

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

June 2, 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 interviews for Library Board appointments at 6 p.m., and proceeding to a work session at 7 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue.

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, Acting Community Services Director Steve Doty, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Library Director Carol Ventgen.

COUNCIL INTERVIEWS

The Mayor and City Councilors interviewed Tom Bennett, Celisa Buford, and Bruce Locker for consideration of appointment to the Coos Bay Library Board. Other applicants not present for interviews due to prior commitments were Renee Nelson and Josie Ried.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Verger asked that approval to apply to the Ford Family Foundation for a \$100,000 grant for the library be added to the agenda, and noted a correction on page 56 to the minutes in the spelling of Marci Shire's name. City Attorney Tosh noted a correction to Resolution 98-8 reference to ORS should read 294.36 (3). Councilor Spangler inquired how the building permit fees not collected on a city project would be made up in the fund. Councilor Stufflebean commented the general fund would need to reimburse the City should pay the fees. Councilor McKeown noted it is a city project and we shouldn't charge ourselves. Councilor Stufflebean pointed out the building codes program is self-supporting, depending on the fees collected to sustain the program. Councilor McKeown commented this would not be the only city project and suggested the city be consistent with all projects. Councilor Weeks noted the fees totaled \$3,100. City Manager Grile said its a fund accounting issue and would require transfer of \$3,100 from the general fund to the building fund. Mr. Tosh reported the Council has the authority to waive the fees.

Mr. Grile reported a portion of Hemlock Avenue was vacated last August and recently Attorney John Whitty had raised a question regarding the vacated right of way and requested a property line adjustment deed. Mr. Tosh noted an ordinance was necessary to correct the legal description. Councilor Spangler asked if it was appropriate for the Council to give away city property. Mr. Tosh commented it is not a separate lot and parcel so property is not being surplussed, merely an adjustment to the property line is being made. Mr. Grile reported Ordinance No. 256 changes the definition of fire marshal appointing the fire chief as fire marshal, and Ordinance No. 257 clarifies the definition of watercraft. Mayor Verger commented the dedication of the John Topits Park has been scheduled for July 1st. Mayor Verger asked Council support for changing the publishing of the City News from four to three times a year, March, July, and November, and requested consideration for funding all three issues. She commented this would save publication costs as well as freeing staff during the busy time of the year. Councilor Miller commented three issues would be easier for selling ads. Councilor Spangler expressed concern for Councilor Miller's time to sell the ads.

COUNCIL MEETING

Flag Salute

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

Department Head Report

Library Director Carol Ventgen reported the Library Board and staff have been busy with the building project. She commented the Board is looking at ways to raise funds for furniture and equipment and staff has been reviewing materials and disposing of old items. Ms. Ventgen said the last book sale in the current auditorium will be held this weekend and it will be huge. She reported 26 boxes of books were donated by Captain James White's family, and the Board is still searching for storage space to use during the construction period. Ms. Ventgen reported Curt Benward was re-elected Chair and Judy Lovell as Vice-Chair of the Board. She reported the Library has been offered to share a grant with the education district for a video workstation for teleconferencing.

Consent Calendar

Mayor Verger read the consent calendar which consisted of approval of the minutes of May 19, 1998, approval of the Library District agreement, appointment to the Coos Library Board, approval of OLCC license renewals, approve of transfer of funds within the Fire Department budget, and adoption of Resolution 98-8 accepting and appropriating traffic safety grants funds; noting corrections to page 56 of the minutes and Resolution 98-8. Councilor Miller moved to approve the consent calendar as corrected. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Appointments to the Coos Bay Library Board

Mayor Verger commented the applicants for consideration for appointment to the Library Board were all excellent. She reported Tom Bennett and Celisa Buford were appointed to the Board. Tom Bennett received votes from Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti, McKeown, Miller, Spangler, and Weeks. Celisa Buford received votes from Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti, McKeown, Spangler, Stufflebean, and Weeks. Bruce Locker received votes from Councilors Miller and Stufflebean.

