

The Heppner

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Heppner Council continues to hear concerns regarding pit bulls

By Avon Melby

There were no requests for Revenue Sharing funds at a public hearing preceding the regular Heppner council meeting at city hall Monday, so the city general fund received a \$7,800 increase.

City Administrator Marshall Lovgren said at the time the budget was made up last year no Revenue Sharing Funds were anticipated. Later \$2,800 had been received from federal Revenue Sharing, and an additional \$5,000 was received in state revenue sharing.

Preliminary budget work for next year is underway, and "The budget is looking good," Lovgren told the council. He said it appeared now the city could meet its requirements and remain within the six percent allowed increase without going to the voters for more money.

First budget committee work meeting was later set by the council for 7 p.m. January 21 at city hall.

For the fourth month the subject of pit bulls dogs running in the street was brought up, the last two months by members of the public asking what can be done. Police Chief Doug Rathbun had asked the council to get an ordinance on exotic animals

including rattle snakes and pit bulls, at the October meeting. On questioning, City Attorney Bill Kuhn said he did not have one ready yet. The council thought something should be done now. Lovgren suggested the public, having trouble with loose, barking, or vicious dogs, sign complaints at city hall. The problem is that the person signing the complaint must know who the owner is. A man complaining Monday said he knew who owned the animal that had gone after his daughter's cat, and would sign.

Procedure is for the city to send the owner a letter, telling him the animal must be kept within the owner's property. If a week later it is still loose a warrant is signed for arrest. First offense is a \$20 fine, a second offense is a \$40 fine, and the third, and any further offenses are \$60. The council agreed to go with this policy until one covering just the exotic animals could be adopted.

Water supply from the city for the proposed Willow Creek Park District complex to be built on the south bank under the bridge on Balm Fork junction with Willow Lake, was requested by Ken Turner. He said the Park District expected to sign a lease with the Corps by March, and that it had already applied for a \$400,000 park grant from the state. There are a minimum of 20 RV pads planned on three terraces above a three-acre grass plot and sandy beach on the cove of the lake. Matching funds will be in the form of donated labor by area heavy equipment builders, with construction to start in the spring of 1988. He said the district would like to cut in to city water by using the same pipes supplying the Corps complex, and that there would be no cost to the city. He said the District anticipated passage of a request for a tax base, in the spring of 1988, and that it would probably be about the \$30,000 figure which was rejected by the voters last spring. The District would pay the hookup charge and regular water rates charged outside city users. They would also like to use city sewer.

Councilman Doug Lowe opposed the idea because the city has not been granting requests for water outside the city unless it benefits the city. Turner and Mayor Costa, said they thought the recreational park would be of benefit to the city. Lowe said "I feel it would be stabbing Ken Key, in the back." Ployhar agreed the city had recently turned down another request and he did not feel right about going ahead with this now.

Turner said when he had a tax

base, and the grant had been received, he would be back. The matter will be held over.

Personnel policies for city police had been questioned by Chief Rathbun at the December council meeting. He said things that had never been discussed had been included in the finished policy as returned to the council by the city attorney. Attorney Kuhn had been asked to bring copies of both policies to the meeting. After he passed them around councilman Bob Ployhar said he did not want to have to go over them again. "When the council left the (three and a half hour) meeting last spring the council was in agreement on what they wanted." Police Chief Rathbun said "right now this policy is completely different than it was when we adopted it in April." Ployhar suggested "we go back to the one we approved that night."

Lowe agreed, saying "I don't see why any changes should be made in anything the council has agreed on." Ployhar said he was not against making changes but this was the principal of the thing. "It is just that when the council approves something it should not be changed for any reasons by

anyone." Kuhn was instructed to resubmit the policy next month, using only those changes approved at the April meeting.

Heppner is 100 years old on Feb. 9, the state anniversary is on Feb. 14, and the county on Feb. 15, Mayor Costa noted. She said the county Historical Society would come up with ideas for a celebration of some kind and asked council members for any input they might wish to make. She also announced Jim Hager had an antique hitching post he had donated to the Historical Society, and that the county had offered to move it to the city if a location for putting it up could be designated.

The police chief said the county wanted a no parking sign on either side of the cul-de-sac on Rock Street. Parking is provided for the office workers who will be using the building. The county is worried about traffic being tied up at the county offices there.

