

# Commission to reconsider plan for Peace auditorium

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Commissioners informally agreed Monday to reconsider plans for remodeling the Peace Memorial Auditorium.

The decision to reconsider a 4-1 June Commission vote to move ahead with the remodeling came during discussions preceding Tuesday's City Commission meeting. The remodeling has been on hold since the Historic Resources Board suggested the commission study alternatives that would leave the stage intact rather than removing it and installing more basketball courts. A small group of local residents has contended that removal of the stage would compromise a feature of the facility originally intended as a memorial to World War II veterans.

The reconsideration is expected to take place during the Sept. 3 legislative meeting. Mayor John Matta said it was better to bring it

before the commission during the legislative meeting because that would allow commissioners to take action. Commissioner Karen McCulloh said she also wanted to give more time for the public to comment.

Other items discussed during the pre-meeting included the water conservation ordinance and construction on Poyntz and Bluemont Avenues.

City manager Ron Fehr asked commissioners whether they wanted to allow the court system to handle violators of the conservation ordinance, or set a secondary rate structure. City Attorney Bill Raymond said if the mayor declared a water emergency, the city would shift to a different rate structure where higher rates would be imposed if water consumers used more water than was allowed by the ordinance. The court system would be involved if a person watered their yard during a time when doing so was prohibited. If com-

missions chose to not allow the courts to determine penalties, the commission would need to give city staff guidance as to how that penalty should be structured.

Fehr said historically, the ordinance allowed the courts to determine penalties. Commissioners agreed to leave that portion of the ordinance as it was written.

Dale Houdeshell, director of public works, gave commissioners an update on the Poyntz and Bluemont Avenue construction projects. He said rain has caused both projects to fall behind, the downtown project only by a couple of days but the Bluemont project by more. He said they had hoped to have the business access finished before school starts, but that does not look like it will happen. He said the plan has always been to complete the full Bluemont project by late fall. Poyntz Avenue construction is still scheduled to be done by the end of October.