

Heppner City Council to hold land-use plan hearing Monday night

The Heppner City Planning Commission recommended city council approval of new urban growth boundaries and the final draft of new zoning, subdivision and mobile home park regulations Monday night following a four hour public hearing at Heppner City Hall.

Minor changes were made in the final draft as commission members completed months of work to update the city's land use plans. The city council will consider the recommendation at a second public hearing Monday, June 18 at city hall.

In a separate action, the commission turned down a request from Pioneer Memorial Hospital for a variance to allow extension of new emer-

gency facilities at 564 E. Pioneer Drive. Hospital Administrator Bob Byrnes and Ed Dick, a member of the county hospital board, appealed to the planning commission to grant the variance because of the hospital's need for funding approval by the federal Health, Education and Welfare Dept., Region 10, Seattle in two weeks.

The Planning Commission members said changes were needed in the hospital's architectural plans to allow for greater pedestrian safety at the rear of the hospital on Thompson Drive.

Ed Dick told the commission that HEW grant money was approved in January 1977 and the hospital board needed the variance to meet further

approval, but city planners felt changes in the plans were necessary to make the area safe for pedestrians. A recommendation was made by one member to ask the city council to vacate Thompson Drive.

The new plans call for a new ambulance port, X-ray laboratory, gas storage facility, a new physician's room and other features.

The hospital board may appeal the decision to the city council within 15 days, Commission Chairman Terry Hager told the pair of officials.

Commission members considered allowing the variance on the basis of parking restrictions and the guarantee of a certain number of parking spaces but after two hours, told Dick and Byrnes to revise

the plans for increased pedestrian safety.

A conditional use permit to place a mobile home on property at 235 1/2 Linden Way owned by Mr. and Mrs. F.D. Messinger was tabled because of a board policy not to consider permits without the parties present.

During the discussion of the board's proposed enlargement of the urban growth boundaries to allow future expansion of the city limits, Fred Hoskins, a family member of a corporation which owns wheat and alfalfa land south of the Willow Creek Area, said "if that land was developed, it would knock the heart out of my ranch."

The area has been designated as light industrial on the

landuse maps but as explained by commission members, private property-owners may do what they like with their property unless they sell it.

Said Hager: "There would be no effect on your land as assessed by the county assessor until you wanted to sell or annex it."

"Each city is authorized to set aside ground for light industry and the planning commission felt this land was the most logical area for Heppner to develop light industry," Hager said when pointing to the light industrial areas already in existence at the south end of the town.

Mayor Jerry Sweeney told

Hoskins the city has no plans to buy his family's land and remarked, "It's still your land, it won't affect your taxes."

Hoskins was told by the commission that before the light industrial designation was finalized, several public hearings would be held by the city council, county planning commission, county court and the State Land Conservation and Development Department.

Marie Hall of the Eastern Central Oregon Association of Counties was asked how good the chances were of the city's proposed urban growth bound-

daries being approved by LCDC in light of recent rejections of the Pilot Rock and Echo proposals. Marie said Heppner's plans are "reasonable" and was confident of passage.

When discussing the proposed new zoning ordinance, the commission reported changes in the commercial zone with expansion to Gale Street and Dr. Wolff's office and noted where uses are incompatible with uses as spelled out by the plan, applicants would have to seek commission approval. A question arose over the lack of a 35 ft. height restriction as stated

in the previous zoning ordinances for fire protection and that matter was referred to the city council for final action.

During the consideration of off street parking spaces, Ed Dick suggested the commission specify the size of the spaces within the ordinance. The commission compiled and the final draft sent to the city council will include that provision.

The proposed mobile home park and subdivision ordinances were recommended for approval and will reach a final decision Monday at the city council public hearing.

North Morrow tour sees

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Bonneville Power Administration. Following the coal-plant tour, the group had a no-host lunch at the Nomad Restaurant in Boardman with a special program arranged by the Boardman Commercial Club.

Enthusiasm for the economic future of the North Morrow County area characterized the comments of Boardman Mayor Jerry Peck and City Manager Jim Thompson. Peck welcomed the group to Boardman and proudly described Boardman as the center of North Morrow County, then compared the burgeoning town to its past promises as reflected in an old newspaper article. City Manager Thompson said Boardman's boom started in 1969, and in the past six years, the area has grown from 350 to 1,400 people or 30 percent growth per year.

The growth in population was attributed to the influx of new food processing businesses such as Gourmet Foods.

With the city's new growth has come housing and crime problems, Thompson said. The city manager said the housing is tight and at one point it was limited to high income dwellings; the city has tried to change that with development of low income housing sites.

Crime has increased in Boardman and to protect area citizens, a larger police force was hired.

The city budget has climbed from \$16,000 in 1974 to \$100,000 this year.

"Our debt service is larger

than the Lexington and Ione budget," Thompson added.

The city is attempting to increase its retail expansion and during the bus tour of the city, the Mayor pointed out the site of a future supermarket. The residential developments are springing up so fast that the Mayor forgot the name of one as the bus passed its marquee.

The tour also traveled to irrigation pumping station within the Port of Morrow and made a stopover at the Irrigon City Park with County Judge D.O. Nelson serving as a guide.

Assisting and arranging the tour were County Extension Agents Harold Kerr and Birdine Tullis.

OBITUARY

Mary McMurtry

Mary Eunice McMurtry, 79 died in Heppner June 10.

She was born Aug. 30, 1899 in Heppner and was a life-time resident of the community. She was a member of the First Christian Church, the Degree of Honor and a 58 year member of the Rebekah Lodge in Heppner.

She married Robert G. McMurtry in Philomath April 19, 1923.

Survivors include her husband, Heppner, and son Glen, Portland, numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services are Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the First Christian Church in Heppner with concluding services and interment in the Lexington Cemetery.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, is handling the arrangements.

Postmaster

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According to his wife, his fall was broken by a wire on the city roof. Randall and Marlene Peterson heard his cries of help and phoned the ambulance service.

He was taken to Pioneer Memorial Hospital and expected to remain hospitalized within the next six weeks for observation by a neurosurgeon. Mrs. Wilson said his recovery from the fall might take from six to 12 months.

His son, Clay, was working with his father when the accident occurred.

He is in Room 6 and may receive flowers and cards. Visits are being restricted to family members.

District Court bill Clears one hurdle

The State Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee recommended Tuesday in a unanimous vote creation of a District Court in Hermiston for Morrow and Umatilla counties.

The next step in the legislative process towards creation of a new District Court is consideration by the Joint

House and Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Inserted in the original Senate Bill 387 are the provisions that Morrow County retain its Justice Court

and that the new District Court Judge be required to sit at least one day a week in Heppner.


Pilot escapes injury

A Pendleton pilot, Tom White, escaped serious injury Thursday night when the plane he was landing at the West Flying Service at Butter Creek five miles south of Hermiston on Highway 207 flipped over and burned.

White reported a few

scratches and was not hospitalized.

The pilot said he was landing the aircraft, a wheel locked, causing the plane to flip over. A short developed in the plane's electrical system and ignited its full fuel tank.



Barbara Cutsforth

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