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BEFORE THE LAND USE BOARD OF APPEALS
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

JUNE WICKS-SNODGRASS, PAULINE)
SKINNER, JIM LEWIS, and BOBBY)
BECKLEY,)
Petitioners,)
vs.)
CITY OF REEDSPORT,)
Respondent.)

LUBA No. 95-240
FINAL OPINION
AND ORDER

Appeal from City of Reedsport.

Stephen Mountainspring, Roseburg, filed the petition for review and argued on behalf of petitioners. With him on the brief was Dole Coalwell & Clark.

Bill Kloos, Eugene, filed the response brief and argued on behalf of respondent. With him on the brief was Johnson, Kloos & Sherton, and Stephen H. Miller, City Attorney, Reedsport.

HANNA, Referee; GUSTAFSON, Referee, participated in the decision.

REMANDED 01/16/97

You are entitled to judicial review of this Order. Judicial review is governed by the provisions of ORS 197.850.

1 Opinion by Hanna.

2 **NATURE OF THE DECISION**

3 Petitioners appeal a city council decision approving a
4 residential subdivision. The decision also approves
5 variances to certain city right-of-way width, roadway width,
6 and sidewalk requirements.

7 **FACTS**

8 On July 12, 1994, the city approved a tentative plan
9 for a 13-lot subdivision with related variances to roadway
10 width, right-of-way width, sidewalk and street grade
11 requirements. LUBA remanded that decision on March 8, 1995.
12 Wicks v. City of Reedsport, 29 Or LUBA 8 (1995) (Wicks). We
13 described the proposal as follows:

14 "The proposed subdivision will create 13 lots from
15 a 9.82-acre parcel zoned Single Family Residential
16 (R-1). The Reedsport Comprehensive Plan (plan),
17 at p. B-1, identifies the subject property as
18 being in an area of greater than 20% slope. The
19 subject property is adjoined by developed
20 residential areas to the north and east. The city
21 limits and urban growth boundary coincide with the
22 southern and western boundaries of the subject
23 property.

24 "Three existing deadend streets, Maple Court, View
25 Court and Bellevue Drive, will be extended to the
26 south to serve the proposed subdivision. Two of
27 the extended streets, Maple Court and View Court,
28 are proposed to terminate in circular
29 turn-arounds. The extension of Bellevue Drive is
30 proposed to be a deadend. The three existing
31 streets lack sidewalks and have substandard
32 right-of-way and roadway widths. The proposed
33 subdivision includes variances to allow (1) the
34 rights-of-way and roadways of the three street
35 extensions to be the same width as those of the
36 existing streets, and (2) the three street

1 extensions to be built without sidewalks." Wicks,
2 29 Or LUBA at 10.

3 After remand, the city amended its subdivision
4 ordinance in a manner which changed some of the criteria
5 applicable to the proposed subdivision. On June 6, 1995,
6 the applicants withdrew their initial application and
7 submitted a new application under the amended ordinance,
8 making essentially the same proposal as in the first
9 application. On July 18, 1995, the planning commission
10 approved the preliminary plat and the three variances. On
11 August 3, 1995, petitioners Wicks-Snodgrass, Skinner and
12 Lewis appealed the planning commission decision to the city
13 council. The city notified the three appellants that the
14 city council would hear the appeal on September 11, 1995,
15 but did not provide written notice of the city council
16 hearing to other opponents who had objected to the
17 application before the planning commission, but had not
18 appealed.

19 On September 11, 1995, the city council heard the
20 appeal. The council accepted new evidence at that
21 proceeding, and also left the record open to allow the
22 opponents seven days after the hearing to submit new
23 information. The council also allowed an additional seven-
24 day period for the applicant to respond to that new
25 information. Record 32. On October 9, 1995, the city
26 council voted to tentatively approve the application, and
27 directed that draft findings be prepared. On November 6,

1 1995, the city council adopted the challenged decision.
2 This appeal followed.

