

Council grants request for transit bus

By JERRY NEEDHAM
Battalion Staff Writer

Questioned about his plans if Bryan does not grant him a permit, Bass said he felt a transit bus could be economically feasible even if it operated only in College Station.

Mayor O. M. Holt and Councilmen Jim Dozier and Larry Bravenec voted against granting the permit.

"This could very easily work into a franchise system," Dozier said. A bus system operating solely in College Station would, in time, probably have to be subsidized by the city because it would not make money, he said.

Bravenec said "We've got an old ordinance, and I think we should update it before we grant any permits."

The ordinance was written in 1939, one year after College Station was incorporated as a city. The insurance section of the ordinance requires coverage for \$5,000 liability.

The ordinance was written in 1939, one year after College Station was incorporated as a city. The insurance section of the ordinance requires \$5,000 liability and \$1,000 property damage.

A stipulation to the approved permit allows the city staff to check the axle load on the buses to see how the loads will affect the city's streets.

In other action, the Council approved a bicycle path plan for the city.

Federal funds totaling \$6 million are available nationwide for starting such plans as demonstration projects.

The next step in the project is to apply for the federal funds.

A map and further explanation of the plan will be in next Wednesday's Battalion.

The Council rejected a request to rezone 16.2 acres of land east of the Highway 6 bypass and south of Krenek Lane from single family residential to general commercial.

Glynn Williams, who was requesting the change, said, "Residential housing would not be very marketable on the bypass because of the noise level."

Councilman Jim Gardner said he felt commercial businesses should not be encouraged all along Highway 6 but should be limited to certain intersections on the highway.

"If yours is rezoned, why not the whole highway?" he asked.

Mayor Holt and Councilman Homer Adams voted for the zoning change.

"If the property can stand without interfering with anyone, I think we should rezone it," Adams said.

The Council also amended the penalty section of the Hotel-Motel Tax ordinance. The amendment allows the city to place a lien on the property of a motel which does not give the city the three per cent hotel-motel tax collected from its guests.

The Council heard a request from A. L. Bartley, local manager of Lone Star Gas Co., for an increase in gas rates in College Station. A public hearing on the request has been set for April 8.



CITY COUNCIL IN ACTION

Councilmen Halter, Adams and Bravenec (l to r) view zoning maps

The Battalion

Vol. 68 No. 91

College Station, Texas

Friday, Mar. 12, 1976

Fire Station

Committee studying ways to expand facilities

College Station has a definite need for a larger central fire station and a substation, Fire Chief Douglas Landua says.

The city's Capital Improvements Committee is studying ways to expand the fire station facilities. Councilman Gary Halter, chairman of the committee, said three proposals are being considered.

The first proposal calls for expansion of the police - fire station building at its present site on Texas Avenue across from the Texas A&M campus. Another proposal provides for the expansion of the police station at the present site and the building of a new fire substation south of the city.

Halter said the third proposal calls for expanding the fire station at the present location and moving the police station.

The proposals are part of the committee's recommendations for a \$5 million city bond

issue tentatively planned in the spring. The bond issue will include proposals for an improved utilities system, park improvements, city street tensions and improvements and a park fund.

Halter said the improvements committee will meet in three weeks to make final recommendations. The bond issue proposal will then be submitted to the City Council sometime in April.

Landua said the primary needs of the fire station are space and equipment.

"The station now has facilities for five on-duty personnel. "We need additional living quarters for 16 or 17 people," he said.

There are presently 15 fulltime firemen and 30 pay-call firemen. Pay-call employees are paid only when they are called to assist at a fire. Ninety - five per cent of the pay-call firemen are A&M students.

Before 1971, fire protection for the city was handled totally by the university. In 1971 the city took over the responsibility.

"We are still a long way from being able to supply totally full-time personnel," Landua said, "but we are working towards adding more full-time people."

The fire chief said there is enough full-time personnel to man the first run of the fire trucks. "After that we rely totally on off-duty firemen and pay-call men. We just hope they are in town."

A fire substation is needed, he said, because the station should be within a two-mile radius of all of the city's boundaries and if the present facility is expanded it is in a good location to serve the campus, Northgate area and two miles south of the station.

— Lynn Rossi

Williams to submit request for more educational funds

Texas A&M University is 19 from the bottom on per student expenditures nationwide, A&M President Jack Williams told the Academic Council yesterday.

He also said he is going to submit a statement to support more education expenditures in Texas to Senator Bill Clayton, speaker of the Texas house, for lobbying.

The recommendation will compare A&M academic standards to those of other colleges within Texas and the United States. It will include the number of colleges and programs offered at A&M.

Williams also reported Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) scores for entering freshmen at A&M are higher than the national college norms.

A&M was compared to 1,800 other four-year colleges and universities that participated in the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) survey.

