

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 17, 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. The City Council held interviews at 6:30 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room.

Those Present

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

INTERVIEWS FOR COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

The City Council interviewed Frances Cooley and Selena Dodge for consideration for appointments to the Budget Committee and Public Access TV Board.

WORK SESSION

Department Head Report

Community Services Director Bruce Meithof reported new playground had been installed at John Topits Park, John and Anna Brands had donated chips to place around the equipment, and the park signs would go out to bid soon. Mr. Meithof reported the Eastside boat ramp was 68 percent complete and the State Marine Board would be addressing a \$25,000 project increase. The Blue Ribbon Street Committee meeting Thursday at 5:15 p.m. would be discussing the creation of a video of the streets to be shown on the public access channel. Mr. Meithof reported D Street improvements have been completed improving street access to the boat ramp facility; the Front and Ingersoll and south town storm water projects have been completed. F Street STP federal/state funds project is expected to go to bid in the summer; and the Thompson Road improvements have been delayed because the federal government has not yet passed down the 1998 STP funds.

Other Discussion

Arnie Roblan, Chair of the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board, reported the Board is moving ahead with the water supply project and is in the process of putting out a request for proposals. Councilor Spangler inquired if the Board's development fund is being used to perform the required studies for the project and if there would be money left in the fund to offset the bonds for the project. Mr. Roblan commented the cost of the project would not be known until the engineering plans have been completed. Councilor Spangler noted the Board will spend \$2 to \$3 million before asking voters to approve bonds. Mr. Roblan explained this type of project requires a number of studies and reports before the project can be constructed, and it is very expensive. Councilor McKeown inquired about the status of the environmental impact statement and Mr. Roblan said it is expected to be out within the month.

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Mayor Verger reported two items would be added to the agenda; discussion of public access TV concerns and approval a ballot measure for General Obligation Bonds to improve the poolhouse.

COUNCIL MEETING

Flag Salute

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

Consent Calendar

Mayor Verger read the consent calendar which consisted of approval of the regular meeting minutes of February 17, 1998, approval of signatures for City bank accounts at Security Bank, and approval of an OLCC license for the Cork and Anchor. Councilor Weeks moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Report from Marshfield High School Representative Meliah Masibu

Meliah Masibu reported Corey Stemmerman won the title of Mr. MHS and the pageant raised \$8,000 for the Sacred Heart neonatal unit. Ms. Masibu reported the forensic team went to district, the debate teams are alternates for the national debate contest, and the Marshfield High Upbeats are going to state. The honor band and choir concert was well attended; Anna Bert was named March Girl of the Month; and Kortney Johnson was selected March Boy of the Month. Councilor Spangler invited the student counsel to the next Community Enhancement Committee meeting.

Discussion of Public Access TV Concerns

Mayor Verger explained the North Bend city council has discussed whether to continue to be affiliated with public access TV. Mayor Verger reported the programming is currently sponsored by businesses in the community, and the use of a peg fee has been discussed as a possibility for funding the channel. She commented that many people watch public access and the programming has come a long way since the channel was started. Mayor Verger noted the equipment was purchased with a grant and is jointly owned by both cities.

Councilor Stufflebean, chair of the Public Access TV board, said the options are that Coos Bay could take over the channel or a non-profit organization would run the channel. He commented there is a lot of support from the community for the programming, and the board has discussed use of a peg fee. Councilor McKeown commented public access brings a lot to the community, and before he could support a peg fee, he would need to know more about it. Councilors Miller, Spangler, and Weeks expressed support for the public access channel and the use of a peg fee. Councilor Weeks asked if North Bend residents would receive the public access channel if they did not pay the peg fee. City Attorney Tosh reported a peg fee would require an amendment to the franchise ordinance and North Bend residents would still receive the broadcast. Councilor Spangler commented it would be difficult to impose the peg fee if not everyone in the viewing area paid.

