

# Public ignores new water rates, Banks Council takes the plunge

Banks City Council adopted the budget for fiscal year 2002-2003 and approved an increase in water rates at a special meeting and Public Hearing held May 23. Despite lengthy articles in area newspapers about the water rate increase, there was no public comment on either topic.

Councilor Katie Murdoch expressed concern about the short notice given to the public

on the water rates. Councilor Teri Branstitre asked for clarification on the different rates for residential, commercial and bulk. City engineer Dale Merrell explained that this is a common practice by cities because peak demand and peak hour usage vary between residential and commercial users. Merrell also offered council additional information regarding the basis for the depreciation value used in

the water fund budget that was included as a factor in the water rate study.

Councilors Branstitre, Murdoch, Ryan Birr, Tim Hardie and Gary Coffey voted in support of the water rate increase. Councilor Judy Clifford voted against the increase. The new water rates are shown in the box accompanying this article.

Adjustments in the budget included:

- A reduction of resources and corresponding elimination of a \$3000 contingency fund for the Police Department;
- An increase in water fund

tion Network Agreement.

- Met in executive session to discuss the hourly fee agreement with city attorney Jim Lucas. Discussion will continue at

### CITY OF BANKS WATER RATES (Effective July 1, 2002)

	Inside City	Outside City
Customer Charge (Base Rate).....	\$16.65	\$24.98
Commodity Charge (Per 100 Cu Ft)		
Residential.....	\$2.21	\$3.32
Commercial-Industrial.....	2.44	3.66
Bulk.....	2.67	4.01

## Banks Schools okay if no further loss of funds

The failure of Measure 13 creates a projected loss of revenue of up to \$400,000 for the Banks School District—if the legislature takes no action to provide additional school funding in the special session now underway. In spite of that, the effect should be minimal, according to Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson, especially compared to the dramatic reductions other districts are facing.

Even with the statewide shortfall, the formula used in allocating state school funds will result in an increase in Banks' share of those funds, because of increasing enrollment. McGlasson added that the legislature is expected to take some action to fill the void left by the failure of M13.

The variations have resulted in an adopted budget for 2002-

03 that will differ little from the current year's budget. The budget was adopted with a maximum spending limit based on the assumption that Measure 13 would pass.

McGlasson believes that the district can get through the 2002-2003 school year without cutting programs or increasing class sizes. The majority of a \$200,000 spending reduction would be accomplished by postponing the math textbook

adoption, postponing a scheduled upgrade of the junior high computer lab, and the elimination of a halftime position shared by the junior and senior high. However, if the legislature takes no action, McGlasson made it clear that any reduction in revenue beyond \$200,000 would require more drastic cuts in programs, "If we have to cut \$400,000 we will be talking about programs and people."

depreciation to \$65,000, reducing the water fund operating contingency by \$15,000.

The budget was unanimously adopted after a motion made by Clifford.

In other business the council:

- Approved the Public Library Services Agreement.
- Approved the Washington County Inter-Library Informa-

tion Network Agreement.

the regular June council meeting.

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<p><b>\$295<sup>00</sup></b> w/Loop Handle</p> 	<p><b>044 Magnum</b> <b>\$685<sup>00</sup></b></p> <p>• 4.3 cu. in. • 5.36 bhp • 13.5 lbs. • 4.7 cu. in. • 6.03 bhp • 14.4 lbs.</p> 	<p><b>046 Magnum</b> <b>\$765<sup>00</sup></b></p> 
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