

# 176 Libby review commission suggests staying on course

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After a year-and-a-half of studying different forms of government, the Libby Government Study Commission has decided to give the charter form of government a chance to work for a while.

The commission, elected in 1994 to review city government operations, reported to the Libby City Council that it has completed its mission and that it recommends no changes.

Since it began the review of government, commission members Earl Lovick, Lee Chandler and Dan Larson with Councilman George Bauer have looked at various forms of city administration including a city manager and consolidation with the county.

"Because we changed to a charter form of government in 1990, the commission feels it needs to be given an opportunity to stand the test of time," reported Mayor Fred Brown at Monday evening's council meeting. "They did an excellent job and they were very thorough."

With its recommendation to not make changes, the commission dis-

## County okays plans

The Lincoln County Commissioners have approved a request for a two-lot subdivision along Highway 37 near Eureka.

"Indian Creek Meadows" is being developed by Darrel Blackman of Eureka. One lot is 4.74 acres and the other is 25 acres.

Highway 37 forms the southern boundary of both lots.

banded.

In other board discussion, Brown asked a committee to look into revising rules governing who is responsible for hookups into the city's water and sewer lines.

In particular, some residents have been plagued with freezing water lines. The law now states that the homeowner is responsible for frozen lines from the home to the water main in the middle of the street.

Brown said this puts too much liability on the homeowner who is being held responsible for poor engineering — a responsibility the city should have assumed when it took over the system from Pacific Power and Light.

"I have a real problem charging people for something they have absolutely no control of," he said.

City supervisor Dan Thede said old pipes pieced together through a history of repair breaks as well as shallow line placement is causing the problems.

Residences along Washington Avenue, some homes in Woodway Park and along Cedar Street suffered the worst of the freezing problems during January's cold snap.

In other action, the council:

- Will consider a proposal by the county's indigency service to reduce the cost of plot fees, opening and closing costs for indigent people.

However, committee member Joe Johnston said the city is considering raising those costs. He will take the matter up for discussion in commit-

tee.

- Heard a suggestion from councilman Tony Berget to hold Logger Days partially on the city property at the Cabinet Mountain Complex and at his property next to the city's and Stimson Lumber Company.

Berget said the Libby Area Chamber of Commerce is considering a move to consolidate all Logger Day activities into one location.

However, the discussions are preliminary, and a committee will begin review of the proposal.

- Received a proposal for police protection from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. The regular contract expires this year, and the city is beginning negotiations with the sheriff's office for services.

The city's police committee will have a recommendation to the council by the end of the week, Johnston said.

- Is moving along with plans to clear the site for the new water treatment plant along Flower Creek.

The project engineer hopes to have the site cleared early this spring, and construction is expected to begin in July, Thede said.

Plans for the plant have changed slightly because of the soil type in the area. Initially, four buildings were to be built to house the filtration plant. However, because 10-foot footings are needed to support a structure in the clay and sand there, the engineer has suggested the plant be housed in one two-story building.

The revision could actually save the project money, Thede said.