

Banks will seek approval for an extended law enforcement levy

Banks City Council approved drafting a new operating levy for law enforcement at their February 11 meeting. After providing some history of the police department funding, Mayor Bob Orlowski told council that if a new operating levy

were not passed, the city "would have to say goodbye" to the police department.

The levy passed in 1998 will expire at the end of June. The levy of \$1.80 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, provides approximately 85-percent

of the department's budget. The remainder, from the general fund, was about \$30,000 last fiscal year and is estimated at \$50,000 this fiscal year.

Because of the economy, Orlowski felt that passing an increased levy would be ex-

remely difficult. Police Chief Daryl Crandall told council that the department could live within this limited budget by "belt-tightening." However, he added, he expects increases in insurance and PERS.

Crandall does not anticipate increasing the current force of two full-time officers and a full-time chief. In response to a question about increasing department revenue, Crandall cited his report of the overwhelming success of the newly offered diversion class. The class generated nearly one-half of the income budgeted for the year in the first quarter of operation. Crandall couldn't predict whether that level of income would be maintained, or not, as the backlog of people needing the class is reduced.

City attorney Jim Lucas will draft a ballot measure at the current levy amount, for review at the March meeting. If approved, the measure will be on the ballot in the May election. Passage of the levy would need to meet the "double majority" standard, with over 50 percent of registered voters casting ballots and over 50 percent of the votes cast to be in favor of the levy.

Parks Agreement

Scott Bradley, vice-president of the Arbor Village Homeowners Association (AVHA), presented a five-point proposal for the maintenance of Greenville Park:

- Continue the present agreement until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2003.
- AVHA will pay maintenance of Greenville Park during fiscal year 2003-2004 (estimated at \$1750/ month) with the exception of water. Water for the park would be a city responsibility.
- The city will assume all maintenance costs beginning July 1, 2004.
- The city will relinquish all AVHA maintenance responsibility in writing.
- AVHA and the city will work jointly to secure funding for maintenance of Greenville Park.

Assuming the cost of irrigation at the park would mean a loss of income to the city of approximately \$9,000, according to Orlowski, which could be easily absorbed by the city's water fund. In addition, the city just instituted a park user fee. However, Orlowski told council, since the fee is new and the city

has no history of park users, the amount of income generated by the fee is unknown. Lucas reminded council that a change in the agreement affects only the financial situation and does not change the way the park is run.

Council concurred with extension of the agreement until the end of the fiscal year. They will use the intervening time to develop a new agreement with the AVHA.

Main Street trees

Councilor Katie Murdoch presented a proposal for budgeting \$1000 for the maintenance of trees on Main Street. Council approved her recommendation to hire the low bidder, Diamond Landscape, to remove three trees leaning into the road or blocking signs, remove stumps and reseed, and plant and provide care through the summer for four new trees. Council also agreed that the remainder of the fund could be used to prune and maintain other trees. Murdoch will work with Public Works Superintendent to prioritize maintenance.

Audit commendation

Dennis Conner, the city's auditor commended the city f

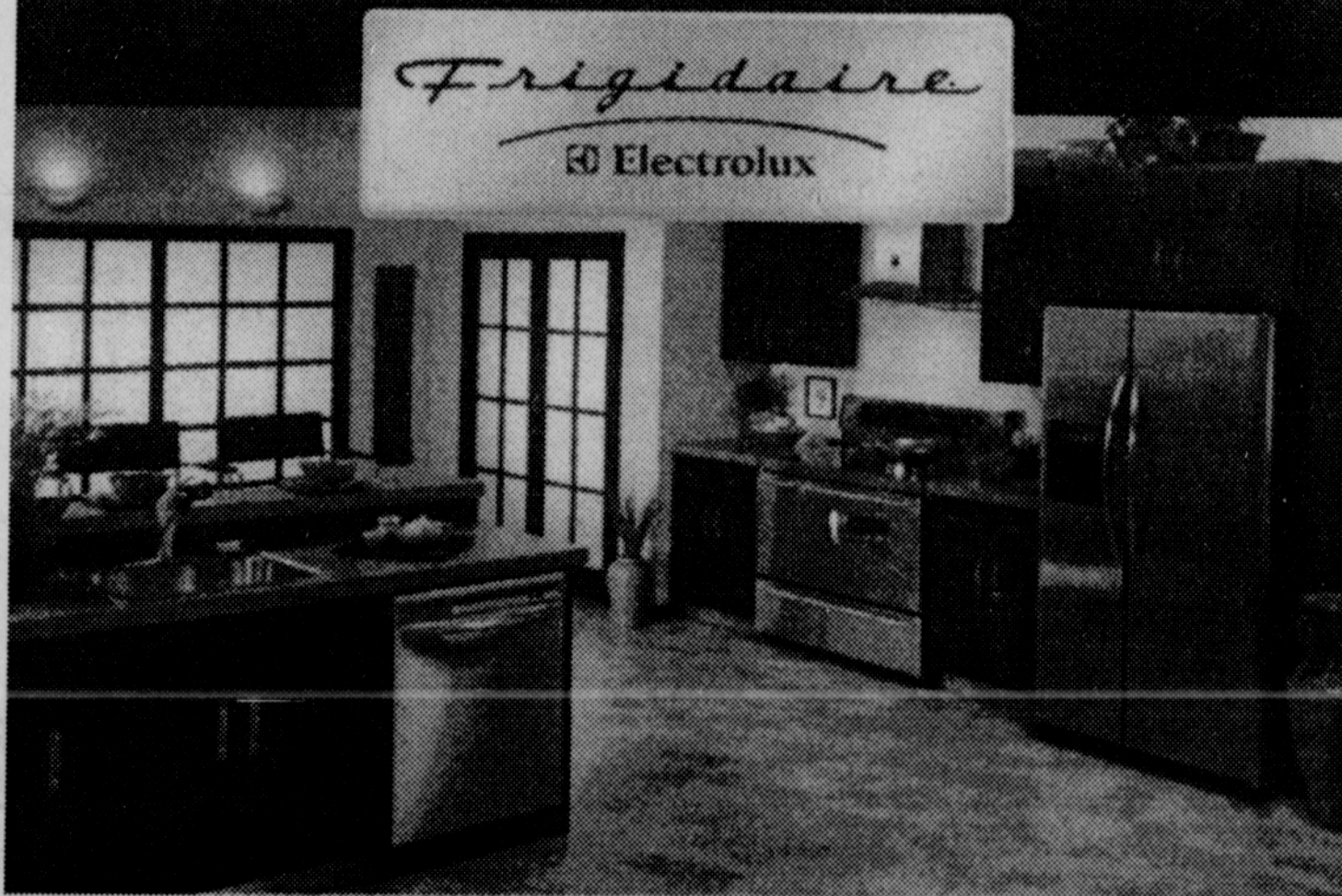
or their efforts to get the city out of deficit and end fiscal year 2001-2002 with a positive balance. He told the council that the received an "A+ report card opinion" on their accounting procedures. Conner urged council members to review the audit report and contact him with any questions.

Council Roundtable

During the council roundtable, Brock Banks said that the area surrounded by the highway exit on the south end of town is being developed by ODOT and the fire department as a permanent landing zone for Life Flight. Teri Brandstitt apologized for the city's web site being down, and complimented city employees for their help in moving the site to a new host. Pete Edison mentioned the Banks Community Auction to be held at the end of April and urged people to participate. Orlowski said the city had received two letters complaining about garbage and trash at a property in the city and that he would be sending Chief Crandall to investigate.

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