

CITY TODAY

THE CAPITAL TIMES

Skornicka plan renews MATC controversy

By MIKE STAMLER
Capital Times Staff Writer

A controversial move by Mayor Joel Skornicka towards the Council approval of a three-building renovation program in downtown Madison Tuesday night when he proposed approval of a last-minute study program with whatever else is done next week by the Madison Area Technical Center board.

The council approved the last item as a 10-4 vote Tuesday by the three Skornicka opponents, but after the heated debate, Skornicka said he "won't know" if he's still a member of the council.

After he was the last to vote on the pending council question to heading part of MATC at Truax, Skornicka allowed the last day to appear a last time to work out some of the problems. Truax opposed him for the last time.

The MATC board has not formally chosen its last for council approval, but, almost all the last day plan to including Truax in a split-council option with the council.

Redeveloper to oust downtown porno shop

By MIKE STAMLER
Capital Times Staff Writer

Madison's unofficial "red light" district — the neighborhood known as King Webster and Main streets — is expected to be redeveloped in the next few weeks with the goal of making it a more desirable area.

A pornography shop with private sex parties is being targeted for removal, says the city's planning commission.

Dreyfus hints at no tax increase during '82 session

By MIKE STAMLER
Capital Times Staff Writer

Gov. Lee Dreyfus today hinted that he would seek a tax increase in the coming legislative session.

Dreyfus told The Capital Times he is attempting to "shock" the state's spending needs into available revenues.

Major changes in Medicaid and other welfare programs are expected to help finance the governor's attempt to balance the budget, according to sources close to the budget administration.

Dreyfus told last week's press conference he would seek changes in the state's Medicaid program. He indicated that that would be the most important aspect of the program were under close scrutiny.

The budget balancing act also involves meeting his promise of asking for \$60 million for municipal shared revenue.

"My problem is meeting that level of obligation," the governor said in an interview.

Dreyfus said a "philosophical fight" was being resolved within his administration.

On one hand there is opposition to increasing taxes on those who are still working while the state is still in a recession.

But there are dangers on the other side of the state's "fiscal cliff" by court decisions which overturn attempts to curb costs, he said.

Dreyfus predicted the economy would open in 1982.



The indignity of it all

A perturbed flamingo at the Vilas Park Zoo greets its feathers after a rain earlier this week. The weather played havoc on the bird's normally smooth, unruined feathers. The flamingo is preparing itself for another cleaning, though — the possibility of rain returns to the forecast tonight.

EOC panelist hit for controversial quip

By MIKE STAMLER
Capital Times Staff Writer

A member of the Equal Opportunity Commission subcommittee has said members of the group are trying to boot him out of the panel because he disagrees with them on the issue of racial discrimination against families with children.

Paul Magnusson said that his position as a representative of the Greater Madison Board of Realtors on the EOC's housing subcommittee is in jeopardy because the commission is using its annual confirmation vote to deny him a vote on the panel.

"Now, Annie, a member of both the EOC and the Board of Realtors, today rejected Magnusson's charge as 'completely untrue'."

The issue surfaces within weeks of the forced resignation of two persons from other city boards and charges that they made statements involving racial epithets in public settings.

In the case, a statement by Magnusson is near the heart of the controversy.

During a subcommittee meeting called to consider the question of discrimination in housing rentals against families with children, Magnusson said that racial discrimination is different from race and sex discrimination because one is born with race and gender, but he said he has "yet to meet a woman who was born pregnant."

As soon as the quote appeared in a newspaper article on the meeting, the Madison chapter of the National Organization for Women wrote EOC president Cindy Hill, saying that Magnusson's statement "does not say much for Mr. Magnusson's intelligence, but it does say a lot about his attitude."

Other council members — including Paul Magnusson, Mayor Skornicka and Douglas Kravich — then moved to change the Skornicka plan to include Truax and the Truax opponents began attacking it again with amendments.

