

City manager added before Banks council adopts '04-05 budget

Banks City Council spent a fair portion of their June 8 meeting finalizing the budget and discussing the potential city manager position. Councilors Ryan Birr and Pete Edison had previously reported that the committee examining the feasibility of hiring a city manager unanimously agreed that there was enough work to justify creating the position at this time. However, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) had suggested that the city might want to consider a coordinator

position, rather than a manager, as an interim step and, at the time the committee finished its work, the budget was not complete so the recommendation for a coordinator, rather than a manager, was made because of lower cost.

Throughout discussions at council and budget committee meetings, two councillors have taken opposing views of the coordinator vs. manager debate. Teri Branstitre has suggested that the city move directly to the manager position in order to avoid multiple transitions. Kirk Andrews has repeatedly said that a coordinator should be hired to perform a formal assessment of the city's needs and begin work on critical needs. Andrews told *The INDEPENDENT* that he felt the budget committee had agreed that a part-time coordinator should be hired to "give the 2005-2006 budget committee more information on the real need for a city manager."

Birr reported that LOC had recently said that, if the city can fund the manager's position, they should reconsider the decision to proceed with a coordinator. Edison said that he is "willing to embark on the process" of hiring a full-time manager, including the development of job specifications. "The issue is, do we need it

now or in five years?" Edison said. Branstitre said that it made sense to have a manager in place prior to the time the need became urgent. Orlowski added that the \$36,000 budgeted for the coordinator would be adequate for a fulltime manager, since it would take at least six months for the city to fill the position.

Council's first action in regard to adopting the budget was to rename the line item for the coordinator position in the budget to include the word manager. Following discussion, council changed the budget approved by the budget committee to increase benefit expenses in the general fund by \$15,000 to cover benefits for a city manager for six months and to include the recorder's insurance benefit, which was inadvertently omitted from the budget. Contract services were increased \$5,600 to cover recruitment costs and compensation for the webmaster. An additional change was made to remove \$200,000 from the traffic impact reserve that should not have been included in the cities budget as this money resides with the county.

The budget was adopted, with Andrews voting in opposition to make a public statement about increasing the scope of the administrative position from coordinator to manager.

declared a nuisance existed. Though some improvement was apparent, some items that should have been removed remained evident. According to Mayor Bob Orlowski, this property has been through at least part of the nuisance abatement procedure four or five times since he has been in office. City attorney Jim Lucas told council that once the property is cited for non-compliance, it can be assessed a fine of up to \$500 per incident/per day, not to exceed \$1000 per violation. Council directed the police department to issue a citation detailing specific violations still present on the property. No decision was made on having city workers clean up the property.

Miscellaneous

In other business, the council:

- Awarded the park maintenance contract to the low bidder, Landscape Specialty Services of Forest Grove, with the stipulation that it was in the city's best interest for the contractor to adhere to the prevailing wage law.

- Agreed to compensate the webmaster \$50 per month for maintaining the city's web site.

- Tabled discussion of leasing police vehicles until after the November election.

- Approved a new contract with the city's attorney.

- Approved a two-percent salary increase for the public works superintendent and employee, and the city recorder.

- Approved the Special City Allotment grant application for road improvements on Oak Way.

- Approved participation in the Washington County Inter-Library Information Network (WILInet) through July of 2009.

Deeth says thanks for selection as Volunteer Citizen

Candy Deeth appeared at the Banks City Council meeting to thank them for selecting her as volunteer citizen of the year. Deeth is active in a number of city projects, including the Banks Community Foundation. This year, she has organized a Family Fun Festival for the 4th of July, which will feature the city's first Independence Day parade.

According to Leah Perkins, of the Washington County Fair, the fair has asked cities to select a citizen as volunteer of the year for the last four years. Deeth will be recognized publicly during the rodeo.

Multi-user roads require common courtesy and common sense

Cars, bicycles, farm equipment, pedestrians, buses, trucks – there are many users of roads. Traffic laws and signals help, but common courtesy and common sense create safe roads all can share.

Tips for cyclists: Obey STOP signs and STOP lights, use bike lanes whenever possible, ride single file along the right hand edge of the road when vehicular traffic is present, always use hand signals.

Tips for pedestrians: Walk


on sidewalks and in crosswalks whenever possible. Make yourself visible by wearing bright or reflective clothing, especially when walking at night. Watch out for yourself because others may not see you. Look in all directions before stepping into the street.

Tips for motorists: Remember that bicycles have a legal right to be on the road. Obey speed limits and slow down as soon as you see a slow moving vehicle, bicycle or pedestrian in the road ahead. Pass only when the road ahead is clear and there is a dotted line on your side of the road. When passing, be extra cautious. Leave at least a 6-foot clearance when passing bicycles and pedestrians.

Share the road and keep it safe out there for all users.

Abatement

Council reviewed photos of the outside of 263 Wilkes Street, where last month they



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