

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 29, 1999

The minutes of the proceedings of a special meeting of the Coos Bay City Council Economic Forum held on March 29, 1999 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room at the International Port of Coos Bay's Office, 125 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon.

Those Present

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger and Councilors Joe Benetti, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks; guests attending were Bill Lansing, Loran Wiese, Tim Bishop, Nikki Whitty, John Stephens, Andy Nasburg, Kathi Joy, Jon Richards, Allan Rumbaugh, Pete Johnson, Greg Stevens, Larry Hink, Timm Slater, Rod Stalcup, John Sweet, and Martin Callery. City staff attending were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, and Community Services Director Bill Finney.

Call the Meeting to Order

Mayor Verger called the meeting to order and City Manager Grile proceeded with a Local Economic Development 101 Pop Quiz which is attached hereto and made of part of thereby.

Mayor Verger commented on the need for partnership between local government and private industry to create jobs in the community, and the purpose of the Economic Forum meetings is to determine the City of Coos Bay's role. Councilor Spangler suggested government's role is to provide the infrastructure and business atmosphere. Bill Lansing commented government must take the leadership role in economic development and with adequate funding on a long-term basis. Allan Rumbaugh noted the need for properties that serve industry, such as industrial parks. Martin Callery commented if this area is going to compete for business adequate power and gas must be available. Greg Stevens noted that a lot of resources are already being spent on economic development and suggested everyone working on this should fall into the plan and pool the effort and resources.

John Stephens said it is important to target small business opportunities for placement in facilities already available. Kathi Joy commented the focus seems to be to bring in outside business to save the local economy, but we need to look at businesses already established and ask how we can help them. She reported tourism has been flat for the last three years and it is only a segment of our economy. Timm Slater commented all segments of the economy are necessary if we are to be successful. Joe Benetti noted that tourism alone will not save a community. Jon Richards suggested broadening manufacturing and production such as computers and electronics. He reported the college business center provides training to help people establish and run their businesses. Allan Rumbaugh briefly explained the purpose of foreign trade zones as an incentive to businesses and noted we have a trade zone but it is not active at this point. Martin Callery reported the trade zone will be expanded to include the airport business park and already includes our marine terminals. He noted that Klamath Falls and Medford also have trade zones established. Councilor Weeks reported on funding and programs available from CCD to small businesses. Rod Stalcup commented the other ports in Oregon are full and it would be a good time to go after business for the Port of Coos Bay.

Allan Rumbaugh commented on the New Carissa incident and noted some of the coverage was negative, even though it put Coos Bay on the map. Councilor McKeown commented it is important to get the word out that the beaches are clean and beautiful, and suggested development of a display using New Carissa items. He suggested the economic development effort be a unified effort, and noted we have a lot of tools available to us. Pete Johnson suggested the need for a focal point, support of FONSI's effort to bring in the natural gas pipeline, and the right person to do the recruiting. Councilor Weeks suggested reviewing

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an economic development and recruiting plan recently put together by Audrey Taylor. Allan Rumbaugh reported the Port has budgeted \$50,000 for economic development and encouraged both government and private funding. John Sweet commented he was encouraged by the Port's commitment and suggested it is time to get organized, develop a recruitment and funding plan, and define the goals. He suggested involving the port, county and city, and report be made back to the group.

Bill Lansing commended Mayor Verger for taking the leadership role and having the economic forum meetings. He suggested a blue ribbon committee be formed to establish a plan, a mission statement and goals for area wide economic development. Bill Lansing noted the city of North Bend was not in attendance; Jon Richards and Allan Rumbaugh agreed North Bend should be involved. Greg Stevens suggested reviewing models already in the works and develop our plan from them. Mayor Verger reported up to this time it has been information gathering to enable the Coos Bay City Council to determine their role in economic development. Consensus of the City Council was to form a blue ribbon committee to develop a plan and report back. Mayor Verger circulated a sign up sheet and asked anyone interested in serving on the committee to sign up.

Adjourn

There being not further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned.

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