

Street vacation approved; council favors water study

The Heppner City Council granted approval Monday night for vacation of five feet of Thompson Street in the Morrow County Court for expansion of Pioneer Memorial Hospital from a recommendation by the street committee and gave the go-ahead to a master water study plan by a Portland engineering firm.

Councilman Cliff Green said the street committee recommended granting the vacation request in exchange for work on a corner owned by the county, vacating 5 feet along Thompson Street at the rear of Pioneer Memorial Hospital, returning the street to two way traffic and eliminating diagonal parking spots in the area.

County Judge D.O. Nelson appeared before the Council to pledge the county's cooperation if necessary to provide land in the exchange process. There were no hospital board members present.

Representing the water committee, Green recommended later in the session that the city hire its own engineering firm, Frank Barrett and Associates of Portland, to begin a master water plan to study the city's present water facilities, pinpoint problems and present alternatives. Aware that \$3.2 million in construction funds may be approved in Congress in the next few months for the Willow Creek Dam project, Green noted that the first part of those funds would be earmarked for relocating the city's water system, before the dam is constructed, city officials said a water reservoir will have to be relocated and new water lines installed.

Green said if the dam project is approved, the city should have its own engineer to negotiate with the Corps of Engineers.

To begin the water study, Green said the engineering firm was asking \$15,000. That could be an obstacle because there is no line item in the budget for the water study, and Attorney Bob Abrams advised the council that it could only file a supplemental budget if it had it budgeted.

County Judge Nelson said the city might apply for A-95 funds through the East Central Oregon Association of Counties.

Mayor Jerry Sweeney said there were a number of possibilities and asked City

Administrator Marshall Lovgren whether funds could be transferred from the sewer and bridge funds to raise at least \$5,000 of the quoted \$15,000 cost.

He read a letter from the State Department of Environmental Quality, denying sewage grant funds. The city might reach priority status in fiscal year 1980, he said for beginning Phase I of city sewer improvements.

The Council gave the go-ahead for Green to offer the engineering firm a portion of the funds for beginning the water study.

Because the city is having problems with its street grader, there has been no maintenance on the traffic shoulders, the council was told. The council will investigate ways of acquiring a new grader building looking at supplier catalogs and contacting a man used by the county to find spare machines.

Relief deadline extended

Property owners have gained an extension of time in which to file their claims for property tax relief, County Assessor Greg Sweek announced this week.

The deadline—originally set as August 1—has been extended to August 31, Sweek said that about 30 percent of Morrow County property owners have applied for relief.

"There has been some confusion as to who is eligible," said Sweek. "The program applies to anyone who owns the home in which they live, regardless of income."

After filing the claim, property owners will be notified of the state payment on their tax statements sent out in November. The amount of reduction in the tax rate will also be reflected there.

Sweek estimates the county's valuation will jump to about \$495 million, up from last year's \$225 million. More than half the county's valuation is now made up by Portland General Electric's coal-fired power plant southwest of Heppner.

After hearing about a half hour of tapes on the last reading of the city's proposed zoning, subdivision and mobile home park ordinances, the Council granted approval.

John Weygandt's bid of \$300 was accepted by the Council for a pie-shaped portion of city land near Hager park, vacating a dedicated street which was never built, Cross Street, near Willow Creek.

Lovgren reported to the Council that Well No. 6 is pumping up sand and recommended having a television scan of the system. If the city waits until October, the Water Resources Department will do it at no cost. The city postponed the action because of the estimated \$750 cost for the scanning.

Hike seen in area's power rates

Because of a forthcoming boost in wholesale power rates amounting to almost 100 percent, the Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be "forced" to increase its retail electricity rates, according to Fred R. Toombs, manager.

In a letter to consumer members of the Columbia Basin Co-op, Toombs said the wholesale increase from the Bonneville Power Administration would become effective in December.

"This is the same increase we have heard about for over a year," Toombs said.

He said the increase to be passed on to consumers probably would be in the range of 35 to 40 percent, based on a cost of service and rate study now under way. The study is being made by the consulting firm of Economics and Engineering Services, Inc., of Bellevue, Wash. The study will be completed in two or three months.

Whether to hold hearings on the rate increases would be determined by Columbia Basin Co-op's board of directors, Toombs said.

"Our present rates are below those of the investor-owned utilities in the area," he commented.

