

'If' Addition Won't Be Delayed

Council Approves Sale of Hospital to County

Voters' Action Is 'Mandamus' To Sell—Mayor

It took council just 20 minutes Friday to decide to sell the Fort Walton Beach Hospital to the county. However, the decision was hedged by an "if" that the sale won't be made if it would delay the start of the proposed 50-bed addition to the local hospital.

Acting immediately following the successful passage of the \$1,000,000 county hospital bond issue, council un-animously decided to merge with the county in the hospital expansion program.

The bond issue, as approved, allows county commissioners to purchase the Fort Walton Beach Hospital and expand it, construct a new hospital in the Nicewille-Alaparsito area, and expand the Crestview hospital.

Mayor Henry Stewart said council he felt the recent vote on the issue is a "mandamus" for commissioners to buy the hospital.

The county application will be presented to the state hospital division of the Florida Development Commission at their meeting November 18.

The state development commission administrators Hill-Burton funds (federal funds for the United States) and the Florida hospital division of the commission determines priority basis and amount of matching funds available.

The state commission has indicated the county is high on the list for the city hospital appropriations for the hospital program, but it will not be certain until after the meeting Friday.

If it is found that funds will be made available to the county immediately, council indicated that bonds from a \$250,000 city bond issue planned in June for expansion and sent a letter to the Fort Walton city hospital will not be sold.

In explaining his advocacy of the county program, Mayor Stewart said it would not be fair for city residents to pay taxes to support the city hospital and hospitals in the other parts of the county.

However, council agreed if approval of the county hospital program is delayed, they will sell the city bonds and attempt to raise the money for the hospital. Council will meet with the county commissioners this week to discuss procedures for the sale.

In Crestview Thursday, county commissioners met in special session and sent a letter to the Fort Walton Beach council to coordinate the activities of the hospital program.

County authorities contacted the State Hospital Division of the Florida Development Commission, suggesting that the city and county applications be made together.

Commissioners then agreed to ask council to give them a decision as to their plans concerning the hospital. The application of county application can be placed before the state board at their meeting on November 18.

The letter was delivered to City Manager Winston Walker by Commissioners. Paw following the meeting.

Merchants Asked For Christmas Parade Donations

Merchants were told at a meeting last week of the Retail Merchants Division of the Playground and Chamber of Commerce that funds will have to be donated in order to finance Christmas decorations and a parade.

Conway Ratcliff, president of the division, said that there is no money in the treasury for financing the Christmas parade and that members should contact area merchants for donations.

Each member was given several names to contact. Deadline for the drive is November 22.

The retail merchants sponsor the Christmas parade and downtown decoration program each year.

FWB Hospital Board Explains Wage Increase

Group Then Holds Secret Meeting On Hospital Issue

The Fort Walton Beach Hospital board, after attempting to meet in a secret session, spent an hour Thursday discussing recent articles in the local newspaper. Then the group closed its doors on a Playground News reporter covering the meeting.

The reporter was asked to leave the meeting so that a subject not for publication was to be discussed. The press had not been notified of the meeting in advance.

During the meeting, the board members discussed proposed wage increases in the budget and other items to the benefit of the press.

The council finance committee recently reviewed salary increases and other expenditures in the proposed hospital budget.

Hospital administrator James K. Jarvis said proposed hikes in nurses salaries were made in order to draw more nurses to the hospital.

He said that a \$2,000 hike in the salary of the director of the hospital is the first time the hospital has had a permanent director.

The proposed hospital budget shows an \$112,200 increase in salaries for employees. Only one position, office salaries, received a cut under the new budget.

Jarvis said these salaries were cut because at one time the hospital did not need a part-time office employee, but discovered later they did not.

Jarvis, in referring to complaints made by Councilman Doerle, said the hospital's operational expenditures, said he had given a true though the hospital personnel is not drawn into it is needed. Therefore, waste is at a minimum.

In emergencies with our present system the community gets better service with the walking blood bank than with a blood bank based 100 miles away. Blood 100 miles away may not be readily available especially in cases of fog, storms, road repairs and so forth.

In the walking blood bank system there is no charge for the blood. The blood is donated free of cost to the patient and the donor. The only charges are for the necessary testing of the blood to be sure it is safe to give the patient and for the materials used. These costs are basically the same regardless of the source of the blood. This is true though the hospital personnel is not drawn into it is needed. Therefore, waste is at a minimum.

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Rev. John Ellerman, left, pastor of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Jay Farris, chairman of the Jaxvec Christmas program, discuss plans for "Operation Christmas," the annual Christmas program, discussed by various organizations in the city for needy families. They were discussed at the Junior Chamber of Commerce meeting Thursday.

'Operation Christmas' Plans Are Completed

Final plans for "Operation Christmas," an annual Christmas program, have been completed by various organizations in the city for needy families. They were discussed at the Junior Chamber of Commerce meeting Thursday.

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'Social' Event of Year

Well, at least from a humorous standpoint, was the Woman's Wedding staged by local businessmen Thursday evening for the benefit of the Silver Sands School for Retarded Children workshop building fund. Among the "wedding party" participants were, from left, Susan Gill, Larry Brewster and Max Bruner. (Photo by Parker)

Support Jarvis

Medical staff of the hospitals in the county.

