

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

October 26, 1998

The minutes of the proceedings of a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, at 5:30 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Present

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger, Councilors Joe Benetti, Cind Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. Councilor Jeff McKeown was absent due to back surgery recovery. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Community Services Director Bill Finney, Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Fire Chief Stan Gibson. Mary Hopkin of the The World newspaper was also in attendance.

Adoption of Interim Operating Guidelines for the Government Access Channel

City Attorney Randall Tosh reported the government access channel will be on the air soon on Channel 14 and a letter has been sent to Falcon Cable notifying them of the change. Mr. Tosh explained interim operating guidelines were necessary and noted other things could be added to the guidelines such as a community bulletin board. City Manager Bill Grile commented the agreement includes a \$10 fee for airing other government agencies material. Councilor Benetti suggested the fee of \$10 per hour otherwise someone could use the whole day for \$10. Mr. Tosh commented the guidelines are temporary and the programmer would decide when tapes would be aired, and in the future an independent committee and a Joint TV Commission would oversee the programming. There was further discussion regarding the \$10 fee and the inclusion of a community bulletin board using the Chamber of Commerce events calendar and the Tourism and Promotions Committee.

Councilor Miller moved to adopt the interim guidelines with an amendment to include subsection 2a) for a \$10 per hour fee and 2b) for establishing use of a community bulletin board for local non-profit events and events of general community interest. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Ratification of the AFSCME Union Contract

City Manager Bill Grile commended City Attorney Randall Tosh on his work with the AFSCME union contract. Mr. Grile reviewed the cost of the contract as \$17,527 the first year, \$54,940 the second year, and \$87,941 the third year, and noted employees will be contributing 10 percent of the health insurance premium. Mayor Verger expressed concern about the burden on taxpayers if salary increases continue to be given and noted public employees have more holidays and better benefits than private sector employees. Councilor Benetti commented if the matter went to arbitration there is no way the arbitrator would agree to a freeze. Councilor Spangler noted the contract is a settlement on a non-arbitrating situation. Mayor Verger commented she is more sympathetic to AFSCME, however, there is a strong resistance among City employees to accept the City's economic situation. City Attorney Tosh commented the settlement is close to the Portland CPI and AFSCME did take a freeze last year and will be picking of a portion of their insurance premium.

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Councilor Spangler commented the other two unions are asking for higher raises. Mr. Grile reported Police and Fire Unions have declined to accept a settlement at this level and they both received 5 and 6 percent increases last year when AFSCME received none. Councilor Benetti suggested approving the contract and deal with funding during the budget process.

Mayor Verger moved to meet in executive session. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Executive Session

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

Reconvene in Regular Session

Mayor Verger moved to ratify the AFCSME contract effective July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2001. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to at 6:15 p.m.

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