

THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 15, 1996

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

NEWBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWBERG, OREGON

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Donna Proctor at 7:03 p.m..

Members Present:

Bert Pennock	Fred Owen
Robert Soppe	Dan Wollam
Roger Currier	Dave McMullen
Donna McCain	Alan Halstead
Melinda Newland	Bob Ficker
Robert Weaver	

Others Present:

Donna Proctor, Mayor
Duane R. Cole, City Manager
Diane Padilla, Assistant Finance Director
Terry Mahr, City Attorney

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Mayor Proctor opened nominations for committee officers for the coming year. T. Dan Wollam was elected Chairman, Bob Ficker was elected Vice-Chairman and Robert Weaver was elected Secretary by a majority of those present.. Mr. Wollam assumed control of the meeting.

MINUTES: The minutes of the May 9, May 18, and November 16, 1995 meetings were approved on a motion by Bert Pennock and second by Alan Halstead.

NEW BUSINESS: City Manager, Duane Cole briefly reviewed the role of the Budget Committee and its mission to guide the City, and himself as Budget Officer, in establishing priorities and determining the budget for the coming fiscal year. He stated that the purpose of this meeting was to provide an opportunity for interested agencies to give information about their programs and funding requests. This was to be an information gathering session only. No funding decisions would be made until a later date. Mr. Cole offered copies of, "Goals and Objectives 1995-1996," to any who had not yet received a copy.

Mr. Wollam introduced representatives from the Chehalem Valley Senior Citizens Council, Newberg Human Resources Center and Newberg Area Chamber of Commerce who were to give presentations.

Barbara Brown of the Chehalem Valley Senior Citizens Council explained her agency's two proposals. The first was for the information and referral service at the Senior Center. It is designed to promote independence and enhance quality of life for senior citizens. The service fields 250 to 315 calls per

month and accounts for 21% of the receptionist's time. It also operates a medical equipment lending service.

The second Senior Citizens Council proposal was for transportation programs. The Council currently operates three services:

- Town Flyer fixed route serving the general public
- LINK service connecting Newberg residents with other Yamhill County and Tri Met routes
- Special needs bus providing curb to curb service for disabled and senior citizens on demand

Mr. Soppe asked if the Senior Citizen's Council had considered charging fees based on ability to pay or special needs. Ms. Brown replied it would be complicated and cumbersome to administer but that the majority of patrons were senior citizens.

Mr. Wollam asked for information about other sources of funding for Council programs. Ms. Brown replied that there is a Yamhill County levy, a State STF program (Special Transportation Funds) that is dwindling and a Federal Section 18 pass through program that help the Council fund its transportation programs.

Mr. Currier noted that most of the people he sees using the programs are fixed income people who pay or have paid taxes in the community.

Jerry Sunday, Executive Director of the Newberg Human Resources Center (NHRC) gave the second agency presentation. He noted that this year each of the programs at the Center has submitted its own proposal for City consideration.

The first program presented was the community service information and referral program. Several agencies including Yamhill County Mediators, CASA, Oregon Together and the Mid-Willamette Jobs Council use the NHRC site to provide their services. NHRC administers the City's utility voucher program through which low income utility users receive one time help with their City provided utility costs. It also works with the Police Department to provide vouchers for emergency shelter and food.

Harvest House is an emergency family shelter providing short term help. Its goal is to help families return to self sufficiency. Almost all families that are in the shelter four weeks find jobs and housing. The program is requesting funding for staffing and supplies. Mr. Sunday introduced Mary Bradford, coordinator for Harvest House. She expressed appreciation for past help from the City and discussed her efforts to help children succeed in school while their families are at Harvest House. Mr. Weaver asked if Harvest House got rent-free facilities from the City. Mr. Sunday replied that it did.

Great Expectations was the third NHRC program discussed. It helps teen parents with day care, teaches child-care skills and helps young parents finish high school. Cecelia Zoeller, program director, was introduced and explained that the program has two full time and three part-time people. The school district provides the building and utilities, some supplies, a parenting class and one-half person for staffing. There is funding from a community development block grant as well.

Newberg Elderly Day Services (NEDS) was the fourth NHRC program discussed. Their request is for support for part-time nursing services, health monitoring supplies and meals. This program provides senior daycare, respite care for caregivers and caregiver training. Additional funding is now provided by various grants.

The Youth Program was the final NHRC program discussed. It is the newest program and has also been known as Level 7. Its goal is to help at-risk youth. It runs a parenting program and has bicultural and bilingual case workers. Currently, Yamhill County and Adec also provide assistance to this program.

Julie Want, President of the Newberg Area Chamber of Commerce, Ann Pesola, Executive Director, of the Chamber and Helen Hanson gave the Visitor Information Center presentation. The Visitor Center has been in operation for ten years. Ms. Pesola stated that in the last five years, \$212,000 in motel taxes has been collected by the City and \$97,705 has been given to the Visitor Center. Most tourists to Oregon come from Washington and California and visit during the summer months. During this busy season, the Newberg Visitor Center is open weekends. Newberg is on a major highway between Portland and the coast which are both major tourist destinations so Newberg gets significant traffic. During the past year, the Center has handled 10,000 phone calls and talked to 10,000 visitors. In addition 524 relocation packages and 444 other mail requests have been sent out.

The Newberg Area Chamber of Commerce is asking for \$20,000 from the City to combine with its own \$8,000 to run the Center. Ms. Pesola said that eighty-two percent of Oregon communities support tourist activities with motel tax revenues. Newberg is the only municipality in Yamhill County with a motel tax. Of the three staff people currently working on tourism, one will be lost if there is no City support. Ms. Pesola stated that the Chamber is the logical place to establish a visitor center as it has a reputation as an information source so it is where people call when they have questions.

Mr. Currier stated that he felt it would be possible and cost effective to have a kiosk stocked with pamphlets and maps as a substitute for the current Visitor Center. Ms. McCain responded that a kiosk had been tried but was ineffective as an information source and still required someone to stock and clean it. Mr. Currier expressed frustration that the kiosk idea was not being considered and left the meeting.

Ms. Newland expressed the opinion that tourists have sources such as AAA for travel information and should pay for it themselves. The City shouldn't pay the cost.

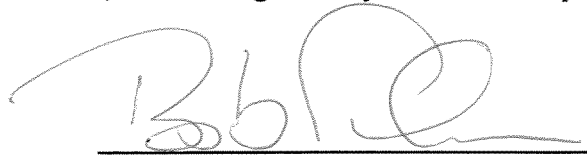
Mr. Soppe asked for information about the motel tax. Duane Cole responded that there is no record in the minutes of a connection being made between the tax and a visitor center at the time the tax was initiated.

Mr. Pennock stated that he feels there is a problem when the City Council goes against the vote of the Budget Committee and that it makes people reluctant to serve on the committee.

Mr. Wollam thanked the presenters for their information and expressed his opinion that the value of the City's social service agencies and visitor center were made apparent by the help they provided during the recent flood emergency.

Mr. Cole asked committee members to complete their social services priority pairings and turn them in to City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Bb R', written over a horizontal line.

Secretary