The board and medical staff of the Bay Hospital and the Okaloosa Municipal Hospital in Crestview have approved the program.

Fort Walton Beach hospital officials and personnel have not.

However, the National Red Cross has indicated it will allow the county to participate in the program on a split basis.

When contacted last week, Dr. Malcolm Cross, president of the local hospital medical staff, said the doctors had voted not to issue any comment on the subject at the present.

However, Jarvis when contacted urged several disadvantages to the proposed program.

The disadvantages as listed by the doctors are similar to the ones given by Jarvis.

The amount of whole blood used at the Fort Walton Beach Hospital does not warrant a blood bank based 100 miles away in another state.

The walking blood bank program in which a list of blood donors with their various blood types are available at the hospital has many advantages and is preferred for the needs of this community in the past and is sufficient for the anticipated needs in the future.

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Doctors Give Objections To Red Cross Blood Plan

Question of whether Fort Walton Beach will participate in a county Red Cross blood program was apparently decided this week, according to statements released by area doctors.

In backing up statements made last week by James K. Jarvis, administrator of the hospital, the doctors listed eight disadvantages of participating in the Red Cross program.

The Red Cross blood program, being pushed by the local Red Cross chapter, must first be approved by the hospital boards and medical staff of the hospitals in the county.

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Highway Patrol Station Asked For FWB Area

Chamber Board Goes on Record Backing Project

Directors of the Playground Chamber of Commerce went on record Friday as supporting a project to establish a highway patrol substation in Fort Walton Beach.

The project was proposed in a letter to directors by Willbur Powell, owner of a local radio station.

His letter, Powell said, it has come to his attention that there is a serious need for a highway patrol substation in the city way patrol substation in Fort Walton Beach.

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Area Housewives Prefer Friday as Shopping Day

Friday as the favorite shopping day for Fort Walton Beach area housewives, a poll conducted by the Playground News revealed Thursday ran a close second.

Of those returning a questionnaire run in last Tuesday's newspaper, 38.06 percent prefer shopping on Friday; Thursday as a shopping day represented 33.2 percent. Monday and Wednesday each received a vote of 9.52 percent and Tuesday, 4.76 percent.

On another question which asked if specials were run on Tuesday and Wednesday if they would shop for groceries on those days, 47.7 percent replied that they would, and 59.2 percent replied that they would not. However, a factor in this question was that those who replied that they would not said they shop for groceries only one day a week and preferred Thursday or Friday because of these days being near the weekend.

Majority of those returning questionnaires favored Tuesday as the best day to shop for groceries. Mrs. Heron took Spring to the kitchen. Sgt. Heron is stationed with the Air Force in the Philippines.

Jerry said that he was sitting on the grass near the house, between Jimmy and Spring, playing a game with them. His back was momentarily turned to Spring while Mrs. Heron was in the kitchen. Sgt. Heron is stationed with the Air Force in the Philippines.

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Smothers Flames With Own Body

Boy, 9, Acts Quickly to Save Sister

Robert, 11, was attending an assembly at Boy Scout Camp Robinson on Eglin Air Force Base with his brother, Jimmy, 9, and sister, Spring, 7, when a fire broke out in the kitchen. Sgt. Heron is stationed with the Air Force in the Philippines.

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Clyde Meigs Named Mayor of Shalimar

Clyde Meigs, brother of the late Clifford Meigs, founder and mayor of Shalimar, was named to succeed his brother as mayor by the Shalimar council last week.

Other councilmen include Dave Hanks, Mr. Dave Hanks and Roger Clark.

Meigs, 47, is a town official and has served as town clerk for two years. He has been a member of the town council for 10 years and has been a member of the town council for 10 years.

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3 Commission Members Studied For Playground Restricting Group Reports Need Approval

Playground Chamber of Commerce directors were told Friday that three commissioners for South Okaloosa County were being considered by a member of a county restricting group.

Elbert Davis, member of an eight-man study committee that will investigate the need for restricting Okaloosa County, said he had been appointed by Crestview, indicated to him it is known fact that the commissioners are needed for the southern end of the county.

Presently, there is only one commissioner from this area. Davis said the group meeting for the first time two weeks ago, discussed establishing one central place in the county to house all road equipment. He said this would enhance the efficiency of the construction operations in the county.

The appointment of a county engineer is also expected to be discussed by the group, Davis said.

He said a second meeting of the group is scheduled for the end of this month and that census figures of the county will be available at that time.

In other business Friday, directors recommended that a letter from the chamber be sent to the city recommending that one of four sites recommended for a city center be approved by the council.

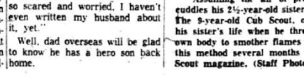
Doerle Bass told directors he had heard comments that other sites are being considered.

Bob Hoffman, chairman of the chamber motion picture, said only \$1,000 is needed to complete the financing of the Playground film.

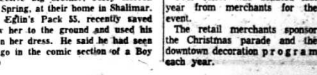
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Each member was given several names to contact. Deadline for the drive is November 22. The retail merchants sponsor the Christmas parade and downtown decoration program each year.



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