3 **PRELIMINARY ISSUE**

4 On March 18, 1996, we denied the city's motion to
5 dismiss this appeal. Wicks-Snodgrass v. City of Reedsport,
6 ___ Or LUBA ___ (LUBA No. 95-240, Order on Motion to
7 Dismiss, March 18, 1996). For purposes of that order, and
8 based solely upon the representations of the parties at that
9 time, we assumed that the challenged decision was a limited
10 land use decision. Petitioners now contend that the
11 challenged decision is a land use decision under the
12 Reedsport Subdivision Ordinance (RSO). Petitioners argue
13 that the applicable provisions of the RSO classify tentative
14 subdivision approvals and the types of variances at issue as
15 land use decisions. Because the city made a land use
16 decision, petitioners argue, the procedural requirements of
17 ORS 197.763 apply.

18 The city responds that the entire decision is a limited
19 land use decision as defined by ORS 197.015(12), which
20 provides:

21 "'Limited land use decision' is a final decision
22 or determination made by a local government
23 pertaining to a site within an urban growth
24 boundary which concerns:

25 "(a) The approval or denial of a subdivision or
26 partition, as described in ORS chapter 92.

27 "(b) The approval or denial of an application
28 based on discretionary standards designed to
29 regulate the physical characteristics of a
30 use permitted outright, including but not

1 limited to site review and design review."

2 The city is correct that the decision at issue in this
3 appeal, a tentative subdivision plan approval for a site
4 within the UGB, clearly falls within the range of decisions
5 which local governments are entitled to process as limited
6 land use decisions under the applicable statutes. However,
7 in Gensman v. City of Tigard, 29 Or LUBA 505 (1995), we held
8 that if a city intends to process limited land use decisions
9 differently from land use decisions, ORS 197.195(3)(c)(I)
10 requires that it must make that intent clear in the initial
11 notice.¹ If the city fails to do so, it must provide all of

¹The procedural requirements for limited land use decisions are set forth in ORS 197.195(3)(c), which provides:

"(3) A limited land use decision is subject to the requirements of paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subsection.

** * * * *

"(c) The notice and procedures used by local government shall:

"(A) Provide a 14-day period for submission of written comments prior to the decision;

"(B) State that issues which may provide the basis for an appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals shall be raised in writing prior to the expiration of the comment period. Issues shall be raised with sufficient specificity to enable the decision maker to respond to the issue;

"(C) List, by commonly used citation, the applicable criteria for the decision;

"(D) Set forth the street address or other easily understood geographical reference to the subject property;

1 the ORS 197.763 procedural safeguards. Id. at 512.

2 Nothing in the June 6, 1995 hearing notice indicates
3 that the city intended to process the application as a
4 limited land use decision. In that notice, the city
5 notified all owners of property within 200 feet of the
6 proposed subdivision of the initial public hearing, and
7 invited their oral testimony regarding the application.
8 Record 209-211. These are standard notice procedures for a
9 quasi-judicial land use decision under ORS 197.763 and the
10 applicable local ordinance.²

"(E) State the place, date and time that comments are due;

"(F) State that copies of all evidence relied upon by the applicant are available for review, and that copies can be obtained at cost;

"(G) Include the name and phone number of a local government contact person;

"(H) Provide notice of the decision to the applicant and any person who submits comments under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph. The notice of decision must include an explanation of appeal rights; and

"(I) Briefly summarize the local decision making process for the limited land use decision being made."

²RSO 13(J) provides:

"PROCEDURES FOR LAND USE DECISIONS: Decisions on the following actions under this Ordinance shall be conducted as land use decisions: tentative subdivision plans. The Planning Commission shall be the deliberating body, and shall conduct the land use decision acting in a quasi-judicial capacity. A public hearing shall be required for all land use decisions. Notice of the public hearing and procedures for the public hearing shall meet all requirements for quasi-judicial decision, as set forth in ORS 197.763."

1 Instead of following the procedures for a limited land
2 use decision set forth in ORS 197.195(3), the city elected
3 to process intervenor's application as a land use decision
4 under the procedures established in ORS 197.763 and RSO
5 13(J). As a result, the city must provide all of the
6 procedural safeguards required for land use decisions.
7 Sparks v. City of Bandon, 30 Or LUBA 69, 70 n1 (1995);
8 Gensman v. City of Tigard, supra, 29 Or LUBA at 512.

