

G-T azette Times

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City's comprehensive plan revised

By Avon Melby

Revised ordinances to the city planning and zoning comprehensive plan were drafted by Dan Meador of Tenneson Engineering, The Dalles, and presented to the Heppner planning commission Monday.

Main differences are relaxing requirements on siting of mobile homes, removing such requirements as too-small lots in some instances, and requiring all homes be placed on land owned by the mobile home owner. These are rules that have been troublesome in the past, and kept newer homes from locating where older ones had been. The second difference is in making a detailed outline of how to handle applications to make changes in historic site buildings, which were not outlined previously.

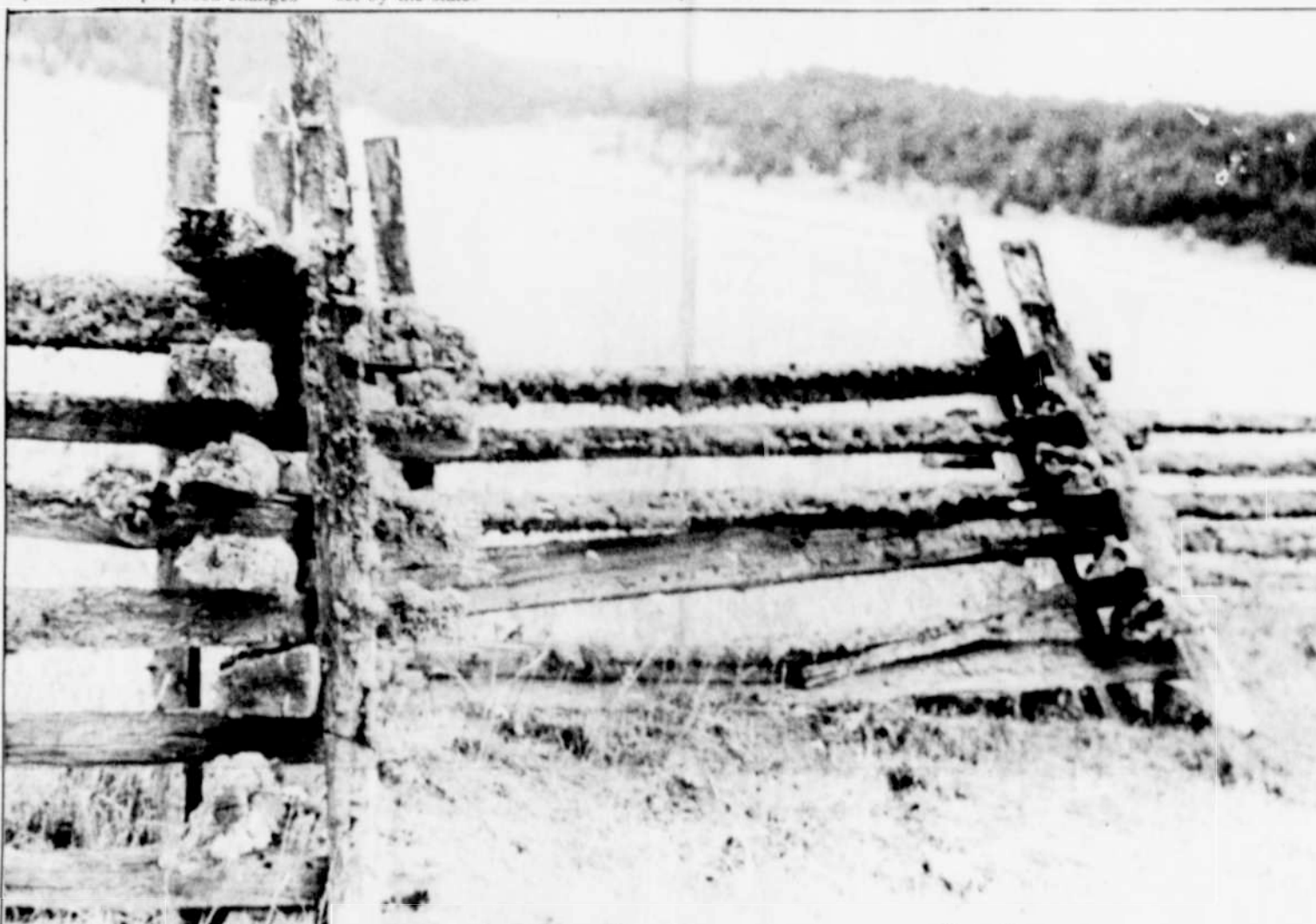
Meador has gone over the entire comprehensive plan, adjusted parts to meet requirements set up by the state in areas which have changed since the plan was originally drawn up and accepted by the state Land Conservation and Development

Commission. The update is required by law and state money was given the city to pay for the work involved.

City planning commissioners will meet with the city council at 7:30 p.m. for a one-half hour instructional update on the proposed changes

before the city council meeting at 8 p.m. at city hall on November 3.

If the proposed changes are approved by the council, the rewritten plan can be sent to the state by November 15, meeting the deadline set by the state.



Built to stand the test of time

This moss covered split rail fence extends across Camas Prairie near the southern border of Morrow County.

