

# MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 3, 1998

The minutes of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning with a work session in the Council Chambers at 7 p.m. and proceeding to a regular session in the Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. Interviews of an applicant for Council appointments were held at 6:30 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room.

## Those Present

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger, Councilors Joe Benetti, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Planning Administrator Kevin Cupples, Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Fire Chief Stan Gibson.

## COUNCIL INTERVIEWS

The Mayor and City Councilors interviewed Patricia Quigley for consideration of appointment to the Public Access TV Board. Selena Dodge was unavailable due to illness.

## WORK SESSION

### Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Stan Gibson reported the Fire Department would be hosting 18 Up With People youth at the downtown fire station. Chief Gibson reported the department had purchased a motor for the rescue sled and would be training staff on its use, and the annual number of fire runs were down and medical runs were up. Mayor Verger inquired who had provided emergency medical assistance before the Fire Department and Chief Gibson said the ambulance service did. Chief Gibson explained no finances are involved in providing the service except for approximately \$2200 in supplies which are replaced by the ambulance service. Councilor Spangler commented the first responsibility of the fire department is to respond to fires, and citizens are getting free medical service. Councilor Benetti commented Eugene and Springfield are making a profit on providing medical service and suggested the City look into doing the same thing. Councilor Weeks also agreed and noted the service would make money for the city. City Manager Bill Grile reported this had been discussed a year ago with Mike Kelly, Springfield, and Mr. Kelly said it would take \$1 million to set up the program. Chief Gibson commented they would need equipment and personnel, and would see a profit in three to five years. Councilor McKeown suggested looking at Eugene's program. Mr. Grile suggested this could be one of the Council's goals.

### Other Discussion

Mayor Verger reported an appeal of the term limitation ballot title had been received from the committee requesting a change in the language. City Attorney Randall Tosh explained he is required by law to draft the ballot title and City ordinance provides the Council to sit as the appeal board.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**Flag Salute**

Mayor Verger opened the meeting and led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

**Employee Recognition — Presented by Mayor Verger**

Mayor Verger recognized Assistant to the City Manager Joyce Jansen for her service to the City Manager, Mayor and City Council.

**Consent Calendar**

Mayor Verger read the consent calendar which consisted of approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 1998, minutes of the public hearing of February 2, 1998, and minutes of the regular meeting of February 3, 1998. Councilor Miller moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

**Report on the Poolhouse Project — Presented by Caddy McKeown**

Caddy McKeown, representing Mingus Pool Management and Lets Fix the Poolhouse Too Committee, explained a generous donation of \$500,000 to replace the pool structure from a local citizen had been received. Mrs. McKeown reported the pool had been built in 1949 and has long out-lived its life span, and reviewed the condition of the pool and pool house. The Lets Fix the Poolhouse Too Committee was formed to place a measure on the May ballot to levy a bond to replace the poolhouse. Mrs. McKeown reported there has been overwhelming support from the community, a local architect has donated plans for the poolhouse, funds have been donated, and over 958 signatures collected on petitions. She said an estimate on the cost to taxpayers for a three year bond was 42 cents per thousand.

Kathy Bourell, swim coach at Mingus Pool, reported there is no heat in the poolhouse and the showers and dressing rooms are in very bad shape. She explained the project would begin August 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilor McKeown commented that the Gold Coast swim meet is held every summer and brings a lot of people to the community and a larger pool would bring more meets to Coos Bay. Councilors Miller, Stufflebean and Weeks expressed their appreciation to the committee and citizens for their support of the pool in the past and for the poolhouse project. Arron Miller, student, commented he is a member of the high school swim team and has spent many hours at the pool, and the poolhouse really needs help. Bob Hale, Coos Bay, reported in 1977 when he was Mayor, the City Council decided to replace the pool and came very close to accomplishing the task. However, the Block Grant was prevented due to a clause stating the project must be for low and moderate income people. Mr. Hale said he was very much in support of the project and it would benefit everyone in the community.

Mayor Verger moved to refer the poolhouse bond measure to a vote of the people on the May ballot for \$500,000. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

City Attorney Tosh recommended the ballot title be approved by the Council. Mayor Verger read the ballot title and measure: Question: Shall general obligation bonds be issued to replace the Mingus Park poolhouse, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000. If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the

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Oregon Constitution. Summary: This measure may be passed only at an election with at least a 50 percent turnout. This measure would authorize \$500,000.00 of general obligation bonds to be issued for rebuilding the Mingus Park swimming pool poolhouse. The interest rate, maturity date and other terms would be determined by the City Council. Since the bonds are outside the limits imposed by Article XI, Sections 11 and 11b of the Oregon Constitution, the bonds could result in real property taxes higher than the \$10.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable value of real property.

