

Decision deadline is April 22

Solving water problems a thorny issue for council

"One of the reasons we called this meeting tonight is to determine the last day that the City of Heppner could delay construction of the proposed water improvements, and still get all the improvements completed by July 1, 1975," Steve Anderson, city engineer, told a special meeting of the Heppner Common Council Monday night.

One of the reasons for the July 1, 1975 deadline is that the State of Oregon will not allow the City of Heppner to issue any more building permits unless the city has the water system completely improved by the July date, Anderson said.

The last date for the city to make a decision is April 22, 1974, one month from now. This will be the date for the city to make a decision as to whether to go "on her own" and try to get some financial backing from another agency, or whether to wait and try to get a commitment from the Corps of Engineers.

"Naturally, our first alternate is to try and get the Corps to give verbal approval that it will participate, and then go ahead with the design," Anderson said. "The other alternate is to ask the Economic Development Agency to grant us funds to complete the work."

Mayor Jerry Sweeney informed the council that plans for the entire project are on the desk of the chief engineer, and as soon as he approves them the Public Utilities Commission of the Senate will convene and have to take oral testimony of citizens. A meeting of this committee will be for the sole purpose of the re-authorization of the Willow Creek Project only.

"Sen. Mark Hatfield suggests that the City of Heppner have representation at this meeting. Instead of us helping Hatfield and Ullman, the situation has been turned around. The city has to go to bat for them," said Sweeney.

Sweeney said the report should be discussed within the next two weeks. Anderson plans to attend the meeting in

Washington, D.C., as soon as the city is notified of the time of the meeting.

Anderson discussed the possibility of acquiring EDA funds for the Heppner water system, and said there is a reasonable chance that EDA funds might be available should the Corps fail to take any action on the project.

Anderson went into a lengthy discussion of the proposed two-phase project concerning the related work he plans to do this summer. They include work on Well 3, purchasing the Thorpe Well, construction of a 250,000-gallon reservoir, and the relocation and enlargement of the Willow Creek transmission line.

The proposed plans would include a 250,000-gallon reservoir, giving the city some temporary benefits, allowing further development in the Lott Subdivision, and giving the city a larger fire-fighting capacity at the high school. It would give the city all of the benefits of the cross ties, thus improving the present system, and all of the advantages of the present distribution system.

"This would not be the perfect system by any means," said Anderson, but it would be something that we could tie into at a later date. We would be able to meet the city's needs for the next 20 years.

"If we went with this two-phase construction and within a month nothing has happened, we could complete the projects with the monies we presently have. Should the Corps come in we would then be able to complete the entire project. One of the bottlenecks facing the City of Heppner is

the transmission line, and eventually the two miles will have to be replaced."

Under this proposed two-stage construction the city will have to rely more on the Thorpe Well than previously anticipated. The importance of this plan is that it will give the city the amount of water it currently requires.

One of the problems is the cost factor of the 250,000-gallon reservoir. The estimated cost of the reservoir is \$95,700 under this proposal. If the Corps come in it would cost about \$20,000 for a larger reservoir.

With this stage construction the city will be about \$70,000 short.

Following Anderson's discussion on the proposed stages of the water project, members of the utilities commission were asked for opinions on the project.

One member, Gene Pierce, said he thought the city had sold the citizens a "bill of goods" because the city had sold the people \$450,000 bond issue and now it's asking for the government to step in and help with the improvements. Both Anderson and Mayor Sweeney were accused of not telling the truth and leading the people "down the primrose path."

Sweeney retorted, "We have told the Corps the truth; it was the Corps that did not tell the truth."

Harley Young accused the city of selling the bond issue to the people for the benefit of Kinzua Corporation and its employees. He also asked why Kinzua Corporation did not place \$300,000 to \$400,000 "on the table" and allow the city to repay it over a period of 10 years.

"Whether Kinzua is in this town or not, the people of Heppner had a sick water system on their hands, and it was either pass the bond issue or let the city die on the vine. The city water system had to be improved," Sweeney replied.

In other action, the council heard Bob Lowe, maintenance superintendent for Pioneer Hospital, ask Anderson how the city plans to maintain the proper pressure to the hospital if the present county reservoir is tied into to feed the proposed subdivision. At present there is a six-inch line from the reservoir to the hospital serving the sprinklers system at the hospital. Lowe's main concern was fire protection for the hospital.

Anderson answered Lowe's query with the following proposal:

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Planning commission

\$385,000 housing project approved

The city planning commission unanimously approved Kinzua Corporation's housing project Tuesday night that clears the way for construction of 22 single family dwellings and six multi-family units on 2.12 acres above Pioneer Memorial Hospital at a cost of \$385,000.

Allen Nistad, Kinzua Corporation official, told the commission he would personally develop the multi-family area, Evergreen Terrace, as well as a home there for himself.

Richard Unruh, architect, of Moreland, Unruh & Smith, Eugene, Ore., told the commission the development will

be fully landscaped with native trees and shrubs, plenty of open space, with houses facing in an oblique position to afford more privacy for neighboring residences. About 57 per cent of the acreage will be landscaped, he said.

The commission heard from several of the 50 persons in the audience, who raised objections because of a fear of inadequate drainage from the project, increased traffic hazards in and around the hospital, the inadequacy of Gilmore Street to carry projected traffic and the improbability of furnishing water to the new development.