Ford Family Foundation

Library Director Carol Ventgen reported the Library Board has been seeking funding for items not funded in the library expansion project. Ms. Ventgen asked for approval of the application to the Ford Family Foundation for a \$100,000 grant and approval for application to other granting agencies. Councilor McKeown asked what the funds would be spent on and Ms. Ventgen responded the funds were not earmarked for particular items, but some items under consideration were a book security system and a self-check unit. Mr. Grile reported the bids had been received for the library project but at this point he is not prepared to make a recommendation until the bids are reviewed further. Mayor Verger moved to authorize approval of the grant application to the Ford Family Foundation and applications to other granting agencies. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Community Service Recognition Awards

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Chief Gibson reported the Fire and Community Services Departments had provided for a hazardous waste and tire drop off on May 16th. He noted the tire drop off was coordinated with the City of Coquille and an estimated 10,000 tires were collected. Chief Gibson commended Debbie Erler on organizing the event and local businesses for their contributions. Chief Gibson reported the Oregon National Guard had come to drop materials off and stayed to help with personnel and equipment. He presented Sgt Heathcock with a certificate and expressed the City's appreciation for their help. Stg Heathcock commented they were happy to help and would like to be included in future events. Chief Gibson reported the success of the event was helped greatly by local businessman Les Golbek of Les' Sanitary Service. M.r Golbek commented he was happy to help and it was a big job. A representative from K-Mart was not available to receive their certificate and Chief Gibson thanked them for the use of their parking lot.

Briefing by Mayor Timm Slater Regarding the North Bend Airport

Mayor Timm Slater, Council President Clair Jones and City Administrator Gary Marks were in attendance. Mayor Slater reviewed a plan to upgrade the airport through a six-year taxing district. He commented many of the assets are at the end of their useful life and the taxing district would replace equipment, provide needed maintenance, and pay for personnel. Mayor Slater reviewed airport safety, operations, security, and weather service requirements. He commented the airport is an investment in the future of the whole area, not just North Bend.

Mayor Verger commented there is no doubt about the importance of the airport today and in the future. She complimented North Bend on the business park development. Councilor McKeown asked what the procedure was for establishing a taxing district. Mayor Slater responded a proposal must be submitted to the County Commissioners who will then hold a public hearing about the district, boundaries are set, and then the matter goes to the general election. Councilor Weeks expressed support for the airport taxing district. Councilor Benetti commented on the importance of having airport service and supported the formation of the district. Councilor Stufflebean also expressed support of the district. Councilor Spangler asked if the airport is a liability to the city why not turn it over to a governing body. Mayor Slater replied that maybe it was a liability from time to time, but with the district there is an opportunity make improvements to the facility and run in the black. There was further discussion of how a board would run the facility and who the board would answer to. Councilor Spangler commented the airport is a great benefit to Coos County and suggested the taxing district be for the whole county. Mayor Slater said the airport is a regional aspect and does not have much support in the south part of the county. Councilor Benetti commented the City of North Bend has put a large investment in the airport over the years which has benefitted everyone, and the focus should be on working together as a community. Councilor McKeown expressed support for the airport taxing district as beneficial to the whole area and appreciated the efforts North Bend has put forth. Mayor Slater thanked the Council for the opportunity to present this matter.

Authorization to Waive Permit Fees for the Mingus Pool Project

Councilor Miller moved to waive the fees except for the State surcharge. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion. Councilor Stufflebean questioned the accounting of the money to the building program fund. Consensus was to transfer funds when needed. The question was called and the motion passed with Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti, McKeown, Miller, Spangler, and Weeks voting aye; and Councilor Stufflebean voting no.

Vacation of a Portion of Hemlock Avenue — Ordinance No. 255

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City Attorney Tosh explained the amendment is to correct the legal description because half of the right of way had been dedicated last August. Councilor Spangler questioned whether the Council could give away city property. Mr. Tosh said this is a vacation and a property line adjustment and not surplussing property. Deputy Recorder Jansen read the ordinance by title only and the Council was polled with the following results:

Voting Aye: Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti, McKeown, Miller, Spangler, Stufflebean, and Weeks
Voting No: None
Absent: None

Councilor Benetti moved to authorize the execution of the property line adjustment deed. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion. Councilor Spangler commented the city should be compensated for the property. Mr. Grile reported the property is approximately 4800 square feet and it was thought it had been vacated, and would in effect give the city owned property to a private citizen. Mayor Verger asked what the value of the property was to the city. Mr. Tosh said an appraisal is done as part of the procedure for surplussing city owned property. Mr. Grile reported a question about the title was brought up by Attorney John Whitty and Mr. Whitty is the one requesting the property line adjustment to remove a cloud on the title. Councilor Weeks commented a 30' x 160' parcel is not big enough to build on and the Beckhams have owned the abutting property for a long time. Mr. Tosh said the city actually owns the property and it is a choice of the Council to make. The strip was originally kept by the city to be used as a street. Councilor McKeown commented it was previously the Council's intent to vacate the street, the strip is not buildable, and he suggested the Council move along.

