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CS council passes rezoning plan

By CRAIG RENFRO
Staff Writer

The College Station City Council Thursday night disregarded the city's Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations and voted 5-1 to pass an ordinance allowing for the rezoning of a 55-acre tract of land.

As a result of the ordinance a 28-acre tract of land at the intersection of Rock Prairie Road and Texas Avenue will be rezoned from an agricultural-open district to a commercial-industrial district.

The other 27 acres will be rezoned from agricultural-open to administrative-professional.

The commission recommended denying the request Feb. 6 because of conflicts with the city's comprehensive plan.

Mayor Gary Halter said, "The comprehensive plan is like the Bible, it can be interpreted to anyone's advantage."

Originally the applicant had requested that all 55-acres be rezoned for commercial use.

After meeting with the commission the applicant reduced the acreage by about 50 percent.

According to the city's comprehensive plan the College Station population figures are projected to grow to 71,000 by the year 2000.

The plan states that a population that size would be able to support an additional 550 acres of commercial development.

The plan now has 906 acres of zoned but undeveloped commercial tracts.

The commission's report suggests that it will take years to absorb the vacant retail and office space currently on the market and that granting a commercial rezoning request is not in compliance with the comprehensive plan.

In Wednesday's workshop the council unanimously agreed to hire an insurance consultant and look into a Texas Municipal League insurance program designed for large cities.

The consultant will investigate whether the city is capable of insuring itself against claims.

The city's general comprehensive liability coverage expired Jan. 1.

Liability coverage for city officials will expire Saturday, leaving them without insurance protection against lawsuits.

City manager William Cole said renewing the city's total coverage this year would cost \$665,000.

However, if the city qualifies for an insurance program designated for large cities the cost would be \$360,000.

In other action the council passed an ordinance allowing the rezoning of two tracts of land near the intersection of Stallings Drive and Harvey Road.

On Jan. 16, P&Z recommended rezoning this land from an administrative-professional district to a general-commercial district contingent on the extensions of Holleman and Stallings Drive.

The council also approved the nomination of Dr. Malon Southland, Texas A&M assistant vice president for student services, to the Greater East Texas Higher Education Authority board of directors.

The council heard the director of College Station's Parks and Recreation report on this year's Super triathlon scheduled for April 25, 26 and 27.

The event has been designated by the USA Triathlon Federation as its national championship for staged distance triathlons.

The council approved the Local Management Program to be implemented from Aug. 20 to Sept. 20.

In the last two years the program has saved the city an estimated \$800,000 in lower wholesale electric costs.

The council also passed an ordinance ordering an election to be held April 5 to elect a mayor and three councilmen.

Filing for council positions ends Feb. 19.

Chagra trial

Letter reveals woman delivered murder payoff

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Jurors at the retrial of Elizabeth Chagra were told Thursday about a letter Chagra wrote the widow of an assassinated federal judge, telling how she delivered the payoff money for the 1979 murder.

Chagra, in a letter she sent to Kathryn Wood of San Antonio in 1982, said, "I have made my peace with God, I wrote to make my peace with you."

However, Chagra, who is being tried on charges she helped plot the murder of U.S. District Judge John Wood, also told Mrs. Wood, "I never had any part in any plot."

The contents of the letter from Chagra to Mrs. Wood, first revealed in 1982, were read into the current trial's record Thursday by U.S. attorneys. Mrs. Wood died in 1985.

Chagra, 32, was tried previously, but the conviction was overturned and a new trial ordered because of improper instructions to the jury.

John Wood was shot in the back with a high-powered rifle on May 29, 1979, shortly before he was to have presided at the trial of Jimmy Chagra, an El Paso attorney and high stakes gambler, who was accused of multimillion-dollar drug peddling deals in Florida.

Jimmy Chagra is serving a 47-year prison sentence in connection with Wood's murder and a concurrent life sentence for his part in an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate former U.S. Attorney James Kerr of San Antonio.

Mrs. Wood testified at the 1982 trial that she heard a shot shortly after her husband left for work and found him beside his car, unable to talk and apparently dead.

Former Bexar County medical examiner Dr. Ruben Santos of McAllen testified Thursday that one rifle shot destroyed Wood's spinal cord, a major artery from the heart and his liver.

