



City of Sisters 75th Anniversary Jubilee Minute 1946-2021

FOR: April 14, 2021 Council Meeting

Sisters' incorporation not all smooth sailing.

Approximately 20% of eligible voters signed the petition to get the incorporation of the City of Sisters on the April 4, 1946, ballot; and the yes votes were almost two to one (115 votes in favor and 61 votes against). On June 11, 1946, an election was held to elect the five councilmen. The first official meeting was held at Sisters High School on June 25, and the hard work of gathering the necessary ingredients to make a city work began. However, before the ink was dry, Pete Leithauser requested permission to circulate a petition to disincorporate the city which was granted by the Council. On October 10th, a signed petition was presented to Council by Pete Leithauser to disincorporate the City.

At the October 24 meeting, after review by legal counsel, Mayor Earl Russell read a letter he had written to Mr. Leithauser wherein he stated "that since the City of Sisters had warranted indebtedness at this time and since there is a State Law which precludes the dissolving of a corporation while it is in debt, the measure could not therefore be placed on the ballot at this time. The petition was therefore returned to Mr. Leithauser." No further mention of this issue was reported in the minutes. However, Mr. Leithauser must have gained confidence in the new city, because in 1950 he expanded his family's grocery business and added a variety store and barbershop to their modern supermarket (now the Habitat Thrift store).