

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

January 29, 1999

The minutes of the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning at 3 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Present

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger, Councilors Joe Benetti, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, and Judy Weeks. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, Community Services Director Bill Finney, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Library Director Carol Ventgen.

Economic Development Forum

Mayor Verger welcomed the guest speakers, Senator Veral Tarno, Representative Ken Messerle, Representative Mike Lehman, elected officials from neighboring cities, and the audience to the second economic development forum meeting. The invited speakers represent various agencies in the area currently involved in economic development.

Martin Callery, Marketing Director for the Port of Coos Bay and Co-chair of the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee, explained the economic development committee meets once a month to review current projects in the area, determines the help they need and facilitates coordination of those needs with other agencies. Mr. Callery explained the Vision 2006 document and the project to develop a Bay Area Economic Development WEB page. Mr. Callery reported recruitment has been done with a team approach and includes the whole county.

Allan Rumbaugh, Manager of the International Port of Coos Bay, explained the marketing strategy of the Port which includes marketing the port, pursuing leads, and sponsoring of economic development projects such as Nucor. Mr. Rumbaugh expressed the importance of forming partnerships among all the entities to better utilize our resources, and the development of infrastructure in the area. Mr. Rumbaugh reported the Port would continue pursuing recruitment of small businesses for the airport business park and Charleston ship yard.

Chris Claflin, State Economic Development Department, explained the purpose of his office is to provide assistance in business development. Mr. Claflin reported the Community Solutions Team helps resolve problems and coordinate information and requirements for local development. The team assists in the design of projects and coordinates the partnership of other local agencies. His office also responds to inquiries about the area.

Tim Bishop, Chair of FONSI, reported one of the things necessary for industrial development is power. Mr. Bishop explained the natural gas pipeline project currently being proposed by FONSI which will be presented to the voters in September. A \$40 million bond is being recommended to bring the pipeline from I5 to the area. Studies have been performed regarding the projected economic impact to the area and a meeting will be held for the public next week.

Loran Wiese, Director of the Coos County Economic Development, explained his office responds to development inquiries, works with the County Urban Renewal, Enterprise Zone Area, and Business Development Center. Mr. Wiese reported the office does not recruit businesses but does help referrals with contacts with other agencies. He also supported the natural gas pipeline project and forming partnerships with local agencies.

Beve Saukko, Director of Tourism Promotions, reported an increase in bringing events and

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conventions to the area. Ms. Saukko commented an estimated \$120 per day is spent by each conference attendee. The Promotions Committee operates from two percent of the seven percent room tax. She does extensive advertising and responds to all inquiries.

Roy Feitz, Southwestern Business Development Center, explained the center was formed 15 years ago and is primarily a resource center to assist business owners in developing resources on their own. The services include helping businesses develop a business plan, develop ways to improve their business, and provide counseling and business courses free of charge.

Representative Mike Lehman supports the development of the natural gas pipeline and is working on funding; he noted that transportation is a high priority and infrastructure must be in place for development to occur. Rep. Lehman commented the area has a lot going for it especially in terms of livability and suggested growth be done in such a way as to maintain a high standard of livability.

Senator Veral Tarno commented Salem is aware of the needs of the Bay Area and there are positive things on the horizon. He supports the gas pipeline and expressed concerns about the way the Transportation Department conducts business with cities.

Representative Ken Messerle commented he is impressed with what citizens are doing and the spirit of working together. Rep. Messerle reported the rest of the state does not see Coos Bay - North Bend as a population center. He noted our biggest asset is the port and there is a lot of potential to develop business through the port. Rep. Messerle also expressed concern about state agencies' attitude of authority and noted there may be some restructuring of state departments.

Mayor Verger thanked the panelists and legislators for their comments. She noted a third economic forum would be scheduled in the near future.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to February 2, 1999 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of 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