Williams said that the average SAT scores of entering freshmen are:

| A&M | College Norms |
|------------------|------------------|
| 513 | 505 |
| 487 verbal | 426 verbal |
| 551 mathematical | 459 mathematical |

"Forty-one per cent of the students in the upper ten per cent of their graduating class attend A&M as compared to the national norm of 18 per cent," Williams said.

"We wanted to find two people with current lives and representation that will reflect well on the A&M centennial and on the bicentennial," said Williams in reference to commencement speakers.

Houston attorney Leon Jaworski will be the featured speaker at commencement exercises Friday evening, May 7. General Brad Weyand, Army Chief of Staff will speak on Saturday morning, May 8.

Fifty new courses were approved by the council in addition to various course changes, course cross-listings and course withdrawals.

The proposed Doctor of Philosophy in applied psychology curriculum was approved. If approved by the Board of Regents and the State Coordinating Board, this will be the only doctoral-level program in applied psychology offered in Texas. The council also approved the proposed Master of Arts program in anthropology and a Bachelor of Fine Arts program in Art.

The fine arts proposal, approved by the Academic Council in July 1974, was not taken to the Board of Regents because of limited facilities, said Dr. John C. Calhoun, A&M vice-president of academic affairs. The program will be housed in the new architecture building when it is finished.

— Lillian Foreman

Index

Comet West can be seen early in the morning all next week. Page 3.

The Bryan Community Education Program begins next week. Page 3.

The March of Dimes Walkathon is scheduled for March 27. Page 3.

Aggies around the world are preparing for Muster. Page 4.

Two students found a smugglers' camp in Mexico. Page 4.

Weather

THE FORECAST FOR Friday is partly cloudy and mild with chance for thundershowers. High today in mid-70's; low tonight 39; Saturday in high 50's.

Drive carefully and defensively over the holidays

Alternate sites proposed for varsity tennis courts

Three alternative sites for the proposed varsity tennis courts were reviewed yesterday by Texas A&M System Vice-President A. R. Luedecke and student members of the Long-Range Campus Planning Committee.

The site originally proposed is south of the Rudder Center next to G. Rollie White. This site is being reconsidered because of the large size of the eight planned courts, Luedecke has said.

One alternative is to renovate the existing six varsity courts, increasing their size and improving their foundation. However, various positions of the restructured varsity courts would intrude upon a grove of trees, the regular tennis courts and an intramural field in the surrounding area.

The courts require a north-south orientation so the sun will not be in the players' eyes.

Luedecke will discuss the alternative sites with the Academic Council, tennis

coaches and intramural coaches before the final decision on the location is made.

Other alternatives for the courts are south of the baseball field and across Wellborn Road.

"The tennis court project has been approved and everyone is anxious to get on with it," Luedecke said. He did not know how long it would be until the plan was finalized.

Luedecke also discussed plans for the west campus. Two agriculture buildings and a power plant are now under construction. Near future plans include four parking lots, new roads and electrical and sewage systems. The existing buildings on the west campus will hamper construction, but new facilities must be built before the existing ones can be torn down, Luedecke said.

Luedecke said traffic on Wellborn Road would be controlled with stop lights at Jersey St. and Old Main Drive. Priority would be given to campus traffic during peak

hours. The problem of the railroad tracks dividing the campus has not been solved. The expense of moving the tracks is too great to be considered now, Luedecke said.

The new Animal Resource Facility will be located near the College of Veterinary Medicine across from the Forest Science Laboratory. Its primary purpose is to house animals for research and lab use at the vet school and the new medical school. Other colleges will have research animals kept there.

Funds for the project will be limited to \$3 million, Luedecke said. The contract should be awarded by November, 1977.

The new baseball field will be located across Wellborn Road where the rodeo arena is now situated. The estimated cost for the stadium is \$1.5 million.

Although the actual design not been decided, the stadium will include dressing rooms, concessions and mechanical and custodial areas. Seating capacity will be 5,000, Luedecke said.

A parking lot holding 500 to 800 cars will be built south of the stadium. The barns in that area will be removed.

An Equestrian Center has been proposed to replace the rodeo arena and barns that will be torn down, Luedecke said. The master plan for the center includes a polo field, jumping field, five barns, riding trails and arena. The arena and one barn will have priority for construction.

The arena will be an open air stadium with steel bleachers. Luedecke said that it will be constructed so that the arena can be enclosed later if desired. The barn is an experimental design, circular with an elevated roof. The center of the barn is an open arena with stalls surrounding it and the outer edge of the building.

North of the new baseball field will be an intramural complex containing eight football fields and four softball fields, Luedecke said.

Luedecke said that he would like to see the polo field moved from the front of the campus near the Systems Administration Building.

"The players need a proper place away from the increasing traffic on campus," Luedecke said.

—Susan Brown

Restrained from flight

Almost as though the tower is straining to fly from the earth, it is held only by taut steel cables. Rather, maybe it is Earth that is held from flight by its anchor, the tower.



Staff photo by Douglas Winship