

Traffic talk, crosswalks tie up city council

By Caitlyn May
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Cottage Grove City Council had its hands full on Monday night with an array of traffic-related agenda items. The agenda--carried mostly by city engineer Ron Bradsby (for which he apologized)--noted no less than three items related to roads and traffic with in the city of Cottage Grove.

South 6th St.

The council approved a bid for \$427,365.36 from Knife River for the work scheduled on South 6th St. and Mosbey Creek Rd.

"The city has prioritized this and so we put the bids out," Bradsby told the council.

The amount, while coming in lower than the \$434,670.68 from a different firm, did not include flagging costs.

When asked why the Request

for Proposal did not include a request for an estimate for such services by councilman Mike Fleck, Bradsby noted, "We had a general item called traffic control and let it be broad based. We gave them latitude to give us an hourly rate but we don't have an hourly estimate. Bradsby told the council that his best guest would be \$10,000 more for flagging and traffic control costs.

The item passed unanimously with councilman Jake Boone absent from the meeting.

Crosswalk

KNNC is losing the crosswalk in front of the studio and that's just fine by station owner Cameron Reiten.

According to Bradsby, when the city freshened up the crosswalks, they painted no parking section according to state regulations. However, the new no parking additions meant four lost parking spots--two on the

east side and two on the west.

Bradsby told the council that Books on Main owner called the city to inquire as to what could be done to regain parking.

"It's confusing out there with the yellow and then the parking spot," Fleck said before making the motion to remove the crosswalk across from Books on Main, keeping the crosswalk near the police station.

"I want to express my support of this," Reiten told the council, noting that he hadn't suffered any lost business due to the lost parking spaces because he wasn't a retail business.

South 10th and Taylor Motorists headed near 10th and Taylor will find a new stop sign--soon. According to Bradsby, there's no scheduled time to place the sign but he hopes to get one in place soon to, "get traffic used to it being an all-way stop" before the new Harrison Elementary School opens

next fall.

As part of the construction of the new school, a traffic analysis was completed and one of the recommendations was that Taylor and South 10th become a three-way stop.

Fleck threw his support behind the idea noting that, as a neighbor in the area, he has seen his share of near misses concerning traffic accidents. Mayor Jeff Gowing also piped in, stating that in 1969, the stop sign was installed at the crossing due to a fatality. "That intersection is a proven danger," he said.

The motion, also made by Fleck, passed.

School crossing

Great Days Early Education Center is getting a crosswalk of its own.

Owner Barbara Howell came before the board after Bradsby's presentation to present a petition with 60 signatures from the parents of her school requesting

that the city address the dangers of River Rd.

"For 40 years, we've been taking care of all the children in Cottage Grove," Howell said. "We have an after school program now with a bus that brings children from the schools and a teacher that goes out, meets 30 children and then has to walk in front of the bus with them. Traffic doesn't obey the law and sometimes the bus has to honk at cars to get them to stop."

Bradsby agreed with Howell telling the council that he had met her on site and witnessed the dangers.

The crosswalk would begin near the south entrance of the school and allow children to cross safely.

"It's also an added reminder that it's a school zone there, for drivers," Bradsby said.

The motion passed.

No more parking

The city council is putting an end to parking in front of the Holloman building between Hwy. 99 and 8th St.

According to Bradsby, an ODOT project that was completed in 2014 left the city with bike lanes that the city then discarded.