Julia Spangler, Coos Bay, expressed support for public access TV as a way to keep the community informed about local government, other agencies, and what's going on in the community. She supported

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imposing a peg fee with the stipulation that tapes not concerning or relating to the bay area not be played. Geno Landrum, North Bend, encouraged the City Council to support public access and find a way to keep the program. Jerry Dee, Coos Bay, supported public access TV and commented that a few unhappy people should not take down programming that everyone else has worked hard to produce. Sargent Webster, North Bend, said he would find out what the objection is in North Bend and expressed support of the peg fee. Mr. Webster expressed appreciation to Councilor Stufflebean and all those involved in public access.

Stephanie Kilmer, Executive Director of Public Access, spoke in support of public access TV and said the channel reaches a large audience. Ms. Kilmer commented the channel provides an educational outlet for the community with programming from the Coos County Health Department and Bay Area Hospital, as well as local government and area issues such as NUCOR and FONSI. She reported they are looking at vocational and skills tapes, informational programs such as winterization, teens, Pirate TV program, and television production through the community college. Ms. Kilmer expressed appreciation to the Coos Bay and North Bend City Councils, citizens, and businesses, for their support.

Gary Rifkin, Coos Bay, commented public access brings a lot to the community and is useful in providing a wide variety of information to the community. He supported the peg fee and noted public access has come a long way due to the support of the community. Mayor Verger reported North Bend Mayor Timm Slater was in support of government programming but was concerned about the lack of funding for public access. Mayor Verger expressed a desire to continue the partnership with North Bend, and noted this matter would come back to the Council for further discussion.

Appointment to the Public Access TV Board

Applications from Patricia Quigley and Selena Dodge were submitted for consideration for appointment to the Public Access TV Board. Voting was done by ballot and Selena Dodge was appointed for a two-year term on the Board. Those voting for Ms. Dodge were Mayor Verger and Councilors Miller, Spangler, Stufflebean, and Weeks; Councilor McKeown voted for Ms. Quigley

Appointments to the Budget Committee

Councilor Spangler abstained from the voting because his wife was one of the candidates. There were three positions open on the Budget Committee and three applicants for consideration. Voting was done by ballot and Dave Atkinson, Frances Cooley, and Julia Spangler were appointed. Those voting for Mr. Atkinson were Mayor Verger and Councilors McKeown and Miller; those voting for Mrs. Cooley were Mayor Verger and Councilors McKeown and Stufflebean; and those voting for Mrs. Spangler were Mayor Verger and Councilors McKeown and Stufflebean.

Approval of Ballot Measure to Authorize General Obligation Bond to Replace the Poolhouse

City Attorney Tosh explained the County Elections Department has notified the City of corrections in wording needed on the Notice of Election form. Under the Question sections 11 and 11b were added and under the Summary the sentence, This measure may be passed only at an election with at least a 50 percent voter turnout, should be added. Councilor McKeown moved to approve the ballot measure with corrections in wording made to the Question and Summary. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Public Hearing — Community Development Block Grant

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Mayor Verger explained the City is assisting SWOYA with a grant application to complete the Boys and Girls Club facility, and a second public hearing is required by the grant. The hearing was opened for comments from the public. There being no comments to be heard, the public hearing was closed.

Roger Gould explained they were having some difficulties in meeting the required low and moderate income status. Mr. Gould explained the median income for Coos County is \$31,000 and 51 percent of those using the facility must be below 80 percent of that figure. Mayor Verger commented the County has the highest unemployment rate in 13 years, the facility is a need for the community, and noted many areas in the state have received help from the federal government. Councilor McKeown asked if SWOYA could be considered a special interest group. Mr. Gould said it is either considered an area wide program or a limited criteria program.

