

Page 10 Eagle Lake Headlight Thurs. July 23, 1981

For Under Estimation

City Council's Feeling About Engineering Soothed

(Continued from page one)

seven bids received for the sewage treatment plant were relatively close and in the \$1.4 million range which was nearer to the firm's estimate than the \$1,552,800 which was finally determined to be the cost of the plant construction and rehabilitation of lines. This prompted Pierce to say that "apparently you received a good bid from Basic for whatever reason may exist." He surmised that Basic might have anticipated more competitive bidding since its bid of \$1,267,400 was almost \$200,000 below the next lowest bidder, LEM Construction Co., Inc. Highest bid was Jalcio, Inc. with a bid

of \$1,430,000.

Mr. Moon added that bids are often determined on a competitive basis and commented that his firm handled a project in Edna where nearly twenty bids were received and all were below the engineer's estimate. He added that Jalcio was low bidder in this instance.

Point Of No Return

Truly expressed the feeling of the entire council when he commented that "we've reached the point of no return in this project and don't have much alternative but to accept the bids offered."

Councilman Gene Baker, who has voiced strong criticism about the wide

variance in the estimate and the actual project cost, added "I agree with Mr. Truly's comment. We'll just have to profit by mistakes made in this project in the future."

The engineering firm had estimated \$63,600 as the cost for rehabilitation of the existing sewer system (correcting leaking lines, lift stations, etc.) when actually the low bid received at a bid opening July 7th was below that figure. Worthen Construction Co., Inc. of Houston offered to do the work for \$57,000.

Scholler stated in a letter to the council that the engineering firm had reviewed the work done in the past by both Basic Constructors Inc. and Worthen Construction Co. Inc. (although they had not actually done any work handled by the firm) and recommended to the council that the contract for the plant expansion and modification in the amount of \$1,267,400 be awarded to Basic Constructors; and the sewer system rehabilitation bid of \$57,000 made by Worthen Construction be accepted.

Scholler added further that the total Step III grant amount must be increased from \$1.4 million to \$1,552,800 or an increase of \$152,800 with the city's additional share being \$38,200. The engineers expressed the opinion that the Environmental Protection Agency and Texas Department of Water Resources which will pay 75% of the total project cost, should be receptive to this proposal.

Bernard Johnson representatives assured the council and Mayor Struss that they will use every effort to get the project started as soon as possible, depending on the approval of EPA and TDWR and this could take anywhere from three weeks to two months. The contractor has one year in which to complete the project, from date of final approval.

Bernard Johnson vice president Moon said, "we'll do everything we can to cooperate. We recognize that there

has been a great turnover of engineering personnel since the start of the project seven years ago." However, he said he expected that he, Pierce and Scholler will be around to see completion of the project, "and we plan to see that you get the quality of service to which you are entitled and see that this project is brought to a successful conclusion as soon as possible."

Mayor Struss emphasized the need to get the work underway prior to the time the wet winter weather sets in.

City Has Funds Available
Mayor Struss told the council last week that the city still has \$76,536 coming from EPA on the Step II work and that the city owes Bernard Johnson Inc. about \$52,000 of that amount leaving \$44,000 to apply on the additional project costs. The balance was available only because the city had drawn on revenue sharing funds in order to make payments as needed, noted councilman Roy Dean Van Nort.

Nevertheless, Struss pointed out that this \$44,000 added to the \$360,000 bond issue approved unanimously by the citizens of Eagle Lake to finance the city's 25% share of the costs, would make available adequate funds to match the EPA grant, (when revised) without the necessity of seeking other sources of revenue.

He did add that when the council was discussing the project cost with engineers, the council had been told that \$300,000 would more than cover the city's share of the project costs, but "just to be on the safe side we voted an additional \$50,000 and it's a good thing that we did."

After all the discussion and assurances of Bernard Johnson representatives for better cooperation, the council voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the engineering firm. Papers have already been prepared for application of the additional funds from EPA and for approval by EPA and TDWR of the

Defensive Driving Course At WCJC August 4th & 5th

Wharton County Junior College in Wharton will offer the eight-hour Defensive Driving Course divided into two sessions Tuesday, August 4 and Thursday, August 6 from 6-10 p.m. in Room 101 of the Administration Building.

The two sessions cover accident prevention topics on how to avoid a collision with the vehicle behind, avoid a collision with an oncoming vehicle, avoid an intersection collision, how to pass and be passed, and other common types of collision avoidance techniques.

Tuition for the course is \$12 and students must be on time for the start of the lecture at 6 p.m. Therefore, preregistration is advised or plans should be made to arrive at 5:30 p.m. on the first evening. Students must be prepared to pay their tuition upon registering. They also need a pen or pencil and paper. Preregistration and additional information is available by contacting the Office of Continuing Education, phone (713) 532-4560. The mailing address is 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas 77458.

Activities for Sr. Citizens

Wed., July 22: 10 a.m. Glass Staining. Birthday Party.

Thurs., July 23: 11 a.m. Covered Dish, Games, Eagle Lake.

Fri., July 24: Senior Citizen Banquet, Hawaii Style, Columbus.

Mon., July 27: Weimar Trans. Macrame, 10:30; Tue., July 28: Food and Nutrition, 11 a.m. Movie, Popcorn, Eagle Lake.

Wed., July 29: 10:30 Bingo! Movie and Popcorn, Columbus.

