

PLANNING FOR A MANZANITA CITY HALL 1946 – 1971.

by Mark Beach, May 2019

The minutes of the Manzanita city council from founding the City in 1946 through dedicating the current building in 1971 contain extensive discussion about a city hall. Discussion included the following ideas:

- renting space in a local business,
- building a new facility adjacent to the current fire hall,
- extending the old fire hall (currently storage next to city hall)
- moving into the old Pine Grove school on Manzanita Avenue.

At least once during these 25 years Council approved each of these ideas.

Three eras provide context for discussions and decisions:

1. Ben Lane's terms as mayor 1946 - 1958.
Lane had been civic leader since the mid 1920s.
2. Terms of several mayors and multiple council members, 1959 – 1966.
Turmoil around supply of public water included arguing over rights, engineering, costs, law suits, appeals, public hearings and bond issues. Plenty of acrimony was had by all who remained on speaking terms.
3. Frank Foldi's terms as mayor 1967 - ??.
Foldi terms included founding the planning commission (1969) and building the current city hall while herding cats into today's water system.

1946 Sept	City leases lot 22, block 1, "for purposes of building a fire station." NOTE Current plat maps (2019) do not show a lot 22 on block 1.
1949 June	City leases lot 14, block 1, "for uses to house a fire truck." NOTE Contract is with same owners as 1946, so must be correction of lot number.
1959 Jan	A list of highlights of Ben Lane mayor 1946 – 1958 includes "Aug 1951: bought on contract from Ray Smith property on Laneda Ave for \$4,000. The building houses fire truck and other city equipment. Also furnishes meeting space for 20 volunteer firemen."
1959	Council meetings held at "community hall" (Pine Grove Community House). City meetings had happened there since the building opened in 1933.

- 1960 June Pine Grove school closes at end of 1959/60 school year. Manzanita kids to attend Nehalem elementary starting in fall.
- 1964 July Council authorizes mayor to discuss with School Board taking over Pine Grove school building "now to be closed for at least a year, for a City Hall."
- 1964 Nov Council votes to move recorder's offices to old school building.
- 1964 Dec Council rescinds November vote to move to school, votes instead to move to "city building on Laneda Ave old fire hall, being more convenient. That immediate action be taken to lay tile on the floor and have sign painted designating the office."
- Council votes to "move the city office equipment and records from 55 Idaho Street to the city office at an early convenient time."
- NOTE 55 Idaho Street was probably Ben Lane's home.
- 1965 Feb Informal agreement that school should be open during emergencies and that someone on council should have a key.
- 1965 March Discussion what to charge to use school. City Council, Firemens Association, Square Dance Club have used the building. Decide to charge \$2.00.
- 1965 Sept Council votes
- to allow John Prentiss and St Catherine's Mission to "use the old cafeteria and the council room for a Sunday school" for \$30 monthly subject to approval by the school board.
 - "to accept the agreement between the city and school district 56 for using the Pine Grove school building for the school year 1965-66." Also to permit teenagers to rent a room once a week for a dance "to be policed by themselves with at least one set of parents to be present."
- 1966 Dec Mayor Foldi asks what's happening with Pine Grove School. Recorder says City attorney met with county and "expected the school district would be granted ownership."
- 1967 Jan Discussion whether to meet in "community hall or school building."
- 1967 May Vote not to renew lease with school "due to the cost of maintenance plus additional repairs needed."
- 1967 July Members of the fire department write asking to buy the school. Council votes to "ask for a meeting with the school board, County and attorney in regard to purchase of the building."

- 1967 Sept Supt of Schools John McRea at meeting says district and County would sell the school whole package to highest bidder.
- 1967 Nov Supt McCrea there again to suggest City bid on school.
- 1968 Feb Transferring money within funds because “the City Recorder’s office has become overcrowded and inadequate for the conduct of City business, and the entire roof of the Recorder’s office and the adjoining fire hall is leaking and badly in need of repair.”
- 1968 Mar Supt McCrea says the school district having problem getting insurance on the school because it’s vacant, so want to sell it soon. Mr Douma from Wheeler made the only bid for the property and is anxious to get started with his grocery store. Council votes to hold public hearing to rezone school from Zone 1 residential to Zone 2 commercial to enhance sale. (Tracts A, B, C and D in plat of Classic Ridge.)
- 1968 Apr Council rezones school property.
- 1968 May Mr Douma gets sign approved for his new market.
- 1969 Jan 8 “The condition of the office of the city recorder was discussed at length. The walls are wet and water stands on the floor. The records and papers are damp, file cabinets getting rusty and the office machinery is damp.” Council votes to contact Mr Wise about office space in the building formerly Neahkahnne Plumbing.
- 1969 Jan 14 Council decides to move city offices into space rented “in the building occupied by Schmidt Realty.”
- 1969 Feb Ted Erickson presents offer from Mr Sund to sell property at 5th and Laneda to the City for \$2,500. Council votes to accept offer.
- 1969 Apr Discussion “as to what to do regarding city hall. The old building needs repair” and we need plans for a new building.
- 1969 Dec “Mr James McCartan, architect, presented his suggestions on a building to house the city office and meeting room and accommodations for fire department.” Council will meet with Mr McCartan a later date.
- 1970 Feb The planning commission created by Council in late 1969 and chaired by Ted Erickson recommends
- “retain present fire house and adjacent lot.”
 - “clear lots purchased from Mr Sund for a new fire station and eventually a city hall. Eugene Henderson to remove brush and trees for \$475.”

- “a 40-foot right of way to be cleared of trees beginning at SW corner of Lot 9, Block 12, to NE corner of Lot 2, Block 5, where it intersects with 3rd Street. Henderson to clear and remove or burn trees for #495.”

All recommendations above approved by Council.

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| 1970 Mar | Ted Erickson is preparing plans for new fire hall, etc. |
| 1970 Sept | Council transfers \$17,460 from reserve to capital outlay because building new city hall is going faster than anticipated. |
| 1970 Nov | Council approves Ted Erickson’s plan for new city hall. |
| 1971 June | Frank Knight (County commissioner) was so impressed by the new city hall that he bought a gavel for it and also brought a flag that once flew over the capitol in Washington. |
| 1971 Dec | Final cost accounting for new city hall. |