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VOL. 91 — NO. 342 60 PAGES

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1975

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Commission to consider changing clerk's duties

Pasco Times Bureau

NEW PORT RICHEY — The Pasco County Commission is scheduled Tuesday night to consider second reading of ordinances amending the county administrator's duties and formally abolishing the board of trustees of Jackson Memorial Hospital.

The commission meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Port Richey City Hall.

The administrator ordinance, which takes some of the duties now performed by Circuit Clerk **Miller Newton** and assigns them to Administrator Richard Kelton, closely follows the state statute dealing with duties of a county administrator, Commission Chairman Mike Olson said when he proposed the ordinance two weeks ago.

THE TWO major functions transferred from the clerk to administrator are budget matters and compilation of agendas for the weekly commission meetings.

The abolition of the Jackson Memorial Hospital board is part of an ordinance designed to consolidate all health services under the direct control of the County Commission with a countywide advisory board.

Jackson Memorial officials oppose the move.

The County Commission took over the duties of the West Pasco Hospital board last month after a majority of the

members resigned rather than file financial disclosure forms in compliance with state law.

Olson said he thinks consolidation of the hospital operations from the standpoint of the governing body will result in more efficient and economic operation, management and administration of the hospitals of Pasco County.

THE PROPOSED health services advisory council is to advise the County Commission in all matters relating to health care services in the county.

The commission also must decide whether to appropriate another \$7,500 to the prenatal-care clinics at the two hospitals or face a possible walkout of doctors participating in the Jackson Memorial program.

Doctors at Jackson Memorial have said they will cease performing deliveries for indigent cases July 1. Three doctors

have indicated they will continue on a temporary basis if the commission will increase payments from \$100 to \$150 per case.

Other items scheduled for commission consideration include:

✓ Use of voting machines at Pasco Comprehensive High School as part of a classroom training program. Elections Supervisor Mary Morgan said a recent attorney general ruling necessitates commission consideration of the proposal.

✓ A request for a waiver of the building moratorium to allow Ja-Mar Travel Park developers to build a campground off U.S. 19 south of the State Road 52 intersection. The park includes more than 17 acres. Developers propose to create nearly 300 travel trailer parking sites.