The question was called and the motion passed with Councilors Benetti, McKeown, Miller, Stufflebean, and Weeks voting aye; Mayor Verger and Councilor Spangler voting no.

Amendment to Ordinance No. 239 Section 5 Definition for Fire Marshal Ordinance No. 256

City Manager Grile explained the amendment would reassign the Fire Marshal duties to the Fire Chief. Deputy Recorder Jansen read the ordinance by title only and the Council was polled with the following results:

Voting Aye: Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti, McKeown, Miller, Spangler, Stufflebean, and Weeks
Voting No: None
Absent: None

Amendment to Ordinance No. 248 Section 2 Definition for Watercraft Ordinance No. 257

City Manager Grile explained the amendment is to clarify the definition for watercraft in the ordinance. Deputy Recorder Jansen read the ordinance by title only and the Council was polled with the following results:

Voting Aye: Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti, McKeown, Miller, Spangler, Stufflebean, and

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	Weeks
Voting No:	None
Absent:	None

Public Comments

Stan Whipple, owner of Pacific Empire Hotel, said he thought he was to be on the agenda this evening to speak about problems in the Empire District. He commented there are serious problems with drugs and vandalism in the area, and they have gotten some help from the police and other city departments, but there needs to be more. Mr. Whipple said he must patrol his property, has watched drug activity in the tavern next door, and then reported on a problem his manager had with a customer who refused to pay for a room. He reviewed past programs of having a police foot patrol and a police bicycle patrol which were discontinued; and noted the police substation is unmanned. Mr. Whipple again asked for more help from the city to resolve the problems.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Grile reported he and the Mayor would be attending the National League of Cities Affordable Housing Conference in Eugene this week. He noted this is a League funded program accepted by Coos Bay, Grants Pass, and Gresham, and would be a structured dialog addressing affordable housing. Mr. Grile reported the Front and Ingersoll project bids were in and would be presented to the Urban Renewal Agency. He commented the city recently learned that three main affected property owners are not in support of the east portion of the project. A meeting has been scheduled for next week with the property owners.

Mr. Grile reported Finance Director Janell Howard gave birth to a son, Geoffrey Richard Howard, Sunday evening and she will be reporting to work mid-July.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Spangler thanked Mayor Slater for making a presentation to the Council about the airport. He reported he would be attending the OCZMA meeting on June 18th in Newport. Councilor Spangler thanked Debbie Erler for putting together the tire drop off event.

Councilor Stufflebean reported the public access TV board would be meeting Wednesday at 7 p.m. and again on Saturday for a goal setting session. He said the board would be making a presentation to both city councils in the near future, and commented the City of North Bend desires to be involved with public access but they want more communication between the board and the city.

Councilor Benetti reported Bev Saukko has been hired as the director for the Tourism Promotions Committee and will begin on June 15th.

Councilor Miller expressed support for the airport district and encouraged everyone to help pass the formation of the district. She reported the Governor's Conference on Tourism will be held in Coos Bay next April and commented there are many things citizens can do to prepare the area for the conference. She invited anyone interested in helping to call her.

Councilor Weeks reported she is now a graduate of the Rural Development Futures Program which teaches leadership, communication and facilitating skills. She expressed disappointment that the pool house measure went down, and expressed support for the airport district.

Councilor McKeown thanked Chris Guernsey and Sharon Thomas for their service on the Library Board. He expressed sympathy for those affected by the recent event at Thurston High School in Springfield and commented it is important to express abhorrence for this kind of action.

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Mayor Verger reported the advisory vote regarding enactment of a smoking ordinance will be on the July 7th council agenda. She commented a number of people have been asking about a council decision on the vote and noted the vote was almost a 50-50 split. Mayor Verger thanked Chris Guernsey and Sharon Thomas for their service on the Library Board and congratulated Tom Bennett, Celisa Buford, and Delores Durringer on their appointments.

Executive Session

The City Council met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(1)(d) for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding fire and police labor negotiations.

The Council reconvened into regular session at 10:50 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to June 16, 1998 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

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