

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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More Study by Everyone in Nyssa Needed for Proposed Street Work

We believe the Nyssa city council should take a second look at its \$225,000 street improvement program, most of which was to have been financed by property assessment and the remainder by general obligation bonds, which a majority of the voters approved.

This opinion is based on the numerous comments of regret about abandonment (including many signers of protest petitions) which far outnumber the actual protests that were a deciding factor in the council's proposal Tuesday night of last week to abandon the entire project.

Three proposals the city council should give the most careful scrutiny before repealing the ordinance forming the district are whether to:

- 1. Continue the project as planned,
2. Change the formula for assessment costs on side streets,
3. Eliminate the arpa north of Locust avenue.

We believe our proposal No. 2 should be given the most careful consideration since 79 percent of the people protesting objected to the manner in which costs for side streets are distributed. Within this group are 21 percent who have expressed a desire (in letters to the council) for street improvements. In addition to that group are more than 50 percent within the proposed district who have voiced no objection whatsoever.

It must also be considered that approximately 800 different resident property owners are affected by the street improvement program, since all of them must share in the city's cost of \$48,000 in general obligation bonds plus several thousand more in administrative costs. Most of those outside the district have paid similar assessments for streets now paved.

Should the council eliminate the area north of Locust avenue, it would entail starting from "scratch" with more costs, although not as great, for planning, and another bond election plus the fact that a long delay would result.

A few letters to the city indicate some hardship cases, but it is out of reason to contend that anyone "would be driven from their homes" because of the assessment. Some hardship cases might be found if the paving project is not continued. It should be re-emphasized that assessments can go on Bancroft bonds, giving the property owners 10 years in which to pay on a semi-annual basis.

A total of 152 protests are on record, but many of those have asked to have their objections withdrawn. The total number is less than half the total within the suggested district and only 21 percent of them have expressed a desire to have the project abandoned. About one-fourth of those wanting to halt the entire project are absentee owners, who are entitled to express objections. However, absentee owners are prohibited from voting in any bond election by state statute, which the city must follow in all other matters. The council should be guided by that phase of the law in considering the number of protests.

Arguments against allowing any registered voter to cast a ballot in a bond election are beside the point, but it should be pointed out that the city council is controlled entirely by state law in that matter.

Those who feel the costs are high—and they are—must consider everything from soup to nuts has risen in price since the last paving project in Nyssa. The current proposal does call for better material such as concrete gutters that would prevent most of the deterioration now found in older streets.

Without new paving, thousands of dollars will have to be spent each year for gravel, mix, grading, labor and all the general maintenance the public wants and expects. All of those costs would have to be shared by the taxpayers.

Comparison of costs with those of our neighboring towns are excellent up to a point, but some consideration of other factors must enter the picture. For instance, Ontario's proposed street improvement project is often referred to, but no front-foot costs have been announced. It must be considered that that city's tax levy averaged 34.7 mills for a five-year period while Nyssa's averaged 21 mills—a difference of 13.7 mills or \$27.40 a year more in Ontario for an average home with a \$2000 assessed valuation. That city, and we rejoice with them rather than condemn, has been able to build a large street department and maintain a fund to help with such projects.

Protests by letter, petition and appearance at meetings are democracy in action and everyone should put in his two-cents-worth, whether he be a resident property owner or an absentee owner, and whether the protest is about costs or about the manner of distribution of costs. The protests should be weighed individually, however, and considered on their merit rather than by quantity.

Unfortunately, the hearing before the city council Feb. 11 was publicized for those with complaints. Many came and several who had objections had their questions answered to their satisfaction. Very few of the 50 percent of the taxpayers within the district who have voiced no opposition and who apparently want the project continued appeared at the meeting.

There are others who are not in the district, but who have already paid for their streets with an investment and deep interest in the city and its future.

All indications are that more than two-thirds of the city's taxpayers, large and small, wish to have the project continued.

Every voice should be heard, whether he is in favor of the project, whether he wants costs cut by any means possible or whether he wants the entire project set aside.

Minorities cannot guide the destiny of the city, state, nation or the world.

Letters to Editor

Signed letters to the editor are welcomed and will be printed if they do not contain comments of a libelous nature or attacks on religious and racial groups. Publication of the letters does not signify the agreement of this newspaper with opinions expressed.

Editor, The Journal:

Nyssa is just a farm community that someone thinks should be governed like a very large city.

We have a city council to take care of all business and ordinances. Then we have some person who thinks we should be very strict about parking.

I personally park up town several times each day. I have never found the time when I could not find a parking space close to where I was going.

I personally feel that I am as good as the best of men, but no better than anyone else, therefore, if I can't park in front of the bank I must park in the next available space and walk back.

We know each other here in Nyssa and sometimes visit before or after doing business thus becoming more friendly and sociable.

If parking tickets are going to be given to someone parking in one place for more than one hour, I feel we are driving our purchasers out of town and it is sure we don't have as many outsiders come in as we have people go out.

Think it over, councilmen. The next to be considered by the people is the dog petition.

Most of us people have been raised in the country and have had animals of some sort all our lives.

At present there is a city ordinance prohibiting all animals but dogs and cats. Now some are trying to prohibit dogs. There is a license on dogs and anyone having just claim against same can get license number and action can be taken. The most outstanding crime is people not taking proper care of garbage or garbage cans.

