

City Council Puts Stamp Of Approval On Klamath Falls Doing Own Work

Is it all right for the city of Klamath Falls to save money by doing some of its own construction work rather than employ regular contractors?

That ethical question was pondered by the City Council last night. And then the council decided city employees should go ahead and put in some new sidewalk at Maple Park. City Engineer Tom Thomas had estimated cost of the work at something less than \$500. The job was advertised and bids from contractors asked for between \$200 and \$1,000. The city engineer told the council last night he believed the city could do the work for about \$302.

Councilman Jimmy Barnes remarked that the city might come in for some "adverse criticism" by not letting the job out to a regular contractor. After hashing this over a bit, the council told the city engineer to go ahead with the job. Barnes made the motion and it was unanimous.

Said Mayor Landry: "We all appreciate the value of private enterprise. . . But the bids on this work were almost double our estimated cost and I think it's all right for us to do the work ourselves."

By resolution, the council activated a plan to surface a section of Erie Street; the plan calls for paving the street a distance of 420 feet beyond Pacific Terrace. Alternative plans were submitted by the city engineer for a 26-foot wide street: 1) asphalt 5 inches deep, \$7,800; 2) concrete 6 inches deep, \$8,891. The project includes 6-foot sidewalks and sanitary sewers.

A public hearing on the project

was called for June 1, 7:30 p.m. at the regular council meeting. The California Oregon Power Company, holding a survey made by Engineer Thomas, admitted by letter that the city in the past few years had been overcharged for street lights to the tune of \$475. The power firm explained the errors were constituted by duplicate billings and mistakes in the size and number of lights in a few instances. The council accepted a credit memo for the refund.

Building Inspector Vern Schorlgen informed the council that no action had yet been taken by owners of some condemned houses. He was instructed to proceed immediately, working with City Atty. Henry Perkins, to issue formal con-

demnation orders. The council, trying to peddle a large amount of heat generalists equipment, again postponed a scheduled bid-opening last night. The equipment for sale is in the power building a Municipal Airport. Last

night was the second time the council had refused to open bids. Only one bid was submitted for last night's meeting. Mayor Landry said a Seattle firm had requested permission to submit a bid and that he thought the firm should be al-

lowed to do so. He explained the firm had missed an opportunity to bid because a bid notice had been sent to an old address. Landry wanted to postpone bid opening another few days, but Atty. Perkins opined the city would have to

readvertise the sale. The bids are now to be opened next Monday night. The mayor called a conference between the council and Recreation Committee for Thursday, 7:30 p.m. to plan for an early construction

start on the municipal swimming pool. Only four building permits were

issued last week. Largest was for a \$15,000 residence to be built by Charles Fyock at 1303 Lawrence.

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Road Delay List Told

SALEM, Ore. — The Oregon Highway Commission announced Monday the following traffic delays due to construction:

Oregon Highway — Grading for 10 miles immediately west of Mitchell, rough.

Columbia River — Construction on Cascade Locks-Hood River section, 3 miles gravel road, traffic controlled by flagman. Construction Hood River-Mosier section, 5 1/2 miles gravel road, restricted speed. Construction on Rowena-The Dalles section.

The Dalles-California — Construction for 2 miles south of Lapine.

Pacific — Construction on Medford-Ashland, Chenoweth Park-Oakland Junction, and Lane County Line-Anlauf sections.

Coast — Grading for 1 1/2 miles south of Reedsport. Repair work south of Port Orford.

Enterprise-Lewiston — Grading and surfacing Enterprise-Flora section, rough.

Umpqua — Grading 2 1/2 miles on Reedsport-Dean Creek section.

Heppner — Construction on Lena-Nye section, rough and muddy. Through traffic should detour via Echo and Pendleton.

Rome-Princeton — Construction and detours on Princeton-Folly farm section.

Elkton-Sutherlin — Paving on Calapooya Creek-Sutherlin section.

Car Plates To Be Renewed

SALEM, Ore. — Oregon's automobile license plates will be replaced in 1955, Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry announced Monday.

The present plates were first issued in 1930.

Newberry said he has not yet determined the color of the new plates. He added that he is investigating whether to use reflectorized material on the new plates.

The application for the special plates for amateur radio operators can be made next Sept. 1, Newberry said, but these plates won't be issued until next Jan. 1.

The plates, which will bear the call letters of the radio operators, were authorized by the 1953 Legislature.

Portland Banks Up Interest Rate

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland banks Monday increased the prime interest rate for loans to 3 1/4 per cent.

The increase from 3 per cent followed the lead set earlier by New York banking houses.

The prime rate is the minimum at which banks will lend money to customers with the best of credit ratings.

Other interest rates will be increased, bankers said.

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