Fire danger prohibits forest uses

Forest Supervisor H.B. Rudolph of the Umatilla National Forest issued regulations for forest use Wednesday, August 8 because of the high fire danger.

Prohibited are the "building, maintaining, attending, using or allowing to exist any fire of any type except for campfires within designated campgrounds in constructed fireplaces, any use of charcoal briquets, smoking while trav-

eling except inside closed motor vehicles, firewood cutting and welding or operating acetylene or other torches with open flame."

Locally, the Heppner Ranger District has sent personnel to the John Day fire, which had burned about 400 acres

Tuesday morning. Bernie Jacobs has also been sent to the Salmon Creek fire in Northern Idaho.

Boardman Coal-Fired Plant: applies for air contaminant discharge

Portland General Electric has applied for an air contaminant discharge for the Coal Fired Electric Power Plant at Boardman.

PGE has asked the Department of Environmental Quality to grant the permit along with 10 other companies including a Pendleton sawmill operated by Blue Mountain Forest Products.

The DEQ encourages anyone desiring to submit information concerning the applicants or the proposed permits which might aid or assist the Department in making an adequate review. Written

comments must be submitted prior to September 15, 1979.

The permit program requires applicants to file an application to allow operation under specified conditions and rules. Any permit proposed or issued contains restrictive emission limits, compliance

schedules as applicable and specific conditions relative to operation.

Comments should be addressed to Department of Environmental Quality, Air Contaminant Discharge Permit Program, P.O. Box 1760, Portland, Oregon, 97201.

Student attends program

Carol Cheney, a student at Ione High School was one of 39 students from across the state to represent the school at the Oregon College of Education's Summer Honors Program,

July 30 through August 3.

Theme of the program was "The Sixties, When You Were Growing Up," considering the profound changes in American society

Resource Department to announce water plans

The Oregon Water Resources Department has scheduled a meeting to discuss its plans for the Butter Creek area southwest of Hermiston.

The meeting will be held in Thompson Hall at the Hermiston County Fairgrounds on Thursday, August 16 at 7:30 p.m.

"At the meeting I will discuss the Department's plan for further study of the ground water in the Butter Creek area in parts of Morrow and Umatilla counties," said Jim Sexson, Water Resources Director. "The meeting is open to the public and I hope we have the same good attendance and participation that we had at the July meeting."

This will be a follow-up of a meeting held by the Department in July. Sexson said he considered public comments made at the July meeting in making his plans.

Sexson called the first meeting after an order he issued in May of 1978, declaring the area a critical ground

water area and limiting ground water use, was reversed and remanded by the Oregon Court of Appeals in June.

County hires two workers

Two men, Norris Dooney and Loren Pearsall, have been hired by the Morrow County Court to operate light equipment in the Boardman-Irrigon area for the County road department.

The new employees were selected out of 30 applications submitted by prospective job seekers.

The County Court said the road department was being "beefed up" to improve roads in the north end of the county.



MEAT FAVORITES

for the family

 SLAB BACON 99¢ lb.	 VALCHRIS Turkey Ham \$1.69 lb.
 HILL'S BOLOGNA BY THE CHUNK 89¢ lb.	 Nalley's Mayonnaise \$1.19 Quart
 Western Family Salad Oil 89¢ 24-oz.	 Krusteaz Pancake Mix \$2.49 7-lb. Bag
 Western Family Stewed Tomatoes 39¢ 16-oz. Can	 Mrs. Butterworth's Thick n' Rich Syrup \$1.89 36-oz.
 Tropicana Orange Juice \$1.59 each 64-oz.	 Watermelon 8¢ lb.
 Cukes 5 for \$1	 Bananas 4 lbs. for \$1
 Toms 29¢ lb.	 Van Camp's Pork n' Beans 3/\$1 16-oz. Cans



Prices Effective Aug. 9, 10, 11
 Grocery 676-9614 Meat 676-9288

PROPERTY OWNERS TAX RELIEF NOTICE

The Deadline For Filing Your Oregon Property Tax Relief Claim Has Been Extended To

AUGUST 31
NEW DEADLINE

Anyone Who Owns The Home They Live In—Regardless Of Income—Is Eligible To File A Claim

For More Information Call The Morrow County Assessor's Office,
PHONE 676-9421

Greg Sweek,
 County Assessor