Breaux Bridge Eyes Future

'Crawfish Capital' Looks at Growth Needs

BREAUXX BRIDGE — This quaint Southwest Louisiana community which has been gaining fame lately as the "Crawfish Capital of the World" has decided to take a look into the future to meet problems normally encountered by growth.

The city council has asked the Planning Division of Louisiana's Department of Public Works to provide the city planning assistance to determine the community's needs in the next 20 years.

The council also employed the Baton Rouge firm of Carter, Horan and Chapin, city planners, to help the council and a city planning commission determine what the needs are.

The city will pay $2,209, or 12.5 per cent of the $17,000 which will go to the firm for the estimated 20-month study. The rest will come from federal funds provided to communities under 50,000 population, according to Bob Chapin, member of the planning firm.

The council started thinking about the need to plan for the future last December. The potential expansion of the petroleum and crawfish industries here, and the construction of Interstate 10, which will pass just south of Breaux Bridge, prompted the study.

Chapin said the first step of the survey would be to study the streets and buildings now available. "We'll go into the town and study it lot by lot," he said.

The survey will include a study of the population characteristics—whether there is local labor available to attract industry—and the estimated population growth in the next 20 years.

Five civic-minded Breaux Bridge citizens were appointed to the planning commission to work with the city planners. They are J. W. David, Percy Castille, Aubrey Heumann, Rowland Melancon and Ray Pelierin.

"It all boils down to what we have in the town today and what you're going to have and need in the future," Chapin said of the plans. To be considered also are the sizes and conditions of the streets and the present sewerage facilities to see if they will meet the demands of the future, and the economic potential.

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But he said Friday that the only hope he saw for teachers' pay was the district sales tax."If there are some changes made in it (the tax)," he said, "we will get behind it." There are some 482 teachers in the city school system, and the annual $200 to each cost the board about $97,000 a year.