9 **FIRST ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR**

10 Petitioners argue that the city failed to follow
11 applicable procedures in four respects, to the prejudice of
12 petitioners' substantial rights. Petitioners contend:

13 "Respondent failed to give notice of the
14 evidentiary hearing before the city council to
15 petitioners Bobby Beckley, John Thut, and DeLaine
16 Thut.³

17 "Respondent accepted evidence in support of the
18 application without allowing petitioners to
19 respond.

20 "Respondent accepted evidence in support of the
21 application after the close of the evidentiary
22 record.

23 "Respondent's notice of the initial evidentiary
24 hearing was defective." Petition for Review 7.

³John Thut and DeLaine Thut were inadvertently included as petitioners in the notice of intent to appeal. Their names were not removed from this appeal until after the petition for review and respondent's brief were filed. As a result, the briefs include references to those individuals as petitioners. However, we do not consider any reference or argument pertaining to John Thut and DeLaine Thut.

1 **A. No Notice of Evidentiary Hearing**

2 After the planning commission approval of the
3 challenged decision, petitioners Wicks-Snodgrass, Skinner
4 and Lewis appealed the decision to the city council. The
5 city provided notice of the September 11, 1995 city council
6 appeal hearing to petitioners Wicks-Snodgrass, Skinner and
7 Lewis but did not provide notice of that hearing to
8 petitioner Beckley. Beckley appeared before the planning
9 commission in opposition to the application, but did not
10 appeal its decision. Petitioners argue that Beckley was
11 entitled to notice as a party to the proceeding and as an
12 owner of property within the specified distance from the
13 development under ORS 197.763(2) and Reedsport Zoning
14 Ordinance (RZO) 12.030.⁴ Additionally, petitioners contend

⁴RZO 12.030 provides, in relevant part:

"Notice of public hearings shall be given by the City Recorder in the following manner, except where statutory requirements are given and then the statutory requirements shall be followed:

"* * * * *

"2. Notice shall also be presented in written form not less than 20 days before the evidentiary hearings or 10 days before the first evidentiary hearing, if two or more evidentiary hearings are allowed to the owners of property within 200 [feet] of the exterior boundaries of the property involved where the site is wholly or partially within the City Limits and/or Urban Growth Boundary."

ORS 197.763(2)(a) requires

"Notice of the hearings governed by this section shall be provided to the applicant and to owners of record of property

1 that "the evidentiary phase of the appeal hearing required
2 new notice as a new proceeding." Petition for Review 8.

3 The city does not dispute Beckley's claim that she
4 lives within the area for which notice is required. Rather,
5 the city contends that the notice requirements for a land
6 use decision do not apply in this proceeding, because the
7 challenged decision was a limited land use decision. We
8 reject the city's arguments based on our determination that
9 petitioners are entitled to all of the procedural safeguards
10 required by ORS 197.763. We conclude that Beckley was
11 entitled to notice of the appeal hearing before the city
12 council pursuant to ORS 197.763(2).⁵

13 The city further argues that even if Beckley was
14 entitled to notice of the city council hearing, remand is

on the most recent property tax assessment roll where such
property is located:

- "(A) Within 100 feet of the property which is the subject of
the notice where the subject property is wholly or in
part within an urban growth boundary;
- "(B) Within 250 feet of the property which is the subject of
the notice where the subject property is outside an urban
growth boundary and not within a farm or forest zone; or
- "(C) Within 500 feet of the property which is the subject of
the notice where the subject property is within a farm or
forest zone."

⁵Indeed, it appears from the record that the city intended to notify Beckley of the hearing, but inadvertently failed to do so. The first page of the city's final decision incorrectly states that "[p]roper notice was provided to interested parties, and parties living within 200 feet of the proposed development by written letter * * *." Record 3. Also, the minutes from the September 11, 1995 city council hearing indicate that the city considered and passed a motion to allow all persons who had appeared before the planning commission to appear before the city council as parties to the appeal. Record 24.

1 unwarranted because the lack of notice did not prejudice
2 Beckley's substantial rights. Under ORS 197.835(9)(a)(B),
3 LUBA may reverse or remand a local decision based on a local
4 government's failure to comply with applicable notice
5 requirements only if the defect prejudices a petitioner's
6 substantial rights. Thomas v. Wasco County, 30 Or LUBA 142
7 (1995). The city argues that Beckley's substantial rights
8 were not prejudiced because the challenged decision did not
9 rely on any new evidence received at the hearing, or during
10 the 14-day period when the record was held open after the
11 hearing, to comply with an approval standard.