Morrow County ASCS director promoted

Judy Buschke, executive director of the Morrow County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service has been promoted to County Operations Reviewer, a new position created by ASCS. Although the new position will require that she work from the state office in Portland, she will be visiting offices all over the state and intends to continue living in Heppner at least for the first year, she says.

Buschke compares her new position to an "in-house auditor" who checks with county ASCS offices to insure that all regulations are followed and programs administered as they should be. Part of the job, she explains, will be helping to straighten out problems before the Inspector's General's Office finds irregularities.

"It was not an easy decision," Buschke says, "because I have been here for 30 years. This is the only job I've ever had, so it's a little scary, too."

Buschke has been Morrow County's Executive Director since 1977. The new position, she says, will be different but will still deal with many of the same things. "I will be working with other people in offices in the same position I have been in. I know most of them."

Her new position officially starts October 26, but Buschke says she will remain at the Heppner office until her replacement arrives.

Superintendent explains school budget cuts

Morrow County School District is one of 20 districts (from among the state's 305 districts) which still need levy approval to balance their budget. All are voting again on November 4.

"We don't value that distinction or notoriety at all," says Superintendent Doyle McCaslin. "As a matter of fact, in one short year we have joined the ranks of the many 'financially troubled' school district of Oregon."

Since the budget was originally proposed, initial cuts and repeated levy defeats prompted the board to reduce the budget by almost three quarters of a million dollars—\$712,215 to be exact. And because of the way the tax rate limitation law

works, the board split the levy requests into a special and serial levy ballot in May for the August election. (See Below)

Both failed, then a special levy of \$5,140,643 passed in the September election. A \$473,786 serial levy failed at the same time.

Serial Levy Request Cut
For the November election, the board cut another \$107,050 from the budget and reduced the serial levy request to \$366,736.

"We keep hearing that the people believe the board cut with one hand and put money back with another," said McCaslin.

"This apparently means the voter recognizes that the board cut additional staff, new and replacement equipment, and a variety of maintenance projects, but some voters believe the board is trying to put everything back with a serial levy."

**Total Levy Down
\$119,604 from 1985-86**

McCaslin points out that the total levy amounts requested are \$119,604 less than the \$6,461,792 that the voters passed last year, despite the fact that negotiated salary and benefit amounts and other fixed costs of operation have increased significantly.

"This fact alone should demonstrate that the board is not guilty of any such dishonesty. Anyone who doubts these facts is encouraged to examine the budget in detail," he said. "Such matters are subject to factual verification quite easily."

Board Determined to Retain Quality Programs

Through the spring and summer levy defeats the board has voiced its determination to maintain a high quality basic education and extra curricular program. It has reconsidered and reaffirmed that resolve at many meetings following levy defeats, examining in detail areas where it might cut the budget further.

"With more than \$25 million

worth of buildings and equipment to maintain, replace or improve—in some instances where improvements are sorely needed—we are certainly set back a year, maybe more," said School Board Chairman Joe Stevens. "The real difficulty is that we may never have a chance to catch up. For example, in this last cut of \$107,050, which by the way was far from unanimous, we wiped out our bus replacement and classroom computer purchasing programs. We can hardly expect to double up and catch up next year. Our needs simply gain on us, as our equipment gets older and requires more dollars in maintenance," he said.

Serial Levy Not Earmarked

The district chose in May after the second levy defeat to ask for a serial levy for "operational purposes," Stevens continued. The serial levy is not designed to fund a specific program. "It will be used to balance the basic budget this year and for the next two years," Stevens affirmed. "The three years of a serial levy apparently bothers quite a few people," he said. "A serial levy has to be for more-than-one-year, by law. We assure people that the income generated by a serial levy will not be treated as an extra. It will continue to be used to fund the basic operational program of the district and be handled the same way as state basic school support, other levies, or any other income," Stevens concluded.

School Budget Cuts Original Budget Proposal by district administrators

\$6,793,238 levy required
No Vote
Budget Committee Cut \$261,037, including:
\$27,000 overbudgeted for classified salaries
\$42,000 for a modular classroom at SBE (added \$5,000 storage shed and a cart for art supplies)
\$500 copier supplies
\$700 for 25 chairs
\$2100 landscaping a side hill at Heppner Jr. High

\$1700 for 15" variable drill press
\$1500 for replacement of lighting at Lone field
\$2000 concert chimes at RHS
\$1120 for 40 chairs at RHS
\$5000 seeding drill
\$6500 asphalt for parking area at district office
\$9000 to lower ceilings in four classrooms at Heppner Jr. High (left \$9000 in budget)
\$6000 sidewalk repair at Heppner Jr. High
\$10,000 to replace coal fired boiler at district office
\$1490 SRA guidance tests
\$4000 (left \$4000) for a mixer at A.C. Houghton cafeteria
\$900 each for starter computer units
\$1400-1600 each school, for student desks and chairs
\$1700 tympany at RHS
\$1050 pitching machine at RHS
\$2300 livestock tilt table at RHS
\$2592 four electric typewriters
\$10,400 and \$3,500 for a bridge and playground work at Heppner Elementary
And many items costing \$100 - \$2000

First Vote March 25
\$6,180,808 levy

Attends conference

Morrow County Veterans' Service Officer Donna Rietmann will attend a three-day conference October 15-17 at Lincoln City. Sponsored by the Veterans Administration, the conference is required for county officers, and qualifies the counties they represent to receive a 75% reimbursement for the service officer's salary and materials.