Lovgren noted Lincoln's birthday is on the calendar February 2 as an official holiday so next council meeting will be held the following day, February 3.

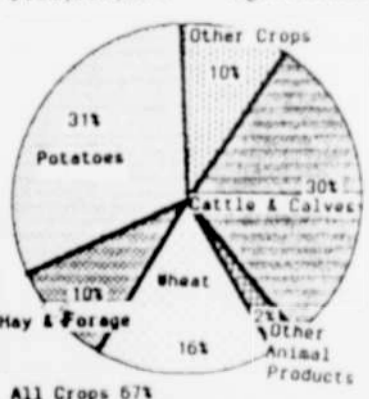


Getting Started

Sheriff Roy Drago (left), Commissioner Irv Rauch, Judge Louis Carlson, and his granddaughter Jodie meet informally Monday morning at the Morrow County Courthouse shortly after Rauch and Carlson were sworn into office by Judge Robert Abrams of Pendleton.

Ag commodity sales down 9%

Agricultural commodity sales were down in Morrow County last year 9% from 1985 sales to \$90 million. Commodity sales were \$98,671,000 and in 1983 were \$108,884,000. Agricultural



Annual Chamber of Commerce banquet slated January 13

Morrow County's Man and Woman of the Year will be named at the Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet, Tuesday, Jan. 13.

Guest speaker for the evening will be the Rev. John Maas of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Prineville. To make reservations for the 7:30 prime rib banquet, non-

marketing in Umatilla County totaled \$120,472,000, a 12% decrease from 1985.

Acres seeded to grains were off about 10 percent to 203,600 acres, with 267,660 acres planted to all crops. Hay and forage acreage was

Heppner council members swear oath of office

By Avon Melby

Oath of office was taken by five Heppner council members and other city officials at the beginning of Monday's council meeting. Appointments to committees, commissions and boards were announced by Mayor Cara Costa.

Mayor Costa administered the oath of office to council members: Terri Denton, two year term; Richard Curtis, four year term; Bob Ployhar, four year term; John

Hempel, two year term; and Doug Lowe, four year term. Curtis and Hempel are new on the council, the others were re-elected. There is still one member to be appointed, to replace Marvin Lane, who is moving from the city. Ployhar was named chairman of the council.

Oath of office was given to Douglas Rathbun as chief of police. Other city officials retained are Forrest Burkenbine, fire chief; Kuhn & Spicer, city attorneys; Dr. Wallace Wolff, health officer; Mary Jean McCabe, treasurer. Marshall Lovgren received oath of office as municipal judge and again as city recorder.

These programs will be cut if \$366,736 levy fails on January 13:

(If levy is approved, these programs will continue)

Supplies and Books	\$72,479
Supplies, library books, and textbooks	
Co-Curricular Activities	\$100,908
Athletics	
Coaches' salaries and retirement and social security benefits (45 contracts)	
Basketball (½ season)	\$11,540
Wrestling (½ season)	947
Baseball	6,550
Track	14,738
Golf	3,581
Tennis	2,762
Total Salaries and Benefits	\$40,118
Supplies and Officials	\$6,830
Transportation	\$5,000
Field Trips	\$7,500
Includes gas, drivers, and chaperones	
Extended Contract Days (22 contracts)	\$19,089
All benefits including insurance beyond 190 normal days for certificated employees	
Includes agriculture teachers, librarians, alternative school teacher, art teachers, home ec. teachers, music teachers, shop teachers and counselors.	
Annual Extra Duty Contracts	\$22,371
Includes all extra duty contracts, except coaches. 34 contracts cut in half. Also includes \$5,282 for Talented and Gifted Program supplies.	
Aides	\$26,822
Aides who are monitoring students under principal supervision (library aides, Columbia Jr. High P.E. aides, and Education Resource Center aides for teachers covering two schools are not scheduled to be cut.	
Office Aides	\$7,562
Includes 1 fulltime aide, 1 halftime aide, and 1 two hour per day aide	
Instructional Aides	\$19,260
Elementary Art	\$11,247
Includes 1 full time equivalent employee	
Elementary Music	\$46,199
Includes 3 4/7 full time equivalent employees	
Certificated Media Specialists	\$65,449
Six full time employees. If employees are laid off, libraries will be staffed by aides under principal's supervision	
Counselors	\$43,632
Four employees: one elementary, one junior high, and two high school	

Vote on school levy Tuesday

Polls will be open 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13 in Morrow County. Voters will mark ballots on one, much publicized school levy measure in this special election.

