

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

May 5, 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.

Those Present

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

WORK SESSION

Other Discussion

Mayor Verger stated that agenda items 4 and 5, Ordinance Nos. 252 and 253 establishing maximum indebtedness for the City's urban renewal districts and selecting the option for collection of the ad valorem taxes for the City's urban renewal plans, needed to be removed from this evening's agenda until a public hearing could be scheduled. Mayor Verger reviewed the consent calendar and asked if anyone had an item for discussion. Councilor Stufflebean inquired about the process for licensing businesses for OLCC and Chief Knight stated the department follows the criteria set forth in City ordinances. Mayor Verger noted a correction to page 36 of the March 17, 1998 minutes, under the Community Development Block Grant public hearing, it should read the County has the highest unemployment rate in 13 years. Mayor Verger asked who would be responsible for naming the downtown historic district and City Manager Bill Grile recommended sending the matter to the Planning Commission for review of the proposed boundary and zoning property development standards. He further commented the Council would review the recommendation and take public comments.

Councilor McKeown suggested a resolution be drafted requesting Weyerhaeuser and Nucor continue negotiating an agreement. Mayor Verger reported Rhonda Houston had spoken at the previous council meeting about her concerns at the Pacific Empire Motel and that she told Ms. Houston she could be on the agenda at a future meeting with the owner of the motel present. Mayor Verger said she also spoke with the owner, Stan Whipple, and he is unavailable for this evening and would reschedule. Mayor Verger reviewed a letter from North Bend Mayor Timm Slater regarding the Automated Service Observing System at the airport, and requested Council discuss the matter when more information is available.

Department Head Report

Fire Chief Stan Gibson reported the burn to learn of the old skating rink on North Bayshore was a success and that a number of agencies, from Reedsport to Coquille, had participated in the burn. Chief Gibson complimented fire department staff for an excellent job on business fire inspection violations, and reminded everyone of the free hazardous waste dump set for May 16th at K-Mart from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Chief Gibson commented the department is preparing a brochure about tsunami emergency preparedness for the citizens of Coos Bay. Mayor Verger asked if a code could be implemented using the fire alarm to alert

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the citizens of Coos Bay in case of a sunami. Chief Gibson responded people would get confused if the fire alarm was used and suggested a separate alarm system be looked into.

COUNCIL MEETING

Flag Salute

Mayor Verger opened the meeting and asked the Boy Scout troop present to lead the assembly in the flag salute.

Consent Calendar

Mayor Verger read the consent calendar which consisted of the approval of the minutes of March 17 and 31, 1998, adoption of Resolution 98-4 supporting Bonneville Power Administration completion of the environmental impact statement for the proposed transmission line, adoption of Resolution 98-5 accepting and appropriating a grant from Department of Land Conservation and Development for periodic review, approval of annual renewals for OLCC licenses, and May as fitness and sports month proclamation. Councilor Spangler moved to approve the consent calendar with the correction to the minutes. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye. Mayor Verger read the proclamation to the assembly.

Review of the Downtown Association's Proposal to Create a Downtown Historic District

Jim Berg, President of the Downtown Business Association, reviewed the Downtown Association's recommendation for establishing a downtown historic district and explained the use of signage and kiosks in the area. Councilor Spangler suggested the Association set restrictions and covenants, and present signage ideas to the Council. Councilor Stufflebean commented that Front Street should be included in the historic district. City Manager Grile commented that the City has a professional architect working on specific design standards and concepts specifically for Front Street. Councilor Spangler commented the Design Review Board should review the plans before the Planning Commission. Mayor Verger noted the intent is to have the Planning Commission and Downtown Business Association put the Historic District together with some input from the Design Review Board. Geno Landrum, downtown business owner, commented that he would not like to see a lot of restrictions and covenants on the project and suggested a town hall meeting be held.

Mayor Verger moved that the Planning Commission review the design guidelines, overlay zones, and other details for implementing the Historic District. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Verger and all Councilors McKeown, Stufflebean and Weeks voting aye, and Councilor Spangler voting no.

Review of Signage for Downtown Parking

Acting Community Services Director Steve Doty presented the new on-street parking signs with the new City logo to the Council. The consensus of the Council was to approve the white signs with the black border and writing. A map was presented to the Mayor and Councilors to indicate which City parking lots would be for public parking and which ones would require permits. Councilor Stufflebean moved that the Council accept the parking signs with the changes to Lots 1 and 9, adding the permit parking. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

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Presentation by Rhonda Houston Regarding Empire Community Issues

Not present.

Public Comments

Helen Cruckshank, 448 10th Court, asked the City Council how much time the City would allow the homeowner on North 10th Court to clean up the property. City Manager Grile stated that the neighbors have put up with far more than they should and the Council will discuss how to proceed on this matter in Executive Session. Sargent Webster, North Bend, commented on his feelings regarding the code compliance of the Bay Area Rescue Mission and stated the small church inside does not meet City requirements. Councilor Spangler commented the church is having a positive influence for the Empire area. Pastor Ellis, Bay Area Rescue Mission, thanked the Mayor and Councilors for looking after the best interests of the Mission. Pastor Ellis commented there will always be controversy about the Mission and he has tried to relocate the facility. Ralph Larson, Coos Bay, commented that the majority of cities have places such as the mission in the downtown area, but not on a main street. Councilor McKeown stated that people always feel there is no good place for a mission, but it is a necessity. He does sympathize with the other owners, however there is no easy solution.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Grile passed out a written report to the Council, and commented on the use of the City's WEB page and the number of people who visit the site. Mr. Grile complimented Steve Doty on a great job with the new City signs.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor McKeown thanked Steve Doty and stated he would like to see the resolution on the next Council agenda.

Councilor Stufflebean complimented staff on the new signs and stated his support for the resolution.

Councilor Spangler mentioned the problems at the North Bend airport with finances.

Executive Session

The City Council met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (d) purpose of consulting with legal council regarding labor negotiations

The Council Reconvened into Regular Session

City Manager Grile reported the city attorney would draft an agreement for the clean up on North 10th Court.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to May 19, 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:

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