Skornicka reacted angrily, telling the council that it would have nothing to negotiate about or with MATC should one of them.

"I don't know what you're talking about, but you're beginning to make fools of yourselves," he said, reducing the council for his amendments. "Let them make that decision. Then we'll talk about it. You're wanting retaliation... I give you a simple resolution that will work and... if one of you just goes home it's fine."

Following Skornicka's outburst, Magnusson said he is "kind of being called obstructive." He said the council should discuss the city problems before a final decision is made and avoid merely reacting to a site after it is chosen.

City OKs east side ShopKo

Construction crews will begin digging as much as a 10-acre site on Albany Avenue "in a few weeks" in a new ShopKo retail store on the site by next fall, representatives of the Madison City Council said Tuesday night.

The 10-acre site, east of downtown, was approved by the Madison City Council Tuesday night. The city is planning to build a new shopping center on the site by next fall, representatives of the Madison City Council said Tuesday night.

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When the council met ShopKo's bid to the drawing board last winter, the firm went to work negotiating with the city on what had to be done to get approval. Among the promises the firm made were to pay for a new two-way left turn intersection with signals on Albany Avenue and a new storm sewer system to mitigate drainage problems in the Starbuck Creek flood plain.

The company also hired a former alderman, Donald Mergenthaler, to guide it through the city's regulatory maze. Mergenthaler argued that the last would be better suited for a different use. Because of the expense of digging up a two-foot thick layer of "mud" the consistency of chocolate pudding," he said, few other commercial enterprises would afford to develop the land.

He also rejected an old proposal to build a new shopping center on the site, but that idea was dropped after other downtown retail centers on the site.

"These people are betting \$1 million of their own money on this," he said, noting that the city has never given guarantees of business revenue and that market position would be protected.

Alfred Shivers, 17th District, said his constituents would be glad to hear of the approval. Neighborhood support for the project is "pretty much universal," he told the council.

The plan was opposed by Council Community Critics, which made a large retail store on the land would be inappropriate in terms of the city's long-range land use plan. A CCC representative, Philip Travers, said such a store should be built "in the center of the city." He suggested Schoeck's Center as an appropriate place.

In other action, the council:

• Appropriated \$1,000 in emergency funds for the Women and Children's Clinic of the Madison Community Health Center.

• Agreed to purchase for \$4,000 about 1.8 acres of land surrendered on three sites by First Park. The land has been approved at about \$60,000. The council refused, however, to spend \$1,200 for a 4,000-square-foot store of land adjacent to Edward Ellet Park on Milton Street.

• Confirmed the appointment of Martin Winkler to the position of director of the city's Personnel Department. Winkler, whose salary will be \$24,000, is the first woman in the city's history to be appointed department head.

• Approved a set of recommendations for developing extensive new housing in the South Campus area between Johnson and Regent streets. The planning area involves 20 blocks and calls for a minimum of 600 new housing units designed primarily for people associated with the university.

\$5,000 fire sends tenants into street and damages shed

By SHARON D. FITZMAN
Capital Times Staff Writer

A fire early this morning in a rubble shed attached to a downtown Madison apartment building caused an estimated \$5,000 damage.

The fire at 11 S. Charter St. was believed to have started when one of the building's tenants put a smoldering mattress in the wooden shed. The loss and had apparently been smoldering in the shed when the fire broke out.

Police arrested Ronald Mann, 39, a resident of the building, for negligent handling of burning material.

The fire was contained in the rubble shed, according to Division Chief Fred Yablonski. There was a small amount of smoke damage inside the apartment building.

The fire also burned out the gutter attached to the side of the building, causing some gut leakage.



A fire that started in a rubble shed on Charter Street.

The fire call came at about 7:15 a.m. from a Madison police officer. Yablonski said it was that officer, and an off-duty fire department lieutenant who called the 10 tenants from the building.

The building's owners, Rev. and Mrs. Charles Garret, said the 16-room, three-story room house, is occupied by war veterans.

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