12 We disagree. Even if the city were correct that the
13 challenged decision did not rely on new evidence received at
14 the city council hearing or during the 14-day period after
15 the hearing, Beckley's substantial rights were prejudiced by
16 the fact that the city's failure to provide her with notice
17 effectively denied Beckley of her right to participate in
18 the hearing process. The city accepted new evidence at the
19 September 11, 1995 hearing. Because Beckley did not receive
20 notice of the hearing, she was denied the opportunity to
21 present new oral or written evidence either at the hearing
22 or while the record was left open after the hearing. In
23 Thomas, we noted that "[i]f the county's procedural error
24 deprived petitioner of the opportunity to participate in the
25 process, his substantial rights were violated." Id. at 145.
26 We conclude that the city's failure to provide Beckley with
27 the notice of the city council hearing to which she was

1 entitled deprived her of the opportunity to participate in
2 the process before the city, thereby violating her
3 substantial rights.

4 This subassignment of error is sustained.

5 **B. No Opportunity for Rebuttal**

6 After the September 11, 1995 hearing, the city council
7 left the record open for two consecutive seven-day periods,
8 until September 29, 1995. Record 32. The opponents of the
9 application were permitted to submit new evidence during the
10 first seven-day period, and the applicant was allowed a
11 second seven-day period to respond to any new evidence
12 submitted by the opponents. During the first 7-day period,
13 the opponents submitted several pages of written materials
14 and photographs opposing the proposal and objecting to the
15 proceedings before the city. Record 33-51. During the
16 second 7-day period, the city engineer submitted a one-page
17 supplementary report, with two exhibits, directly responding
18 to four issues raised by the opponents. Record 52-54.
19 Petitioners contend that:

20 "Petitioner Wicks-Snodgrass submitted new evidence
21 during the first 7-day period and requested an
22 opportunity to respond to new evidence that may be
23 submitted by the applicant during the second 7-day
24 period. * * * [S]ubstantial new evidence was
25 submitted in support of the application by the
26 city engineer during the second 7-day period. * *
27 * Petitioner Wicks-Snodgrass had a right to an
28 opportunity to rebut the new evidence by having
29 the record re-opened." Petition for Review 10.

30 Petitioners do not specifically explain why the city
31 engineer's supplemental report amounts to "substantial new

1 evidence" not already in the record. Petitioners rely on
2 ORS 197.763(6)(c) to support their argument that Wicks-
3 Snodgrass has a right to reopen the record and submit
4 rebuttal evidence. Without analysis, petitioners also refer
5 to ONRC v. City of Seaside, 29 Or LUBA 39, 53-54 (1995).

6 The city responds, and we agree, that the provisions of
7 ORS 197.763(6)(c) only apply to an "initial evidentiary
8 hearing," which in this case was held before the planning
9 commission. That statute does not require the city council
10 to reopen the record for rebuttal upon the request of a
11 participant in a subsequent evidentiary hearing. See ONRC
12 v. City of Oregon City, supra, 29 Or LUBA at 96 (applying
13 substantially similar provisions of ORS 197.763(6) (1993
14 Edition)).

15 This subassignment of error is denied.

16 **C. Evidence Submitted After the Record Closed**

17 At the September 11, 1995 hearing, the city council
18 decided that the record would be closed on September 29,
19 1995. Record 32. Thus, the October 9, 1995 meeting of the
20 city council was to be for deliberation only, without oral
21 testimony by the parties or introduction of new evidence.
22 Record 32, 56. At the October 9, 1995 meeting, the city
23 engineer responded to various questions posed by council
24 members regarding the proposed subdivision and its effects
25 on traffic, sewer systems, and water drainage. Record 13-
26 17. Petitioners contend that the statements of the city
27 engineer amount to new evidence that was impermissibly

1 accepted by the city after the record was closed, and that
2 the city's failure to allow petitioners an opportunity to
3 rebut the new evidence prejudiced their substantial rights.⁶

4 The city responds, and we agree, that petitioners
5 waived their right to object to this alleged procedural
6 defect because they were present at the October 9, 1995 city
7 council meeting and did not object to the acceptance of the
8 city engineer's testimony. This Board has repeatedly held
9 that where a party has the opportunity to object to a
10 procedural error before the local government, but fails to
11 do so, that error cannot be assigned as grounds for reversal
12 or remand of the local government's decision in an appeal to
13 this Board. Woodstock Neighborhood Assoc. v. City of
14 Portland, 28 Or LUBA 146, 150-51 (1994).