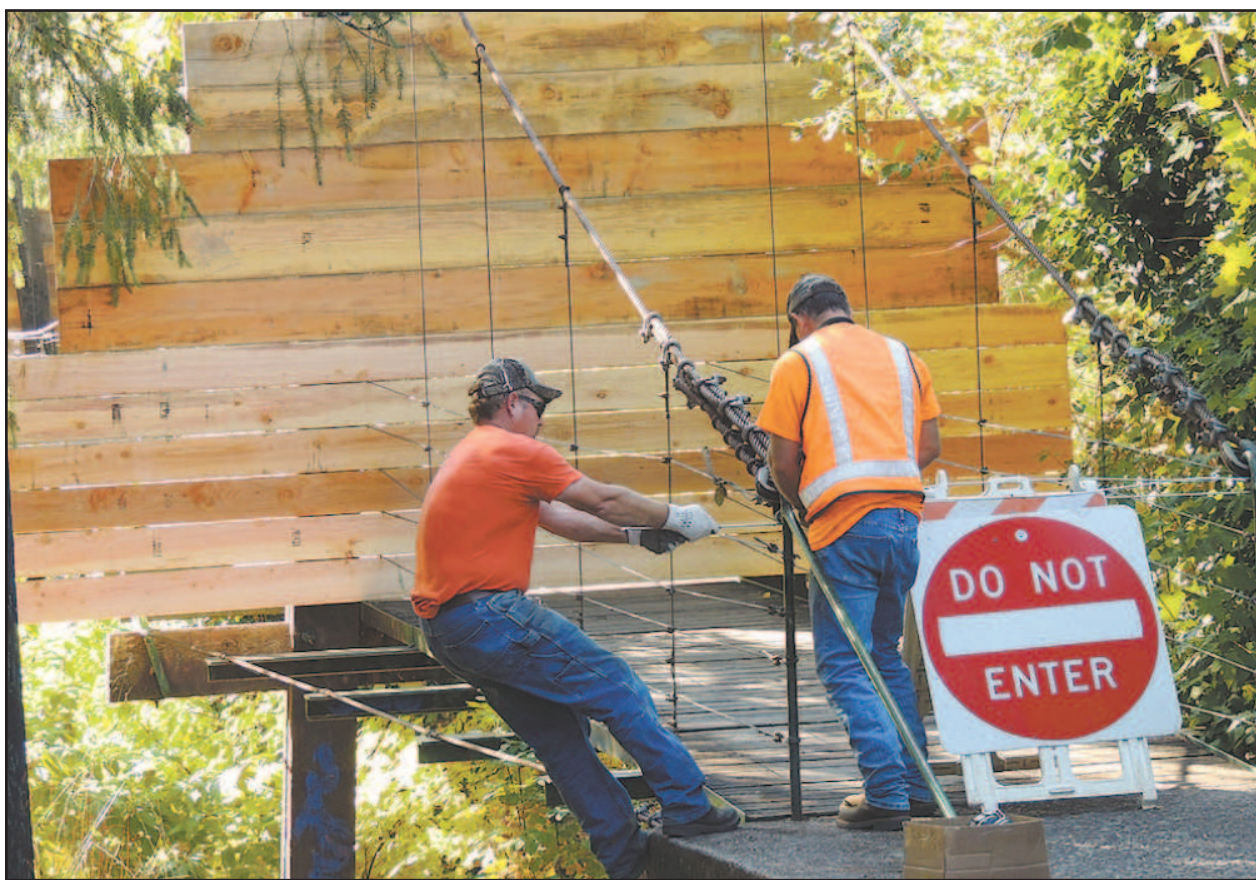
"Because it's not painted yellow there, people park there," Bradsby said. "It only leaves nine feet for traffic and we normally like to see 10 or 11 feet."

The city will reportedly now paint no parking in the area to prevent cars from narrowing the roadway.

According to Bradsby, the only businesses that would be affected are "the renewable energy building, the tattoo parlor and the Holloman building." But the Hollomans, according to Bradsby, don't mind.

The motion passed.

MAIN ST., SWINGING BRIDGE POSTPONED



By Caitlyn May
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Cottage Grove residents who were hoping to see progress on the Main Street Bridge and the Swinging Bridge by the new year will have to wait.

Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers informed the city council on Monday, September 11 that the money to begin work on S. 6th St. were coming in part from the money set aside for the Main Street Bridge.

"We are monitoring the conditions of the bridge but we need to get the permits to work in the water before we go to bid," Meyers told the council. "We'll wait until next spring to go to bid and part of why we can do South 6th now is because we are going to wait until the spring to do Main Street Bridge."

Meyers told the council that the city also looked at doing the Swinging Bridge but opted to wait.

"It was \$166,000 to design the bridge and then the option you chose, not

the pre-fabricated bridge, was another \$400,000 to \$600,000 to complete," he said. "We could have done the bridge but South 6th and the roads have a little more transportation value than the bridge."

Mayor Jeff Gowing took issue with the company responsible for handling the re-construction of the Swinging Bridge, particularly the cost of the design.

"At \$166,000, at \$200 an hour they're spending 830 hours? That's ridiculous," he said.

Meyers said the city was addressing the company directly.

It wasn't all bad news for bridge lovers at Monday night's meeting. Meyers reported that residents who donate to the Swinging Bridge on their water bills have raised approximately \$2,000 so far.

"It's not a lot to get it done in a timely manner but it is something to show when we apply for grants," he said. "We can say, 'Look at what the community has done so far.'"

The city will be meeting in Salem for a \$150,000 grant in the near future for the bridge.




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BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION



Cerro Gordo conservation easement in Lane County will protect fish and wildlife habitat

The Bonneville Power Administration intends to fund the purchase of a conservation easement on approximately 532 acres of riparian and wetland habitat near the town of Cottage Grove in Lane County, Oregon. When the purchase is complete McKenzie River Trust will manage the property for wildlife conservation purposes and BPA will receive a conservation easement to ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected.

Funding this land purchase partially fulfills commitments made by BPA in the 2010 Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Habitat Protection and Enhancement between the State of Oregon and the Bonneville Power Administration. This is part of ongoing efforts to mitigate for the impacts to fish and wildlife from the construction and operation of federal flood control and hydroelectric facilities in the Willamette River Basin. These properties will provide long-lasting fish and wildlife benefits and will become one of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley.

McKenzie River Trust will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat on the property. BPA and ODFW will review the plan for consistency with the conservation purposes of the land acquisition. A letter describing the proposed purchase, a map and information describing environmental review requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act are available at www.efw.bpa.gov.

For more information, contact BPA Project Manager Sandra Fife at 503-230-3678 or safff@bpa.gov or call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the Cerro Gordo Conservation Easement.

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