More than two years later, Mrs. Wood received the six-page letter from Mrs. Chagra, who said she had become "a newly born Christian... I am the new Liz, not the old Liz."

Mrs. Chagra's letter said she was frying chicken one day in 1979 in her Las Vegas home when her husband, Jimmy, said, "I am going to kill Jimmie Wood."

"I said 'OK, honey' and never gave any more thought to it," Mrs. Chagra said in her letter.

She said after Wood was killed, she heard Jimmy say several times he had no knowledge of the shooting.

Then one day Jimmy asked her to deliver some money to a room in the Jockey Club in Las Vegas. She said in the past she had delivered money for gambling debts for Jimmy but was suspicious. Finally, she said, her husband admitted the money was to pay for Wood's shooting. He insisted she make the delivery, she said.

"I ended up delivering the money for this crime," Mrs. Chagra said in her letter to Mrs. Wood. "I feel that I am not involved but at the same time I am."

She asked Mrs. Wood to keep the letter a secret between the two women. Mrs. Wood testified she immediately turned the letter over to the FBI.

Mrs. Chagra is scheduled to testify later in this trial.

Her brother-in-law, Joe Chagra, former El Paso attorney, testified Wednesday that she had nothing to do with the plot to kill Wood.

"Liz had nothing to do with any of the investigations," he testified.

Joe Chagra, 39, younger brother of Jimmy, is serving 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to helping plan the death of Wood, who was known as "Maximum John" for the sentences handed out to drug dealers.

Cities among worst water polluters in state

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas cities are among the state's worst water polluters, the Texas Water Commission reported Thursday in its second "best and worst" list.

Eleven cities, a river authority and a water district made the worst list in the water quality category. The cities of Garland, Texarkana, Dallas and San Antonio also had been named among the worst in the first lists, issued last November.

Larry Soward, commission executive director, said his agency is

working with those cities to make improvements. But there are economic and practical constraints, he said at a news conference.

"A great number of the problem areas are cities in this state," he said. "You cannot shut a city down. We have economic problems in this state and that has to be considered also. You cannot shut down necessary public services."

The lists were first compiled in November to bring public attention to entities that did particularly good

or bad jobs in treating water and handling hazardous and solid wastes.

The worst list is made up of those who repeatedly violated their permit regulations, Soward said. Of the repeat "worst" permit holders, he said, "I don't think it indicates... the inability of those facilities to get into compliance overall."

"It indicates the problems are serious. It will take either extensive time or extensive efforts to address some of them," he said.

Governor gains another possible opponent

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Democratic candidate for governor, Andrew Briscoe III, said Thursday there are enough "protest" votes to defeat incumbent Mark White, including hundreds of thousands of educators, farmers and ranchers.

White, seeking re-election in a field of 10 Democrats and Republicans, got another possible opponent with the announcement that a San Antonio woman would run for governor as a Libertarian.

Theresa Doyle, a 42-year-old former elementary school teacher, was introduced at a Capitol press conference.

Doyle, who quit teaching in 1980 and now is a sales representative and consultant for a travel agency, said the theme of her campaign would be, "Think in different terms."

Education is "the parents' responsibility, not the state's," Doyle said. "We have found that government solutions to our problems do not work very well, but usually gov-

ernment is responsible for creating more problems than it solves," she said.

"I don't think we can say tomorrow we'll close down the public schools," she said. "What I would like to see is for us to move in the direction of individual choice in education. We would need to look at ways that this could be accomplished — as first steps, perhaps, through tax credits or vouchers or something of that sort."

Briscoe, a 33-year-old Dallas businessman, and second cousin of former Gov. Dolph Briscoe, identified "education-oriented employees" and Farm Bureau members as part of the "bloc vote" that could defeat White in the May 3 Democratic Party primary.

"You have over a million votes out there that are aimed at this present administration and will be aimed at it in the Democratic primary," Briscoe told a news conference.

SUMMER JOBS

Interviews with camp owners and directors on

Monday, February 17, 1986

9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

MSC -- Rooms 226-231

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Recruiters representing about 40 camps will be available to visit with you about jobs at their camps this summer. One National Park Service Concessionaire from Colorado is also scheduled to be present for interviews.

CAMP DAY