

Medford Council Approves Budget at Public Hearing

Several administrative change recommendations, the public library budget and money for a fulltime airport manager were controversial items at a public hearing Friday night on the Medford 1963-1964 budget.

The total budget approved is about \$3,043,924 of which \$1,184,451 will be the total property tax levy. Millage rate for this year will be 29.8 mills, down from 32.6 mills for the past fiscal year. The overall administrative budget total may change slightly following certification by the county assessor.

The hearing, which continued for the first hour of the city council's session, was attended by only a few persons. The majority of the crowd spoke regarding other items on the council's agenda.

Change Recommended

The changes recommended by the administration in-

creased the budget by \$34,212. City Manager Robert A. Duff explained that when the preliminary budget was computed, the new assessed values were not available. Since that time the county assessor's office has reported assessed values of \$39,758,879 subject to adjustments for utility valuations.

The higher assessed values made additional money available, Duff explained.

The recommendations were for \$23,118 to be added to the fire maintenance fund for repair and maintenance of the alarm system and future fire department building and equipment; and \$5,962 to park and swimming pool fund to purchase equipment.

Considerable Discussion

Following considerable discussion as to possible uses of this money, the council voted the funds for long range capital improvements for building development by the two departments.

Objection to the public library salary schedule for the librarian was voiced by Councilman William A. Singler, who felt that the library board should set the library staff salaries by the city salary schedule.

Councilman Richard Travis objected to any arbitrary cuts in the library's budget by the

council since the item had been examined and approved by the budget committee.

Increase Approved

The \$7,966 increase in the library's budget over the past fiscal year was approved by the council after Mayor Jimmy Dunlevy voted against a previous motion to cut the requested increase.

His vote broke a tie in which Singler, Robert J. Cunningham and Joe Hosick voted for the cut and R. L. VanSickle, Travis and Terry D. Green voted against. The motion had been made by Green and seconded by Singler. After additional checking of uses for the \$7,966 increase Green withdrew his motion, but Singler refused to withdraw his second necessitating the vote.

This was the second time during the public hearing that a tie vote was broken by the mayor voting against a motion. The first time concerned an amendment to the amendment regarding the fire maintenance and park and swimming pool funds.

Budget Is Cut

Since no money was included in the budget for future development at the municipal airport, the council cut the budgeted amount for a full-time airport manager. It was voted to include \$4,000 in the

budget for a parttime manager with the city manager instructed to withhold hiring such a person until a report has been received from the capital improvement committee.

In other action, the council deleted \$1,000 budgeted for the Sister City program, transferring it to the emergency fund. The item, requested by Councilman Robert L. Baccus, was withdrawn at his request after it was determined that the amount would not be needed this year.

Other changes approved by the city council, none of which would affect the tax levy, were an additional \$8,700 for the water commission for a project at the Capital Hill reservoirs, the money to be received from the sale of not needed property; \$3,500 addition to the building department to refer more complicated building plans for checking to the International Conference of Building Officials, money to be received from increased revenue; and creation of working capital funds for transactions in printing, stores and garage services, all being paid for from money received in reimbursement for services.

Absent at the hearing were Councilman Jack Edson and Baccus.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

FRANCIS COBURN tells of a typically laconic storekeeper in northeastern Vermont who has never let anything upset him very much. At the height of the 1937 hurricane in those parts, for instance, the storekeeper, watching trees, barns, and trucks swept away, would only admit, "It's a bit airy, ain't it?" There was a day, too, when a perfectly attired sportsman from Boston dropped in to inquire, "Do you carry shot for grouse?" The storekeeper regarded him sourly, then answered, "If you mean cartridge for partridge, we've got it."



Every session of Britain's House of Commons is called to order by the Speaker, who marches into the halls with the flowing train of his black gown held up by a page, looking for all the world like a character in Gilbert & Sullivan. On the way to the House, he strides through the visitors' hall, a herald preceding him to call out "Hat's Off, Strangers!" Tourists who have gathered from all parts of the world to watch the colorful and traditional ceremony, obediently doff their headgear as the procession goes by.

One day a great personal friend of the Speaker, named Neil McLean, was in the gathering in the visitors' hall. The Speaker spotted him as he walked through and impulsively cried out, "Neil! Neil!" Every tourist present promptly dropped to his knees!

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6,722 People Visit Museum in June

Jacksonville -The Jacksonville museum reported that attendance for June this year reached 6,722 people with visitors coming from 43 states and Canada, Mexico, Nova Scotia, Colombia, England, Holland, Germany, Italy and Japan.