15 Petitioners rely upon Wicks, in which this Board
16 remanded the city's first approval of the same proposed
17 subdivision. One basis for remand in Wicks was that the
18 city council accepted new evidence in the form of oral
19 testimony from the city engineer and did not allow
20 petitioners an opportunity to rebut that testimony. Wicks,
21 29 Or LUBA at 16-17. However, we note that the petitioners

⁶A local government is not required to allow petitioners to rebut city staff summaries of evidence that is already in the record. McInnis v. City of Portland, 25 Or LUBA 376, 380 (1993). Petitioners do not specifically indicate which of the city engineer's statements go beyond a restatement of evidence that is already in the record. In the absence of some direction in this regard from petitioners, LUBA will not compare the entire record against the statements of the engineer to determine whether or not those statements include new evidence.

1 in Wicks objected to the receipt of new evidence by the city
2 council. Id. at 16. Petitioners made no such objection at
3 the October 9, 1995 proceeding; absent such an objection,
4 petitioners have no grounds for reversal or remand.

5 This subassignment of error is denied.

6 **D. Defective Hearing Notice**

7 Petitioners contend that they were prejudiced because
8 the hearing notice failed to identify Reedsport
9 Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Water Policy 3, as an applicable
10 criterion. We address petitioners' contention in our
11 discussion of the second assignment of error.

12 The first assignment of error is sustained, in part.

13 **SECOND ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR**

14 Petitioners argue that the findings are deficient
15 because the challenged decision does not comply with RCP
16 Water Policy 3, which states: "Water meter boxes shall be
17 required in all new residential development." Petitioners
18 argue that the comprehensive plan requirement for water
19 meter boxes can only be enforced by the imposition of a
20 condition of approval, and that the city impermissibly
21 failed to impose this requirement as a condition of
22 approval.⁷

23 The city responds that petitioners have waived this
24 issue because they failed to raise it during the local

⁷Petitioners do not explain why this ministerial requirement cannot be enforced without a condition of approval.

1 proceedings. However, RCP Water Policy 3 was not identified
2 in the city's hearing notice as an approval criterion.
3 Where petitioners contend a decision fails to address an
4 applicable approval criterion that was not identified in the
5 local government's hearing notice as required by ORS
6 197.763(3)(b), and respondents contend petitioners cannot
7 raise this issue because they failed to raise it below, LUBA
8 must decide whether the provision in question establishes an
9 approval criterion for the subject application, in which
10 case petitioners may raise the new issue before LUBA
11 pursuant to ORS 197.835(4)(b).⁸ O'Mara v. Douglas County,
12 25 Or LUBA 25, 32-34 (1993), rev'd on other grounds, 121 Or
13 App 113, rev'g Court of Appeals, aff'g LUBA 318 Or 72
14 (1993). In O'Mara, the challenged decision did not include
15 an interpretation from the county regarding whether the
16 local code provision at issue was an applicable approval
17 standard; as a result, LUBA was required to remand for a
18 local interpretation on that issue under Weeks v. Tillamook
19 County, 117 Or App 449, 844 P2d 914 (1992). However, under

⁸ORS 197.835(4) provides, in relevant part:

"(4) A petitioner may raise new issues to the board if:

"(b) The local government failed to follow the requirements of ORS 197.763(3)(b), in which case a petitioner may raise new issues based upon applicable criteria that were omitted from the notice. However, the board may refuse to allow new issues to be raised if it finds that the issue could have been raised before the local government
* * *."

1 the 1995 amendments to ORS 197.829(2), if a local government
2 fails to interpret a provision of its comprehensive plan,
3 this Board may make its own determination of whether the
4 local government decision is correct.

5 The city argues that RCP Water Policy 3 does not apply
6 to subdivision approval:

7 "The subdividing process relates to the division
8 of land, not the construction of residences. This
9 policy may have some import as a directive to the
10 City in its adoption of standards or procedures
11 relating to the issuance of building permits. But
12 its consideration in the subdividing process would
13 be premature." Respondent's Brief 17.