The school board has said that it will cut programs totaling the levy

amount (see chart) if this last attempt to pass a \$366,736 three-year serial levy fails. Funds raised by the levy are needed to supplement a \$5,140,643 special levy already approved for this year's operating expenses.

Polling places are Greenfield

Grange for Boardman precincts, Lone City Hall for Lone precinct, North Morrow Annex for Irrigon precincts, the Mormon Church for Lexington precinct, and the Neighborhood Center for Heppner and Hardman precincts.

Council concerned about project debt

By Avon Melby

Heppner City Council members expressed concern about going in debt on the hotel project Monday. They said they feel uncomfortable about the project, and wondered if they were risking the public's money more than they should.

The subject came up when Attorney Bill Kuhn, who has been spearheading the project for the city, said he needed approval of the city to "act as contact" for a \$2,000 amount which now has to be paid to clear papers on the application for loan.

The city has been granted \$500,000 which will not need to be paid back, for its effort to turn Heppner Hotel into a housing unit for senior citizens. But a loan of \$390,000 must be obtained to complete the work. The city is trying to get this from a local bank.

Three members, Bob Ployhar, Doug Lowe, and Terri Denton have been on the council since the project first came up. Two new members, Richard Curtis and John Hempel, said they knew little of the project.

Originally the city was just providing a body to make the grant possible, and the housing was to be administered by Umatilla Housing Authority. Then last fall the Umatilla agency pulled out because they said it would be too expensive to try to

oversee it from that county. The city in November signed as the sponsor to operate it.

Kuhn, who has worked with Heppner Economic Development Corporation which has been the prime promoter, said he would visit separately with each council member during the next two weeks and would see that they thoroughly understood all factors of the proposal. "I want you to make a final decision, but I want you to know exactly what you are doing," he said.

The Senior Citizens of South Morrow County are to have the ground floor space for a Senior Center, and are investing \$70,000. They have a 99-year lease they would like for the city to sign soon.

Council members did not say they were opposed to the project, and seemed to think it might be an asset to the city. They just wanted to know more of the financial picture before signing anything.

Approval of signing for the \$2,000 was given with the actual money to come from another source.

Heppner man charged in connection with Wagon Wheel burglary

John E. Sallee, 39, Heppner, was arraigned in Morrow County Justice Court Monday morning on charges of Theft I, Burglary II, and Criminal Mischief I. Bail was set by Judge Charlotte Gray at \$15,000. He is lodged at the Umatilla City Jail.

The charges stem from a January 2 incident at the Wagon Wheel Cafe on Main St. in Heppner, Heppner Police said. The side door of the restaurant on Willow St. was broken into; dishes were broken, food thrown on the floor, liquor bottles broken and a game machine broken into; and several pounds of meat, liquor, cash, and pizzas were taken from the premises, police said.

Sallee was arrested by Sheriff's

deputies and the Heppner Police Dept. near Anson Wright Park just after midnight January 3. Some of the items missing from the cafe were recovered at the time of the arrest, police said.

Additional items missing from the restaurant were found when Heppner and Oregon State Police returned to the suspect's home with a search warrant, police said.

Damage at the Wagon Wheel and value of the missing items totaled \$1200, police said.

Weather Report

By City of Heppner

December 31 - January 6			
	High	Low	Rain / Snow
Wed.	50	23	0
Thurs.	44	24	2 1/8"
Fri.	49	33	34"
Sat.	51	46	T
Sun.	52	32	0
Mon.	51	31	0
Tues.	38	26	0

Total precipitation for December was 0.87" with 4 1/2" of snow.

Market Report

Complements of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, Jan 6			
Soft White			
Jan			\$2.95
Feb			\$2.96/\$2.97
March			\$2.98
Barley			
Jan			\$76.50/\$79
Feb.			\$80
Hard-Red Winter			
Jan			\$2.82
PIK			
Generic certificates	106 1/2%		cash