

# **MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**April 7, 1998**

The minutes of the proceedings of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning with a special meeting at 6:30 p.m., continuing to a work session at 7 p.m. and proceeding to a regular session in the Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m.

## **Those Present**

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger, Councilors Joe Benetti, Jeff McKeown, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. Cindi Miller was absent. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Library Director Carol Ventgen, Acting Community Services Director Steve Doty Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Fire Chief Stan Gibson.

## **Introduction of Finance Director**

City Manager Bill Grile introduced Janell Howard as the new finance director as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Howard said she is excited to join the team and expects the transition to be smooth.

## **Discussion About STEP Issues with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Tom Rumreich, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, reported the STEP program began in Coos County 18 years ago as a small operation with eggs from other areas. The facility has developed into an organization of 7,000 volunteers and has a plan to release a large number of chinook in Isthmus Slough. Other areas considered for expansion were Davis, Catching, Shinglehouse and Coalbank Sloughs. During the mid-season evaluation the decision was made not to release in these other areas and the eggs were destroyed. Mr. Rumreich explained the National Marine Service monitors the local activities very closely; therefore, the release of salmon must be done in a conservative manner. The unfed small fry could be perceived as a problem for the coho. Other things have been done to mitigate for the loss of the fish such as development of the incubator system which would increase the number of chinook from 7,000 to 76,000 annually. Mr. Rumreich reaffirmed the STEP program is alive and functioning. Mr. Rumreich reviewed plans for a fishery at the city dock with fish from Blossom Gulch Creek. Councilor Spangler asked what the City needed to do to get the facility on the dock. Mr. Rumreich reported the logistics and liability aspects needed to be addressed.

Mayor Verger welcomed Representative Mike Lehman to the meeting. Mayor Verger commented that California put together a plan in six weeks and it was accepted, while Oregon has taken much longer. Mr. Rumreich commented the coho plan is quite lengthy and the steelhead supplement was successful in not being listed as endangered, although cutthroat and chinook have yet to be done. Frank Williams indicated he wanted to address the Council and Mayor Verger noted he had done so at the previous meeting, and tonight was to hear the other side. Mr. Williams said he did not agree with the destruction of the three million eggs and believes the fry program is working. Mayor Verger asked Mr. Williams what he wanted from the Council and Mr. Williams said he wanted the Council's support for the STEP program.

## **WORK SESSION**

### **Department Head Report**

## **Council Minutes — April 7, 1998**

Carol Ventgen, Library Director, reported the children's program is doing very well with 220 taking part in the Around the Library in 80 Days, and reported on upcoming programs. Ms. Ventgen reported the annual volunteer luncheon was held recently, honor society students from Marshfield High School helped with the birthday celebration for Dr. Seues, and the library is applying for a discount program under the federal telecommunication act. She reported the Friends of the Library are helping with the building project and looking for space to hold their used book sales and store library furnishings during the construction.

### **Other Discussion**

Mayor Verger reviewed the agenda and Mr. Grile noted Ron deRondon-Pos has approached the City about using the dock for providing cruises on the bay. He is requesting improvements such as power, water, sanicans and placement of a ticket booth on the dock. Mr. Grile commented room tax funds could be used for the improvements. There was discussion of the cost of building restrooms in the area, and that the Council have the opportunity to review the plans for the ticket booth. Mr. Grile reviewed the water easement request from the water board, noting the request should have the City Council authorizing the easement.

Mr. Grile reported the Community Services Department is in need of upgrading their computer system; the system is old and the program is no longer maintained by the company. Mr. Grile commented the upgrade would be funded from the building codes user fees. Mayor Verger questioned the need to upgrade and Councilor McKeown suggested looking into leasing. Mr. Grile commented the new system is efficient and allows the staff to obtain information quickly. He further noted the department is working with fewer staff and doing more work. Councilor Benetti supported upgrading the system.

Mr. Grile reported the issue at 444 10<sup>th</sup> Court is before the Council again to determine whether the building is a dangerous building.

## **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 proclamations for Arbor Week and Boys and Girls Club Month. Mayor Verger moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye. Mayor Verger read the proclamations to the assembly.

### **Approval of Shoreside Facilities for Tour Boat at the City Dock**

Ron deRonden-Pos reported he has built a 60' 100 passenger boat for the purpose of giving tours of the bay, and is asking for improvements to the dock and permission for placement of a ticket booth. There was discussion of the power needed, the distance the tour would be, and funding possibilities for the restrooms. Mr. Grile reported the restroom project has been shelved for the time being because of the cost. Councilor McKeown commented the ticket booth should be consistent with the boardwalk and restrooms should be built at a future time. Councilor Benetti moved to approve the ticket booth and improvements. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting

## **Council Minutes — April 7, 1998**

aye.