14 We agree. The RCP policy regarding installation of water
15 meter boxes does not establish approval criteria applicable
16 to the subject application.

17 The second assignment of error is denied.

18 **THIRD ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR**

19 Petitioners argue that the city impermissibly deferred
20 its determination of compliance with applicable criteria for
21 the proposed turnaround at the end of Bellevue Drive.
22 Petitioners contend that the proposed turnaround will be
23 inadequate for emergency vehicle and private use, and that
24 the city deferred determination of compliance on this issue
25 by requiring the turnaround design to be approved by the
26 city engineer, with no notice or opportunity for hearing on
27 the engineer's decision regarding the design. The condition
28 challenged by petitioners provides:

29 "The developer shall provide an adequate turn-
30 around at the end of Bellevue in the vicinity of

1 Lot 13, for emergency and private vehicle
2 turnaround. (Review and approval of turn around
3 shall be coordinated and approved by City Engineer
4 who will seek input from emergency service
5 agencies i.e. hospital and fire department.)"
6 Record 91. (Emphasis in original.)

7 It is well established that a local government may
8 demonstrate compliance with an approval criterion by first
9 determining that the proposal will comply with the
10 criterion, if certain conditions are imposed, and then
11 relying on the imposition of those conditions to ensure
12 compliance. Eppich v. Clackamas County, 26 Or LUBA 498, 507
13 (1994). The technical design specifications involved with
14 those conditions may then be determined by city staff
15 without opportunity for public comment:

16 "Where a local government's initial proceedings
17 satisfy any state and local requirements for
18 notice and hearing, conditions imposed in this
19 manner to ensure compliance with applicable
20 standards may include conditions requiring that
21 specific technical solutions to identified
22 development problems be submitted to, and reviewed
23 and approved by, the local government's planning
24 and engineering staff, in a proceeding without
25 notice and hearing." Id. (Citing Meyer v. City
26 of Portland, 67 Or App 274, 678 P2d 741, rev den
27 297 Or 82 (1984)).

28 Having determined that the proposal will comply with
29 the applicable traffic and safety criteria so long as an
30 adequate turnaround is provided, the city did not err when
31 it assigned the review and approval of the design
32 specifications for the turnaround to the city engineer.

33 In the alternative, petitioners argue that the
34 turnaround requirement makes Bellevue Drive a cul-de-sac

1 that does not meet cul-de-sac criteria. Petitioners rely on
2 RSO 3, which defines cul-de-sac as "[a] short street having
3 one end open to traffic and being terminated by a vehicle
4 turnaround."

5 The city responds that the tentative plat for Bellevue
6 Drive does not create a cul-de-sac because

7 "[t]he plat shows that Bellevue does not terminate
8 in a vehicle turnaround. The street is platted
9 along the eastern edge of the plat to the southern
10 boundary of the plat, at which point it stubs out,
11 so that it may be extended in the future to serve
12 additional land. * * * It is not a cul-de-sac
13 because it does not end in a vehicle turnaround.
14 In contrast, the other streets on the plat are
15 cul-de-sacs because they do end in vehicle
16 turnarounds." Respondent's Brief 18.

17 While the city is correct that the plat does not show a
18 turnaround at the end of Bellevue Drive, one of the
19 conditions of approval requires that the developer shall
20 provide a turnaround at the end of Bellevue Drive that will
21 be coordinated and approved by the city engineer. Record
22 91. Once that condition is met, Bellevue Drive will fall
23 within the definition of a cul-de-sac because it will be a
24 street having one end open to traffic and the other end
25 terminated with a vehicle turnaround. Contrary to the
26 city's assertion, the findings expressly state that Bellevue
27 Drive will not be extended to serve additional development
28 in the future. Record 87.

29 Under the city's decision, Bellevue Drive falls within
30 the definition of a cul-de-sac. RSO 11(B)(9) requires that
31 a cul-de-sac shall have a maximum length of 550 feet, and

1 shall end in a circular turnaround. RSO 11(B)(2)
2 establishes criteria regarding the minimum right-of-way and
3 roadway widths for the radius of a turnaround. Petitioners
4 are correct that the tentative plat for Bellevue Drive does
5 not meet these criteria.