The conference will provide updated information about the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program, the Veterans Loan Program, legislative issues, due process in the Veterans Administration, compensation and pension information, veterans hospitalization and outpatient benefits, and conservatorship programs.

Davis named 1987 Fair & Rodeo Queen

"Cindy Davis has been chosen as the Queen of the 1987 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo activities," announced Court Director Mickey Madison. Queen Cindy is a 1986 graduate of Heppner High School and is presently employed by Central Market. She is the daughter of Wayne and Judy Davis of Heppner. Her coronation will be in March.

To complete the 1987 court, the Morrow County Princess competition will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26 at the fairgrounds. Girls must be a resident of Morrow County and be at least 16 years of age by August 1, 1987 or in at least their junior year of high school. The princess candidates will be asked to give a short speech on themselves, be interviewed, ride a horsemanship pattern, and make a presentation ride.

The Rodeo Committee will select two princesses to complete Queen Cindy's Court. Marlene Currin is this year's court chaperone.

Those interested in obtaining a princess application and court rules will be able to pick those up at high school offices this week.

"Please feel free to contact me about any questions or concern you may have as a contestant or a parent," concluded Madison.



Queen Cindy Davis

Taxpayers soon to get good news

By Avon Melby

Tax statements for Morrow County are due to be mailed out Thursday or Friday and there will be good news for taxpayers.

County Assessor Greg Sweek said there would be an average 10 percent reduction in taxes this year, over the statements a year ago. The reason is mainly due to an increase in the assessed valuation of the PGG coal fired plant at Boardman.

Portland General Electric, owner of the plant, was notified the valuation had been increased by \$60 million this year. There is a 60-day period during which the company could have appealed the ruling. No appeal was made so the increase goes on the tax rolls. The increase was made by the state as all public utilities are appraised by the state. Sweek said he did not know on what basis it was made.

Another unusual thing about the tax statements is that a notice will be included that an additional statement may be sent out. County Treasurer and Tax Collector Margo Sherer said it was a first time in the county. It will be necessary to send the second billing if the requested \$366,736 three-year serial levy for the schools is approved in November.

- Second Vote May 20**
\$6,180,808 levy
- Budget Committee Cut**
3 fulltime staff positions which had been added to accommodate growth at north end
\$5000 each for three copiers
\$22,000 replacement heat pumps for HHS
Irrigation projects, completion at Lone and HHS and begin at Heppner Elementary
Begin remodeling project (lower ceilings) at Heppner Jr. High
Floor covering for grade school locker rooms at Lone and Heppner
Nearly all replacement equipment (not including buses)
- Third Vote August 12**
\$5,140,643 and \$473,786
- Fourth Vote September 16**
\$5,140,643 (passed) and \$473,786
- Budget Committee Cut \$107,050, including:**
\$82,862 buses
\$24,188 computers
- Fifth Vote November 4**
\$366,736

Weather Report

By City of Heppner

October 7 - 13			
	High	Low	Precip
Tues.	81	44	.0
Wed.	72	44	.0
Thurs.	76	40	.0
Fri.	63	30	.0
Sat.	61	31	.0
Sun.	62	34	.0
Mon.	67	36	.0

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, October 14	
Soft White	
Oct.	\$2.84
Nov.	\$2.86/\$2.92
Dec.	\$2.90/\$2.92
Jan.	\$2.94/\$2.96
Barley	.81
Hard Red Winter	\$2.89
PIK Generic 119% cash certificates	

Register to vote in the Nov. 4 General Election

October 15, 1986: Last day to register to vote that voter's name will appear in the poll book for the General Election.

October 23, 1986: Last day to register by mail to vote in the General Election.

October 24, 1986: Prospective voters must provide proof of residency and register in person at the County Clerk's Office.

November 3, 1986: Last day to register to vote. The Clerk's Office closes at 5 p.m.

November 4, 1986: General Election Day. Polls are open from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. at various precinct polling places in the county. Polling places will be published before Election Day.

Any questions concerning registration deadlines for the General Election may be addressed to Barbara Bloodsworth at the Morrow County Clerk's Office at the Courthouse in Heppner, 676-9061.

Those who wish to vote by absentee ballot should get their application into the Clerk's Office as soon as possible to allow time to process the application and time to return the ballot to the Clerk's Office so it will be counted. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. November 4 to be counted.

Application for an absentee ballot may be made in person at the Clerk's Office, or may be mailed to the office. A letter requesting an absentee ballot must be signed by each registered voter requesting a ballot. (If both a husband and wife want absentee ballots, they may write one letter, but both must sign it.)

People are needed to serve on election boards for the General Election. Anyone interested may contact Bloodsworth at the Clerk's Office.