

Council approves tapes of new planning rules

The Heppner City Council took a novel approach to the reading of several ordinances which is required during a public hearing before adoption, at their meeting Monday, July 2.

City Clerk Mary Jean McCabe laboriously read the more than 68 pages of ordinances into a tape recording, which was then played back at low volume during the public hearing while the council went on about other business. The ordinances being adopted by the City are for zoning, sub-divisions and mobile home parks. No one appeared at the hearing, which was continued to the next regular council meeting in August, in regards to the ordinances.

Acting on a petition from the Morrow County Court to vacate a portion of Thompson Street behind Pioneer Memorial Hospital, the Council referred the petition to the Street Committee, headed by Councilman Cliff Green.

Pioneer Memorial attempted to obtain a variance from the city last month that would allow them to build an addition onto the existing structure without a minimum setback at the rear property line. The Heppner Planning Commission turned down the

variance request because no provisions were made for pedestrian traffic along the rear edge of the proposed addition which would abut Thompson Street. In addition, plans presented to the Planning Commission by Pioneer Memorial representatives did not provide for sufficient off-street parking.

The only alternative—other than designing a new addition for Pioneer Memorial was to have the City of Heppner vacate a portion of Thompson Street. The move would provide the hospital with ample room for expansion and also provide off-street parking.

James and Jewel Hager, owners of Hager's Dairy, appeared before the council opposing the proposed street vacation because of the need to deliver groceries and dairy products to the rear of the hospital.

"If you close Thompson Street there will be no way to get a delivery truck in and out of there," said Mrs. Hager, noting that all utilities also enter the hospital from Thompson Street.

Councilman Green said the County was aware that if the street was vacated a drive-through area would have to be

provided for delivery trucks, sanitation services and utility crews.

Also speaking against the street vacation was Councilman Ron Farris, who lives above the hospital on Rock Street.

"In the winter I use that street to get off the hill—I couldn't get down Morrow Street unless I had a 4-wheel drive rig," said Farris. Several councilmen were quick to point out that Farris was breaking the law by traveling against the traffic on Thompson Street which is a one-way street.

"If people choose to live on a hill in Heppner, they're going to have a few times in the winter when the going is rough," added Councilman Green.

It was also pointed out that the hospital would deed some portion of its property at the south and west edge to improve access to Morrow Street from Gilmore Street and also to improve access to Dr. Joe Gifford's and Dr. Lee Hazen's respective clinics.

Further discussion on the street vacation was tabled until the August 6 meeting at which time the Street Committee will issue its report.

In other action, the Council approved a contract with Bob Jones of Heppner for disposal of sewer sludge on his property south of town.

Boardman's celebration draws many participants

Boardman's first annual Fourth of July celebration drew sizeable crowds of county residents on the holiday and according to Mayor Jerry Peck, it went "super well."

The Independence Day celebration started with a parade at 1 p.m. Children rode bicycles decorated with red, white and blue, youngsters wearing fire helmets tossed candy from the city's volunteer fire truck and mothers escorted small children along the parade route which started at the school, went up Boardman Avenue and did a circle of the main business district.

Onlookers turned out in droves to see the first of what the parade officials hope is one of many in coming years.

The parade ended at the city park on the Columbia River and from 2-3 p.m., games for children and adults were held. There were three legged and sack races, egg and balloon toss and in one game, participants tied balloons to their ankles and proceeded to break other's.

The warm weather attracted a number of families from Morrow County as well as Hermiston and Umatilla.

In the baseball contest, Bechtel, one of the contractors at PGE's Coal Fired Plant at Boardman, defeated the PGE team.

Sponsored by the Volunteer Firemen's Association and the

Commercial Club, an hour of fireworks was presented over the Columbia River at a cost of \$1,500. About 900 buttons advertising the Boardman Fourth of July celebration were sold to defray the fireworks expense, according to Mary Michaels, coordinator of the parade and afternoon games.

