
Mayor Gives Club A Status Report



MAYOR DON LEWIS

Mayor Don Lewis gave a status report to club members last Tuesday on his term of office thus far. Lewis said he has had “many volunteers” who are working with his administration. This does not include “the newspaper” or a “small group” whose belief is “don’t trust anyone,” he said.

Don recalled the first action of the council was to hire an acting city manager. He said the newspaper had a story that Ken Giles had declined the post. But the mayor asked him because, he “wanted to be sure.” Then he “visited with Bill Rayburn,” a former mayor. Rayburn agreed to work for \$1 a year, and his hours were to be from 10 to 3. But he put in “many, many more,” Lewis said.

“I felt it was the right decision then and that it was a good decision now,” the mayor added.

Then the council replaced Wes Brown as city attorney, with Bob Ivester.

The next step was to hire a permanent city manager. The

Oklahoma Municipal League had 25 applicants. Some council members wanted to hire a search firm, which would cost at least \$10,000, but Lewis said he wanted to interview “the applicants we had.”

A committee cut the number down to four, and the city interviewed three. “Some felt we were moving too fast,” but Susan Monroe “looked us in the eye and said she wanted the job,” Lewis recalled. So she was hired.

The next day the newspaper had a story in which it talked to some council members who wanted an audit. The mayor named an Audit Committee, but it would cost \$30,000 “and up. And the answer (of the committee) has been no, so far.” However, there have been changes in the accounting and computer procedures, which should help with how the money is spent, Don said.

Committee members are Buddy Garvin, Mel Stubbings, Jane Auld, Jim Northcutt, Gene Walker, Steve Harrison, (a CPA,) Bill Rayburn, (city officials) Carolyn Hearod, Ken Giles and the mayor and city manager.

The council is now making a 90-day review of the city sales tax and a Charter Committee is studying charter change recommendations.

Among them is that the city manager would name the city attorney, but he would be confirmed by the council. He

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Child Advocacy Center Needs Funds, Volunteers



CAROLYN HATHCOTE

Carolyn Hathcote told us July 12 about the local Children’s Advocacy Center and the Pittsburg County Children’s Advisory Board.

Ms. Hathcote used a dozen people from the audience, holding

labels, to show how many persons are involved in the investigation of an abuse complaint. The example used a friend who saw bruises on a child; a teacher who called in the superintendent; a parent of the child; a doctor; a

patrolman; and officials from the Children’s Advocate Center and the District Attorney’s Office.

There is just one interview of the child, using a video tape, so he or she is not intimidated or frightened, Ms. Hathcote said. Sexual abuse may not be involved, or the abuser may be in the child’s home, but a quick investigation is needed, she said.

The Advocate Center is next to the courthouse, behind the Genealogical and History Society building. It was set up in 1995, after the Ryan Luke death. Although it gets state and federal funds, it needs money and volunteers, Ms. Hathcote said.

Last year there were 160 investigations, she reported.

Speaker For Bush Social Security Plan



JONATHAN STORMENT

Jonathan Storment, a native of Quinton, told us July 19 that President Bush's plan for a Social Security program financed by a four percent contribution to personal retirement accounts would solve its funding problems.

Congress passed a law in 1974 allowing it to spend the funds paid in on Social Security. That money is now in IOUs, he said.

Under the Bush plan, citizens could not go to a stockbroker to invest the four percent. But they could select from 10 to 15 investment options, and decide their own "risk level."

"If we don't get it done this year," he said, it will be 2009 before anything is done about Social Security.

"It will cost us a lot more if we do nothing," he stated.

Storment is an auditor for the FAA Credit Union in Oklahoma City, and is a volunteer for the National Center for Policy Analysis.

Storment said no other funding plan for Social Security will work. But the Bush proposal plus "progressive indexing" will work because of compound interest.

The NCPA is a "think tank" which supports some Democratic and some Republican issues, the speaker said.

He called Social Security a "Broken System." In 1940 there were 42 workers paying into the system, for every one withdrawing from it. Today there are three workers paying in, for every one withdrawing.

In addition, the nation has a total personal and government wealth of \$33 trillion, he said. The national debt is \$12 trillion. But with Medicare and Medicaid, the nation has \$37 trillion which is unfunded.

Attendance Visitors, and Handshakers

There were 65 at the meeting on July 12. Tom Payne was a visiting Rotarian. Terry Harrison was a guest of Amy, and Dave Martin was a guest of Yvette.

On July 19, there were 43 attending. Mark Burton was a visiting Rotarian, from Ontario, Canada.

On July 26, there were 59 attending. Guests included the new city manager, Susan Monroe; Jean Lewis guest, of Don; Barbara Turner, guest of Fred; Mary Shannon and Weldon Smith, guests of Lucy Smith; Jeff Contraras, guest of Ronnie May; Hollis Jamar, guest of Shayne Javersak; Steve House, guest of Iva Due; Tom Payne, visiting Rotarians from Tulsa Downtown Club.

John Tua got the Rotary Commemorative Coin last week. So he still gets around and shakes hands. Doug Auld got it the week before from Fred Turner, who never was the handshaker when they used a silver dollar. And Bruce Hall got it from Lynn Edwards, the week before, and Bruce tried to deposit in his bank.

I ask you to be patient

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also would work for the whole city, not just the city manager. The council also could remove him, if the changes are approved.

Staggered two-year terms are also being recommended.

Members of the Charter Committee are Steve Shoup, chairman, named by the mayor; Weldon Smith, named by the First Ward councilman; Bob Monto, named by the Second "Ward council member; Debbie McCauley, chosen from the Third Ward; Dorothy Crone from the Fourth Ward; Kenneth Adkins from the Fifth; and Barbara Smitherman from the Sixth Ward. Lewis and Bill Rayburn also are members.

"I ask you to be patient," Don said. "We all want good city government."

Headway is being made, he said, but some expectations are difficult to meet.

"We must plan and set goals...and prioritize our needs."

Lewis said the mayor's job "is one I take very seriously."

The new city manager attended the meeting, and answered one question, at the mayor's request. Bids will be taken for "professional services," even though the state does not require it, she said.

Lewis quoted from a state newspaper in answer to his critics. "They may see doing good as self serving. Continue to do good.

"They may see generosity as grandstanding. Continue to be generous.

"They may see caring as a sign of weakness. Continue to be caring.

"For you see, in the end it is between you and God. It never was between you and them."