The total number of visitors to the museum since it opened in July, 1950, reached 533,432 last month. Visitors last month exceeded any other month of June by 1,000, with the exception of June, 1962, Miss Mary Hanley, curator, reported.

The museum, which was the Jacksonville courthouse in the days of large scale gold mining, is a two-story brick structure which houses collections donated and purchased that recall the early days of the Jackson gold rush.

Groups which visited the museum last month included the third grade of Sams Valley school, the third and fourth grades of Griffin Creek school, a YMCA group from Klamath Falls, cub scouts from Grants Pass and 80 women from the Vocational Agricultural convention in Grants Pass.

Donations to the museum constitute a major portion of the materials housed in the

museum. Last month donations included a collection of Belgian stamps, a blacksmith's forge, a collection of marbles, woodworking planes, branding iron and steelyard scales, a metal lantern used in torchlight parades, Indian baskets that represent the work of the Klamath, Hupa, Tulares and other tribes of Oregon and California.

Previous donations from local groups include the Peter Britt photographic studio as it was in the early 1900's, and a section of photographs depicting the early days of Medford and Ashland.

Recently, the jail adjoining the museum was converted to handle the overflow from the courthouse.

County Legislators To Be at Roundtable

Members of the Jackson county delegation to the 1963 Oregon legislature, who spoke at last week's Medford Chamber of Commerce Roundtable, will return Monday to answer questions.

Bob Balk, chairman of the chamber's roundtable committee, said yesterday the public is invited to attend the luncheon at North's Chuck Wagon restaurant at noon.

A list of nine questions, prepared by the Governmental Operations committee of the chamber, chaired by Robert D. Hefferman Jr., will be presented to the legislators.

A few of these questions were answered last week by State Sen. Lynn Newby, who will be unable to attend tomorrow's meeting.

Ashland Council Ponders Legality Of Sub-Lease Plan

Ashland—City councilmen pondered the legality of a sub-lease rental by Thomas J. Parker and Associates for a city-owned industrial site at their regular session last week.

Parker Associates have a \$50 per year rental agreement with the city of Ashland. In a letter from Gerald Scannell, attorney for Ashland Masonry, Inc., a protest was made to a sub-lease for \$50 per year plus a 3 per cent of net proceeds of the cement block company's business.

City Attorney Harry Skerry said he believed such a transaction to be in direct violation of the lease agreement between the city and Parker Associates. The matter was referred to the realty committee for full investigation with a report to be made at the next council meeting July 16.

The masonry firm is anxious to get into operation on the one-acre property. It expects to employ five persons.

Presents Report

Councilman George F. Ward presented a comprehensive report on the city airport, saying that federal and state inspectors had approved the present location with slight changes such as extension of the runway for 3,800 feet and making a 10 degree shift in order to clear the radio beacon hilltop.

Tentative negotiation for purchase of the Summer Parker property (leased from the Parkers for seven years and up in July of next year) together with an additional five acres adjoining which belong to Les Hamilton, was proposed by Ward. City Superintendent Elmer Biegel was instructed to check application requirement for federal matching funds for airport development.

In other action, the council discussed appraisal and sale of three city-owned lots on First st. Jim Busch, owner of the adjoining lots on Lithia Way, had requested first chance to buy them. The matter of putting the property up for bids was referred to the realty committee.

Several requests were received. One came from Superintendent of Schools Stan Jobe, asking that lights be installed on the baseball field. The council turned down a request for widening an alley between Baum and High sts., and another to open Woodson sts. The city's budget was formally approved.

Thefts Are Reported To Medford Police

Thefts of property ranging from cars to boat trailers, were reported to Medford police following the Fourth of July observance.

Dale William Bankston, 511 King st., reported theft of his 1951 model car from his residence. Dowse Gleason Bolce, route 1, box 387, Eagle Point, also reported theft of his auto.

Pearl Jaunetta Hoffman, 1206 Niantic st., reported theft of a television set from her living room.

Albert McCabe, 515 North Riverside ave., said his boat trailer was taken some time between Dec. 16 and May 16.

Jack Dole Robinson, 1215 East Main st., informed police that a tachometer, valued at \$40, was taken from his car when it was parked at 24 Crater Lake ave., Medford.

John Thomas Augard, 1041 West 11th st., Medford, reported theft of a television set and a flashlight from his car, parked at 1206 North Riverside ave., Medford.

Henry Ernest Nulton, 341 Ardmore ave., reported an air cleaner, valued at \$26, taken from his convertible.

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