Thurs., July 30: 11 a.m. Bingo! Birthday Party, Eagle Lake.

Fri., July 31: 11 a.m. Covered Dish, Crafts, Columbus.

Free Tony's Dinner

Ervin Bucka this is a ticket for a free Tony's Deluxe Dinner at Taco Tony's on Highway 90A just west of the city. You'll find delicious foods in a pleasant atmosphere. Clip this out and present at Tony's not later than July 28, 1981.

contract bids. In addition to the cost of the plant modification and rehabilitation, the project cost will include \$2,500 for administrative costs, \$165,116 for engineering fees, \$5,000 for material testing, and \$65,724 for contingencies, making the project costs total \$1,552,800.



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City Gets \$7,160 Sales Taxes For June

State Comptroller Bob Bullock Tuesday said payments of the optional one-percent city sales tax for 1981 to Texas cities are 17 percent higher on a statewide average compared to last year.

Bullock's office Tuesday paid 713 Texas cities \$32,898, 770 in sales tax rebates for July.

Payments to major metropolitan areas for July include: Houston, \$6.6 million; Dallas, \$3.7 million; Fort Worth, \$1.2 million; San Antonio, \$1.7 million; El Paso, \$808,190 and Corpus Christi, \$639,130.

City sales taxes are collected by merchants and businesses along with the state's four percent sales tax and are rebated monthly by the Comptroller's office.

Statewide, Texas cities have received \$343.4 million during 1981 compared to 1980 payments through July of \$291.9 million.

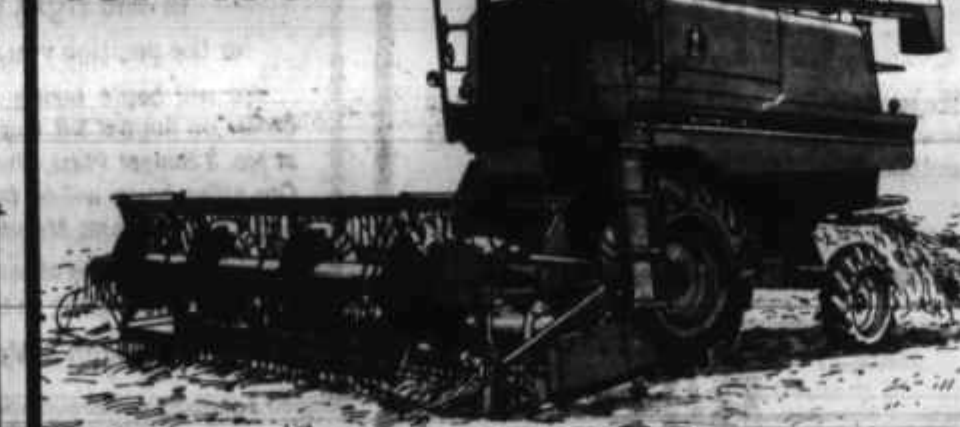
Rebates For Area Cities
Sales tax rebates for Colorado County cities, include: Eagle Lake received \$7,160, up 2% from 1980; Columbus received \$13,810, 22% higher from 1980 total to this date; and Weimar with \$4,830, 5% increase.

In Austin County, Seely received a check for \$11,350, down 2% from last year's total; in Lavaca County, Hallettsville received a rebate for \$8,840, up 26% and in Fayette County, La Grange received a check for \$16,790, up 37% from same period last year.

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SHERIFF'S REPORT



Be Cautious About Help From Strangers

JIM BROUSSARD
Colorado County Sheriff

I would like to encourage our citizens to be cautious if they stop on the road to assist someone having car trouble or if they accept a ride from someone. If you notice someone with car trouble, the best action you can take is keep going and when you reach a telephone, call the Sheriff's Office and have an officer go assist the people. If you have car trouble and someone stops to assist you, ask them to call the Sheriff's Office and let us assist you. We have had many robberies which started out by people assisting each other. There are people who do nothing but travel roadways and locate someone in trouble. From there, it is real easy for them to pull their robbery. Don't take chances, call the Sheriff's Office and let us do the assisting for you.

July 13: Assisted stranded motorist on 71 north. Assisted with traffic at scene of accident on IH-10 near Columbus. Investigated theft in Alorton. Issued 19 traffic citations.

July 14: Investigated theft of wire near Eagle Lake. Assisted with traffic at scene of accident on IH-10 east of Columbus. One unit picked up prisoner in Huntsville for court in Columbus. Issued five traffic citations.

July 15: Investigated aggravated robbery near Columbus. Arrested three for aggravated robbery. Investigated the unauthorized use of motor vehicle near Garwood. Had County court. Assisted with funeral procession in Columbus. Served 12 civil citations in the County.

July 16: Arrested six for auto theft. Checked on a prowler in Sheridan. Had District court. Picked up mental subject in Eagle Lake and transported to San

Antonio. Served seven civil citations in the County. Issued 19 traffic citations.

July 17: Investigated a disturbance near Eagle Lake. Posted two citations in the Courthouse. Served four civil citations and 12 traffic citations in the County. Had JP court in the AM.

July 19: Arrested one for DWI. Arrested one for theft of service. Assisted Columbus in chase of vehicle. Assisted at scene of vehicle fire on FM 109. Assisted Columbus police at disturbance in Columbus. Transported mental patient to Austin.

Jim Broussard, Sheriff and Deputies: Ph. 732-2388 and 732-2535, Home Ph. 732-3950

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