### **Authorization to Relinquish Water Main Easement on Vacated Portion of California Street**

Mr. Grile reported the water board has asked for an easement on a vacated portion of California Street and he recommended approval of the quitclaim deed. Councilor Weeks moved to approve the quitclaim deed. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Approval to Upgrade Permit System Software**

Acting Community Services Director Steve Doty reported staff has looked into other companies for providing the software for a permit system and the other company could not guarantee the transfer of information to the new program. The recommendation is to go with Tidemark for the upgrade and includes training for staff and upgrading the slower computers in the office. Mr. Grile pointed out that staying with the old system is a gamble and if it goes, there are only two staff people with DOS program knowledge. Councilor Benetti recommended going with the new program rather than risk staying with the old system. He further noted that leasing software is not done, and since staff has been cut, the City must be more efficient in providing service. Mayor Verger expressed concern on the amount of money being spent. City Attorney Tosh commented the City is buying the use of the software; a license to use the program. Mr. Doty reported they have been happy with the current program. Councilor Benetti commented that if staff has researched the program thoroughly, it looks like Tidemark is the best, and noted this has been talked about for the past year. Councilor Weeks moved to accept staff's recommendation to select Tidemark for the software program. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which carried with Mayor Verger and Councilor McKeown voting no, and all other Councilors present voting aye.

### **Public Hearing — Determination of Dangerous Building at 444 10<sup>th</sup> Court**

Mayor Verger opened the public hearing on 444 10<sup>th</sup> Court. Rene Freiden, 484 10<sup>th</sup> Court, reported the entire neighborhood is requesting the City either tear down the building or board it up. She said dogs are kept in the house and children play in the area. Ms. Frieden explained they understand the situation is difficult for Mrs. Davis, but something must be done for the health and safety of her and the neighbors. Geno Landrum, North Bend, said the clean up has been slowed down because of the weather and the legal issue. He reported the property is again in Mrs. Davis' name and he has been in communication with a number of organizations to help resolve the matter.

Mr. Grile noted staff is on record that the garbage needs to be removed before an inspection can be made of the structure. Councilor Spangler expressed concern for Mrs. Davis' safety. Councilor McKeown inquired if Mrs. Davis has applied to any of the agencies for help and Mr. Landrum said she must be the property owner to qualify, so not a lot has been done yet. Mr. Landrum asked the Council to give the volunteers two months to do the work on the property. Councilor Benetti said the Council sympathizes with Mrs. Davis, however, the situation has been going on since November of last year. Julia Spangler, Coos Bay, stated the underlying problem of the house being in terrible condition is due to the lady having a mental problem, and even if the house is completely cleared out, she would do the same thing again.

There being no further comments to be heard, Mayor Verger closed the public hearing. Mayor Verger expressed appreciation for the compassion shown to Mrs. Davis and noted the Council has given ample time for the situation to be abated. Mayor Verger further commented the house is not safe and the Council should move forward, and suggested a date be set for completion of the clean up. The City Attorney reviewed the resolution before the Council. Mr. Grile commented the building could not be inspected until

## **Council Minutes — April 7, 1998**

the garbage is removed. Councilor Spangler suggested the City do the clean and lien the property. Councilor Stufflebean noted previously December 18<sup>th</sup> had been the deadline and suggested they be given 14 days to clean up the property. Mr. Tosh reported the lien would be done only after the clean up was done and the City would not receive the money unless the property was sold. Mayor Verger suggested April 30, 1998 as the deadline. City Manager Grile commented the real problem is the garbage and he suggested the words *or have it demolished* be removed from the resolution, and if the buildings were to be demolished, staff would bring the matter back to the Council for action.

Mayor Verger moved to adopt Resolution 98-2 with the wording *having appeared OR all interested parties* removed, the date of April 30, 1998 inserted in paragraphs four and five, and to strike the words *or have it demolished* in paragraphs four and five. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Public Comments**

Geno Landrum congratulated Steve Doty on appointment as Acting Community Services Director.

### **City Attorney's Report**

Mr. Tosh reported the Englewood local improvement districts ordinance and assessment contracts are being worked on and he will be providing the Council with a memo regarding options for public access TV.

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

Mr. Grile briefly reviewed the decision of whether to require driveway aprons be paved and distributed pictures of the affects gravel has on pavement. He reported ODOT is studying the parking and circulation plan and should be communicating with the City shortly. Mr. Grile distributed and reviewed the memo and job opening announcement for the Community Services Director position. He reminded the Council of the meeting with the County Commissioners scheduled for 6 p.m on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the scoping meeting in North Bend on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Mayor and Council Comments**

**Councilor McKeown** suggested the City do what is necessary to place the aquarium on the boardwalk. He commented once the SWOYA facility is completed it will be a great asset to the community and commended Leslie Davis and City staff for their work on the Block Grant application.

**Councilor Weeks** announced Coos Curry Douglas Regional Strategies has approved a \$100,000 grant to help with the environmental impact study for the Bonneville power line.

**Councilor Benetti** congratulated Janell Howard on her appointment as finance director and invited everyone to attend the Rotary auction on the 18th.

**Councilor Stufflebean** welcomed Jannell Howard and reported the public access TV board did not have a quorum at their last meeting so no business was conducted.

**Councilor Spangler** reported the next OCZMA meeting will be held in Coos Bay at the Red Lion on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and recommended moving forward quickly with the aquarium on the boardwalk.

**Mayor Verger** commented on the importance of attending the scoping meetings to show support for building the power transmission lines. She expressed concern about the cancellation of the Memorial Day parade and wanted to be sure the City did all they could to support the parade. Mr. Grile reported discussing

**Council Minutes — April 7, 1998**

the matter with Bill Rugh who indicated there were a number of factors that lead to the cancellation. Councilor Weeks reported the Democratic Central Committee voted to give the veterans the \$300 needed for insurance for the Memorial Day parade. She further reported attending the veterans meeting and was told it was not the money, but the lack of enough people to put the parade together.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to April 8, 1998 at 6 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