The questions concerning these matters were answered by Nistad, Unruh, Engineer Don Staebler and Commission Chairman Randal Peterson, who reminded critics of the project that such matters were not within the province of the commission to solve, and that the only purpose for the meeting was to approve or disapprove a variance for multi-family units.

The objections, Peterson said, would have to be worked out between the engineers for the city and Kinzua.

Nistad said Kinzua has already made \$8 million in new investments in the Heppner area.

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Linda Baker, home economist for the Oregon Beef Council, will present a Beef-O-Rama at the Elks Lodge, Wednesday, March 27. Mrs. Baker holds bachelors and masters of science degrees in home economics from Oregon State University. The past six years she taught at Milwaukie High School, outside Portland.

A Beef-O-Rama is recipes, prizes

A Beef-O-Rama, to help the harassed housewife "beef up" her food budget, is coming to Heppner.

Morrow County's CowBelles are sponsoring an afternoon of cooking demonstrations and prizes, Wednesday, March 27, at the Heppner Elks Lodge, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Linda Baker, Oregon Beef Council home economist, will demonstrate how to get multiple meals from such beef cuts as round steak, first cut blade chuck roast, porterhouse steak and arm pot roast. A discussion of cost per serving and recipes to give away are all part of the afternoon show. Kathy Jamieson, Gilliam County Extension home economist, will demonstrate quick and economical dishes in a microwave oven.

The big door prize to be given away is a \$50 smokeless

electric broiler. Other door prizes include dinner for two at Beecher's Restaurant in lone, a large beef roast, beef steaks, a beef certificate to purchase beef at any store and more than 20 smaller prizes. There will be free coffee and cookies.

One of Mrs. Baker's recipes, to be prepared at the show, is stir-fry beef and vegetables, prepared in a wok and costing about 80 cents per serving. This all-in-one meal contains such tempting ingredients as beef, celery, onion, bean sprouts and water chestnuts. Beer braised beef, costing 65 cents per serving, and wreath rollups which cost 60 cents per serving, will also be prepared. All dishes prepared will be given away as door prizes.

Virginia Grieb, president of the local CowBelles group, says everyone is welcomed to

this free show. If anyone is wondering which door to go through at the Elks to get into the Beef-O-Rama, she says to look for a big poster of an appealing beef cow and "follow her tail on in."

Birdine Tullis, chairman of the cooking show, says that the CowBelles will have a table set up with such items as CowBelle place mats, beef tea, beef jerky mix and CowBelle cookbooks on sale.

Working with Mrs. Tullis to bring the Beef-O-Rama to Heppner are Mildred Eubanks and Jean Bennett, in charge of door prizes; Judy Currin and Gail Hughes, in charge of the coffee hour; DuAnne McCarty and Claudia Hughes, buyer's table; Claudia Hughes, advertising; and hostesses Sherrie Mahoney, Virginia Grieb and Shirley Belcher.

Timber industry

Panel to explore community impact

What effect will the expansion of the Kinzua Corporation mill at Heppner have on the community?

How will the environment be affected by the growth of the forest industry and the increased demand on the resources of the forest?

A special program, "Timber, Impact on Your Community," is being presented to the public, Monday, March 25. A panel of experts in the forest industry will discuss these topics. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Heppner High School Cafeteria.

Harold Kerr, Morrow County Agricultural Extension Agent, will act as moderator for the panel. Panel members are

Allen Nistad of the Kinzua Corporation; Dennis Martin, timber management assistant with the Heppner District of the U.S. Forest Service; and two extension forestry specialists from Oregon State University, Dr. Bryan Cleary, specialist in reforestation, and Dr. Larry Strieby, forest economist.

Nistad promises an important public announcement at the Monday evening meeting. In addition he will discuss the expansion at the Heppner mill and its effects on the community in such areas as housing. He will also discuss practices to increase production without endangering the forest. Martin will examine the

effects of the mill's expansion on the Forest Service. The topic of the economics of new forestry practices will be handled by the two OSU extension specialists.

The program is being sponsored by the Morrow County Home Extension Advisory Committee. The topic had originally been planned for the individual Home Extension Study Groups. The advisory committee decided to bring in individuals well versed in the forest industry for a special meeting instead, because many questions are arising with the expansion of the Heppner mill.

The committee planning the program encourages the public to attend and ask questions.

Water system bids rather, uh, shocking

Bids for lone's proposed water system were opened Monday night at the lone City Council meeting.

Five bids were opened and all were found to be over the proposed budget tentatively asked by the council. The council had hoped to spend approximately \$30,000, but the bids ranged from \$38,000 to \$66,000.

lone Mayor Bob Drake said the bids were being analyzed by City Engineer Steve Anderson in hope that a suitable proposal could be set up and presented to the council at its next meeting.



The Heppner Lions Club was organized Friday night at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant. Officers elected are shown here, left to right: Dick Sargent, vice-president; Bill Lande, treasurer; Don Heliker, a member of the lone Lions Club which sponsored the Heppner club; Cliff Green, president; and Dave Harrison, secretary. The next meeting of the Heppner Lions Club is March 27, 6:30 a.m., at the Wagon Wheel. Men interested in becoming charter members of the newly organized club are invited to the breakfast meeting.