Mayor Verger moved to approve the ballot title and measure. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Appointment to the Public Access TV Board**

Appointment to the Public Access TV Board was postponed to the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Public Hearing — Community Development Block Grant**

City Manager Bill Grile reported the public hearing had been published and notices mailed inviting public comment, as required by the grant application. Mayor Verger opened the public hearing.

Roger Gould, Coos Bay, representing SWOYA Boys and Girls Club, explained the \$600,000 grant would be added to the already committed \$550,000 for the final construction phase of the club. To qualify for the Block Grant, of those who would benefit from the facility, 50 percent must be from low and moderate income. Mr. Gould commented support of the Boys and Girls Club strengthens the community by making the lives of children better and these type of facilities have been proven to reduce juvenile crime. He added the project has been accomplished with donated funds. Councilor Weeks asked if there was a charge for the after school program. Mr. Gould said all the programs are available to all members for a \$15 annual membership fee, although, no one is turned away who wants to participate. Bob Moore, Southwestern Community Action, commended SWOYA's efforts to reach children. He reported Community Action is interested in Block Grant funds, but is not ready to proceed with an application at this time.

There being no further comments, Mayor Verger closed the public hearing. Councilor Miller moved to tentatively accept the SWOYA project and hold a second public hearing on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Appeal of Ballot Title Limitations on Eligibility of Persons for Elected Office**

Ralph Larson requested the ballot title be reworded to be more easily understood and the word disqualify be replaced. Councilor Spangler suggested ineligible be used. City Attorney Randall Tosh explained the ballot title is limited to 20 words and the statement to not more than 175 words. Mr. Tosh reviewed the objection regarding the terms prior to enactment of the measure, if they served eight years or more in a twelve year period, they could sit out a term and then run again. The city attorney's provision would allow people to run again once the twelve years had passed. Councilor Spangler expressed concern that a citizen be able to have the ballot title the way he wants. Mr. Tosh responded the city attorney must analyze what is submitted for legal affect and draft accordingly. Mayor Verger asked if it was Mr. Larson's intent that people be able to run again for council or be gone forever. Mr. Tosh commented Mr. Larson's use of the word consecutive creates a disqualification for only a period of time and they could run again. Councilor Weeks expressed the measure was directed at certain members currently serving on the Council and she would not support the measure. Mr. Larson commented his intent was to have a break with the people on the Council but not a permanent limitation. He said the revised wording seems to be as close as possible to what he wants legally. Councilor Benetti moved to adopt the revised ballot title. Councilor Spangler

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seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Verger, and Councilors Benetti, McKeown, Miller, Stufflebean and Spangler voting aye; Councilor Weeks voting no.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Bill Grile reported objections to the Englewood local improvement districts would be heard at the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, and noted an Urban Renewal Agency meeting has be scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Grile also reported Community Services Director Bruce Meithof was one of the finalists for the city manager position in Coquille and has submitted his retirement papers to PERS. Mr. Grile commended Mr. Meithof as a valuable long-term employee.

### **Mayor and Council Comments**

**Councilor Spangler** reported the Enhancement Committee would hold their official kickoff on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, and would be presenting the first award to the person who has done the most for the Bay Area. He reported the Blue Ribbon Committee has met and are eager to work on the street maintenance matter.

**Councilor Stufflebean** reported the public access TV board's next meeting would be on Wednesday, and the board has received many positive comments about the programming.

**Councilor Benetti** expressed support for the Mingus Pool bond issue and the Block Grant for SWOYA, and recommended staff investigate the possibility of providing medical emergency services through the Fire Department.

**Councilor Miller** commented the next issue of the City News is in the works and anyone interested in placing advertisements may contact her.

**Councilor Weeks** reported housing is still needed for the Up With People, and agreed with Councilor Benetti that the City should look into providing medical emergency services.

**Councilor McKeown** thanked Mayor Verger for her survey and recommended the Council focus on economic development. He commented there are a number of positive things happening in the City like the pool project and SWOYA.

**Mayor Verger** requested Councilors provide her with a mini biography to be used in the next issue of the City News, and complimented them on their dedication to the community. Mayor Verger distributed a survey to the Council regarding economic development.

### **Executive Session**

The City Council met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1)(f) and (h) for the purpose of consulting with legal council regarding potential litigation. The Council reconvened into regular session.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to March 17, 1998 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

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Joanne Verger  
Mayor of the City of Coos Bay  
Coos County, Oregon

ATTEST:

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Joyce Jansen  
Deputy Recorder of the City of Coos Bay  
Coos County, Oregon