Firemen lighting and setting up the fireworks were Paul Brooks, Bob Burford and Kerry Spindler.

Before the fireworks, a disco dance was held at the marina parking lot with adults and teenagers joining in the fun.

The celebration was the only one of its kind in Morrow County. Ione was unable to provide its traditional fireworks show this year because of reseeding of the football field.

The coordinator for Blue Mountain Community College in the Heppner area is currently making plans for the fall program of classes.

If you would like to see a specific course offered or would be interested in teaching a certain program, please contact Nancy Brownfield, coordinator at 676-5039.

Ten persons are needed to establish the course.



Fabulous fourth

Variety marked the outfits and costumes displayed during Boardman's first Fourth of July Parade on Main Street. Besides wearing clown costumes, youngsters wore patriotic costumes, cars came with red, white and blue streamers and the fire truck transported children with fire hats through the watching crowds. The day's activities were culminated with a fireworks display.

Ullman endorses Willow Creek Dam project

Congressman Al Ullman-D has written a letter to Heppner Mayor Jerry Sweeney, expressing his support for the Willow Creek Dam project and promising to work for construction appropriations in the future House-Senate Conference.

Senator Mark Hatfield-R told county officials last week that he was able to include \$3.2 million in dam construction funds into the 1980 fiscal year bill as the ranking Republican on the House Subcommittee on Public Works and would need the assistance of Congressman Ullman on the House-

Senate conference committee. In a letter dated June 28, Ullman told the Mayor, "I have been in touch with Senator Hatfield's office and we have agreed to seek funding in the FY '80 Energy and Water Related Appropriation Bill; I will try to get the necessary support in the House so that it is not deleted in a House-Senate Conference."

Ullman thanked the mayor for a letter informing the Eastern Oregon Congressman about the city's need to expand its water line from 8" to 12" in diameter in the Willow Creek area as soon as the plans for the proposed dam are firmly established.

But he noted that the Corps of Engineer's updated cost-benefit ratio for the dam construction is not equal, 73:1.

"While this is not as good as expected, I am continuing my efforts to get the project funded. The Corps now indicates a capability of \$3.2 million for FY '80," Ullman told the mayor.

Mayor Sweeney said the current Willow Creek water-line is antiquated and needs replacing with a 12" line. The new line would increase water service by 300 gallons and keep up with the growing demand in Heppner.

The city is also negotiating on replacement of one of its reservoirs which would have to be removed if the Willow Creek Dam is constructed.

No fires here; five sent to Burns for burn

There were no forest fires reported in the Heppner Ranger District during the Fourth of July and later in the week despite thunderstorms around the district, according to Larry Bowman, Fire Management Officer.

But five district firefighters were sent to the Burns forest fire on the Fourth of July. They returned on Friday after the 1,100 acre blaze in pine trees was reported under control.

There were two blazes reported in the Condon area Friday night during the fireworks presentation. Firemen controlled the fires.

New hunt area locally

There's a new Willow Creek hunt area south of Hardman open now for elk hunters to apply for, according to Glen Ward of the State Fish and Wildlife Commission.

July 16 is the deadline for applying for a game tag for antlerless elk in the area. Three hundred tags will be awarded for the hunt December 1-December 9.

Ward said the new hunt area was established because the elk population has been foraging a large amount of grass on private rangeland.

City postmaster

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friendlier and you know everyone.

"I've had fantastic care. I can see no reason why people would vote no on the hospital levy."

Even though he was sidelined with a broken back, Wilson exercised his right to vote by casting an absentee in the second hospital levy election.

Appointed nine years ago as city postmaster by President Richard Nixon, Wilson has served 32 years with the U.S. Postal Service. He was planning to retire in January but with the accident, he hasn't decided what his future plans will be.

A walker of 7 miles a day before the accident, Wilson now walks a half a block on Riverside Avenue and looks forward to the time he can take longer strides.

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