

Bend Council passes mobile home relocation ordinance

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Brushing aside the concerns of mobile home park owners, the Bend City Council on Wednesday held a first reading and vote on an ordinance that would require any owner who closes a mobile home park to pay "reasonable" costs of moving mobile homes in the park up to 100 miles or purchase at real market value any mobile home that cannot be relocated. The proposed ordinance took many mobile home park owners by surprise " several who testified at a public hearing on Wednesday said even though they were willing to work with the city on a solution that would be fair to all sides, city staff made no attempt to contact them before Wednesday's council meeting. The council voted 4-2 (with Councilor Jim Clinton abstaining) to pass the ordinance, with Chris Telfer and Dave Malkin voting no, even though attorneys testified that the ordinance is based on one passed in Wilsonville, near Portland, which is being challenged in court. The ordinance would be retroactive to March to prevent park owners from sending out eviction notices before the ordinance takes effect. Some park owners testified that even though they had no intention of evicting tenants, they will lose money under the proposed ordinance. If passed on a second vote at the June 7 council meeting, the ordinance would be adopted for only six months to give all sides the chance to figure out a compromise.

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