6 The third assignment of error is sustained.

7 **FOURTH ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR**

8 Petitioners contend that three variances granted by the
9 city do not comply with the variance criteria of RSO 13(A).
10 The variances allowed (1) reduction of the required right-
11 of-way width from 50 feet to 30 feet for Maple Court, View
12 Court and Bellevue Drive; (2) elimination of the sidewalk
13 requirement for both sides of the street on Maple Court,
14 View Court and Bellevue Drive; and (3) reduction of the
15 required street width from 32 feet to 16 feet for Bellevue
16 Drive. RSO 13(A) provides:

17 A. VARIANCE APPLICATION: The Commission may
18 authorize variances to requirements of this
19 ordinance. Application for a variance shall
20 be made by a petition of the developer,
21 stating fully the grounds of the application
22 and the facts relied upon by the petitioner.
23 The petition shall be filed with the
24 tentative plan. A variance may be granted
25 only in the event that all of the following
26 circumstances are considered:

27 1. Exceptional Circumstances: Exceptional
28 or extraordinary circumstances apply to
29 the property which do not apply
30 generally to other properties in the
31 same vicinity, and result from tract
32 size or shape, topography or other
33 circumstances over which the owner of
34 the property, since enactment of this

1 ordinance, has had no control.

2 2. Preservation of Property Right: The
3 variance is necessary for the
4 preservation of a property right of the
5 applicant substantially the same as
6 owners of other property in the same
7 vicinity possess.

8 3. Not Detrimental: The variance would not
9 be materially detrimental to the
10 purposes of this ordinance, or to
11 property in the same vicinity in which
12 the property is located, or otherwise
13 conflict with the objectives of any
14 applicable laws or regulations.

15 4. Minimum: The variance requested is the
16 minimum variance which would alleviate
17 the hardship. (Emphasis added.)

18 The city responds:

19 "The principal thrust of petitioners' argument
20 erroneously assumes that the process stated in the
21 RSO for approval of variances requires findings of
22 compliance with specific standards. It does not.
23 The RSO allows variances to be granted provided
24 four circumstances are 'considered.'
25 Respondent's Brief 19.

26 The city is correct that RSO 13(A) only requires that
27 the city "consider" the four circumstances set forth in that
28 ordinance. We note that the city specifically amended that
29 section of its subdivision ordinance in 1995 to achieve this
30 result.⁹ The findings adopted by the planning commission
31 address each of the four elements set forth in RSO 13(A)
32 with respect to each proposed variance. Record 87-90.

⁹Prior to February 6, 1995, the same provision of RSO 13(A) required that "[a] variance may be granted only in the event that all of the following circumstances exist: * * *." (Emphasis added.)

1 Nothing more is required under that ordinance.

2 Additionally, petitioners argue that the city's
3 decision does not comply with the Reedsport Comprehensive
4 Plan (RCP) because the sidewalk requirement is part of the
5 RCP.¹⁰ Thus, petitioners argue, the sidewalk requirement is
6 not subject to the subdivision ordinance variance
7 provisions, and "[t]here is no provision for exempting a
8 proposal from the requirements of the comprehensive plan,
9 other than through amending the plan." Petitioner's Brief
10 15.¹¹

11 The city responds that the RCP transportation policy is
12 implemented through the subdivision ordinance, and "[t]he
13 subdivision ordinance also requires sidewalks, but it also
14 allows for variances from the sidewalk requirement based on
15 consideration of the factors listed in the ordinance."
16 Respondent's Brief 20. The city's argument is irrelevant.
17 The comprehensive plan expressly requires that new
18 subdivisions shall have sidewalks. The city may not use the
19 variance procedures of its subdivision ordinance to grant an
20 exception to its comprehensive plan. Baker v. City of
21 Milwaukie, 271 Or 500, 533 P2d 772 (1975).

¹⁰RCP Transportation Policy 1 states:

"New subdivisions or planned unit developments shall have sidewalks and adequate street patterns to facilitate easy movement of both cars and pedestrians."

¹¹Contrary to the city's assertion, petitioners raised this issue below. Record 117.

- 1 The fourth assignment of error is sustained, in part.
- 2 The city's decision is remanded.