Wake up, people, before it is too late. We have got to be smarter than a dog to judge. Man's best friend is his dog, which if treated right, will always befriend him and also is protection for children.

Everyone take a minute and think it over. We have a very nice community or city in which to live; now let's take care of it and not kill it by prohibiting our neighbor from enjoying life.

A short time ago we voted for a bond issue to improve our streets. Someone got his dander up and next petitions were being signed to stop the one thing that would help most.

We could use more sewers and storm drains, but at present the city is not financially able to take care of all expensive needs.

After the bond issue was voted upon the city had to be surveyed before knowing how to cut or fill for grades. This being done, and assessments made, we then scream and belly-ache until the council decided to stop street improvement.

We are obligated to pay the engineers for the survey which cost several thousand dollars. Rather than lose this, let us all who are interested in street improvements withdraw our letters and petitions of protest.

We may have water on some streets during a storm, but if streets are improved we will not have mud holes in which we cannot drive or walk. Also we will make it possible for business men to drive to their places of business by the back alleys, giving patrons more space to park. If they should walk, why not us?

Let's all work together as a team for the betterment of each other.

Sincerely, D. W. HOOPER

METHODIST Church News

"I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."—Romans 12:1.

Thursday, Feb. 20—Women's society circles meet: Margaret Toothman, 2 p.m., at the home of Mrs. Keveren. Mrs. Cheldelin will present the program. Grace Weaver circle meets with Mrs. Walter Fox. Mrs. Penrod has the program. At 8 p.m. Celia Cowan group meets at the home of Mrs. Duane Alters. Mrs. Ludlow has the program.

Friday, Feb. 21—World Day of Prayer services will be held in the Methodist church at 1:30 p.m. All women of the community are cordially invited. Starting Friday through March 2, Angeles hour will be observed from 6 to 6:15 p.m. Ringing of the chimes will indicate the hour.

Saturday, Feb. 22—All-church prayer vigil. Members and constituents may come to the church between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. for prayer. It is hoped that prayer will be made continuously at the church during this 12 hour period.

Sunday, Feb. 23—Day of Dedication Sunday, 9:45 a.m. Classes for everyone. 11 a.m.—worship service. Mr. Ludlow's sermon topic will be "A Living Sacrifice."

7 p.m.—Senior high MYF meeting; Diane Maulding, leader. Junior high MIF meeting; Sharon Jaques, leader.

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 8 p.m.—The Wesleyan Service guild meets in the church parlor. Myrtle Ilett is in charge of the program.

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Christian Church Notes

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you. If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are."—I Cor. 3:16.

Sunday, Feb. 23, 9:45 a.m.—Church school for all ages. 11 a.m.—Sermon, "The Holy Spirit."

6 p.m.—Orchestra practice. 7 p.m.—All youth groups meet. 8 p.m.—Sermon, "A Golden Cup in Her Hand."

Two more weeks of "School for Christian Living" in Ontario. These are very interesting meetings; if you are not attending you are missing a "spiritual blessing."

Wednesday, 7 p.m.—Prayer meeting and Bible study. 8 p.m.—Choir practice. Friday, 1:30 p.m.—World Day of Prayer at Methodist church.

Friday, 7 p.m.—All-church potluck supper with Mary Pollard, missionary from India, as guest speaker.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday—Sunday school, 10 a.m. Morning worship, 11 a.m. Saturdays—Confirmation class, 10 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 21, 2:30 p.m.—World Day of Prayer will be observed with special services at Grace Lutheran church in Vale. Mrs. William LaBounty will sing a special number. Nyssa Lutheran women are invited.

Sunday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.—As the result of the harvest in-gathering evening. Joe Stephen was in

Sundays, we will have evening evangelistic services. Also on these Sundays the pastor will conduct the sixth grade church school class in membership training.

Feb. 26, 4 p.m.—Additional sessions for primary and junior children at the church. 8 p.m.—Prayer meeting and Bible study in the church parlor.

Saturday, Feb. 28, 8 p.m.—Church executive meeting in the church parlor.

Owyhee Community Church Notes

"And he said unto me, 'My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.'"—II Cor. 12:9.

Sunday morning Homer Perry, missionary from El Salvador, gave the message. He showed a movie film of his work Sunday

campaign, the losing team No. 2 whose chairman is Ron Schoen, will be host to winning team No. 1 with a pancake supper at the church.

Wednesday, Feb. 26 — Lenten services will be held at 8:30 p.m. in Faith Lutheran church and will continue each Wednesday night throughout Lent, alternating with the Vale church.

The Women's Missionary federation met at the church Monday night. Mrs. Ray Fox was honored with a pink and blue shower.

Thursday, Feb. 27 — Church council meeting at the church, 8 p.m.

charge of the adult Sunday evening class.

Weekly Bible study and prayer meeting was held at the Homer Whitman home.

The senior young people enjoyed a Valentine party Thursday night at the church. Mr. and Mrs. Elver Neilson and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dail acted as chaperones.

Friday night the We-2 group of the church had a potluck dinner at the church. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Richesen and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chapin were hosts. The table was set to carry out the Valentine theme.

BACK TO THE BIBLE BROADCAST Station KFXD Monday—Friday 9:30—10:00 A.M. Saturday 1:00 P.M.

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