note that the 64th Assembly did override four Atiyeh vetoes during this year's session.

It's interesting also to observe that Goldschmidt did not utilize line-item or partial veto power, and that restraint may have been prompted by the fact the courts are still pondering a final decision on a partial veto levied by Atiyeh in 1983.

The constitutional provision for such action empowers Governors "...to veto single items in appropriation bills, and any provision in new bills declaring an emergency, without thereby affecting any other provision of such a bill."

Atiyeh construed the language to permit excising a portion of any bill with the emergency clause. Legislative counsel opined instead that it meant veto of the emergency clause only. A lawsuit followed and the Court of Appeals last spring sided with Legislative counsel. The issue is now before the Supreme Court.

by Adam Kraft

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