Board of Equalization Hearing — Local Improvement Districts — Continued from the February 17, 1998 Council Meeting

Mayor Verger reported the City Council will sit as the Board of Equalization concerning the proposed property assessments for the California Avenue, 20th Street, 21st Street, and 22nd Street local improvement districts. City Manager Grile said there are two groups of objections; one is the quality of the project and the other is concern about cost sharing adjustments. The benefits of the street improvements were discussed. Community Services Director Meithof commented the ordinance would outline the payment options and set the interest rate. Darlene Sayer, speaking for Brendan Bates of 1751 South 19th Street, commented that her son cannot utilize 20th Street and does not think he should pay. Mr. Meithof commented a parking location could be established if desired, and the property owner benefits from the improvements because the dust problem is eliminated and surface water is controlled. Councilor McKeown moved that property without access from South 20th Street pay 30 percent of the LID cost and property with access pay 70 percent, and set the interest rate at 6 percent. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Authorization to Reject Bids for Improvements to Pump Stations 17, 19 and 20

City Manager Grile reported the project is a major infrastructure improvement and \$236,000 had been budgeted for the project. Two bids were received; one was flawed and not acceptable and the other bid came in well over the amount budgeted. Staff is requesting Council to reject the bids. Councilor Stufflebean moved to reject all bids and the project be rebid with design changes to lower the construction costs. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Public Comments

Renee Freidin, 460 11th Avenue, said the neighbors are concerned that nothing is being done to clean up the property and they are still dealing with the problems. Mayor Verger commented there is still an investigation going on about the owner and with the ownership still in question, the City cannot go after the owner to clean up the property. Community Services Director Meithof reported staff is monitoring the situation. Councilor Weeks suggested the City clean up the garbage and lien the property. City Attorney Tosh said the resolution designating the property a nuisance has Mr. Plattner as the owner, and a second resolution would need to be adopted.

Geno Landrum, North Bend, said he would like to continue to help Mrs. Davis and fix her home so she can move back in. Mr. Landrum reported the clean up will begin again next weekend and they are making progress on the clean up. Ken Kennedy, 460 11th Avenue, stated his property abutts Mrs. Davis'

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property and in his opinion, her house is not inhabital and has not been for quite some time. He urged the City to abate the problem; and commented the neighbors have been very patient and appreciate any help with this matter. Ralph Larson, 744 South 7th, reported a good deal of the debris has been hauled away and it cost \$320 to dump one trailer load. He said with the weather improving they expect to continue with the clean up, and invited the neighbors to help. Helen Cruckshank, 448 10th Court, commented over the 40 years she has resided in the neighborhood, she has tried to help Mrs. Davis a number of times, but everything that was taken out, Mrs. Davis would take back in.

City Attorney Tosh recommended a public hearing be scheduled for the next meeting and a resolution presented naming Mrs. Davis and Mr. Plattner as the property owners.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Grile congratulated Bruce Meithof on taking the city manager position with the City of Coquille and commended Bruce on his work with the City. Mr. Grile commended Chief Gibson and Captain Miles for helping house some of the Up With People during their stay in Coos Bay, reviewed the final of the new city logo, and reported a meeting has been scheduled for the Front Street Project.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Spangler commended Bruce Meithof on his service to the City and noted the City will continue to benefit from his work. Councilor Spangler reported the Community Enhancement Committee will be presenting their first award to a citizen who has done outstanding service to the community at their next meeting, and invited the Council to attend.

Councilor Stufflebean commented Bruce would be missed at city hall, and noted the additional lighting at the art museum has helped in keeping vandalism down.

Councilor Miller expressed appreciation for Mr. Meithof's service to the City.

Councilor Weeks also expressed appreciation of Mr. Meithof and wished him well in his new position. She reported the Community Futures Coalition meeting was well attended.

Councilor McKeown thanked Bruce for his service to the City and wished him well with the city manager position in Coquille. Councilor McKeown commented the Boys and Girls Club is helping build a better future for the community and encouraged citizens to support club.

Mayor Verger congratulated Bruce on his appointment as Coquille's city manager. Mayor Verger reported the Jazz Festival was great and she had the opportunity to crown the King. She commented on a meeting with Brady Adams, President of the Senate, and reported that not a great deal of change is expected in the 1999 Legislature.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to March 31, 1998 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Joanne Verger
Mayor of the City of Coos Bay

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Coos County, Oregon

ATTEST:

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