

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

May 4, 1999

The minutes of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning at 7 p.m. with a work session in the Council Chambers and proceeding to a regular session at 7:30 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, Jeff McKeown, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. Councilor Cindi Miller was absent due to illness. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Community Services Director Bill Finney, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Capt. Jack Bushmaker, Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Library Director Carol Ventgen.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Verger reviewed the consent calendar, department head report and annual report from the Coos Art Museum. Mayor Verger commented the Parking Committee's recommendation would be reviewed and she suggested Lots G, H, I and J should not be for permit parking. Councilor Benetti said it would help if all of Bayshore was three hour parking between Curtis and Commercial Avenues. Councilor Spangler suggested considering a seasonal parking plan. Councilor Weeks commented the theory behind the Parking Committee's recommendation is to keep the plan simple. Mayor Verger said the seasonal permits would be simple and two hour lots everywhere is very simple. Councilor Stufflebean asked about the on-street parking and Councilor Weeks reported the committee decided not to make changes to the on-street parking at this time. City Manager Bill Grile reported the City has received a proposal from Diamond Parking contract for parking enforcement and if the Council is interested, staff will discuss the proposal further.

Mr. Grile reported the Community Services Department has prepared a grant for the Marine Board to build a sewer lift station at the city dock and boardwalk. Councilor McKeown inquired if a restroom could be tied in with the project and Mr. Grile reported the station may not be large enough for a restroom facility. Mr. Grile commented there is a sewer line already installed under Bayshore. Councilor Benetti said the original cost for restrooms on the boardwalk was around \$100,000. Councilor Weeks requested a report from staff on the feasibility of putting a restroom on the boardwalk.

Mayor Verger noted salary adjustments for management and non-represented employees was tabled from the previous meeting. Councilor Benetti commented the Council President had suggested the full Council be present to discuss this matter. Mayor Verger commented any adjustments for management should include the city manager as well.

Mayor Verger commented truck and trailer parking on streets and development of a truck lot has been discussed before. Mr. Grile reported staff is uneasy about using urban renewal funds for a project which would typically be taken on by the private sector and noted there is no assurance that the trucks causing the problem would use the lot. Mr. Grile reported there are serious problems on the south end of town; trucks have been parking in inappropriate places and have caused damage to the street surfaces. Councilor McKeown said some of the out of town trucking businesses use our streets to stage their trucks. Councilor Weeks expressed concern from a traffic safety point of view and the cost of damage to city streets. Mr. Grile

City Council Minutes – May 4, 1999

commented the truckers were given notice of the agenda item.

Mr. Grile explained the camera currently used by wastewater is not adequate for the City's needs and staff is recommending approval to purchase the new equipment. Mayor Verger commented the long-time practice of appointing the finance director as municipal judge has the appearance of a conflict of interest, and she suggested the Council discuss having an attorney perform the duties of municipal judge. The item was added to the agenda.

COUNCIL MEETING

Flag Salute

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

Consent Calendar

Mayor Verger reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of the approval of the March 16, 1999 and March 18, 1999 Council meeting minutes, approval of OLCC license renewals, and the Fitness and Sports Month proclamation. Councilor Benetti declared a conflict of interest in approval of the OLCC renewals and abstained from the vote. Councilor Weeks moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye. Mayor Verger read the proclamation to the assembly.

Department Head Report – Library Director Carol Ventgen

Carol Ventgen, Library Director, reported staff is preparing for closing the library after the Memorial Day holiday to allow the new shelving to be installed, interior painting to be done, and installation of the new carpeting. During the closure staff will be reorganizing the adult fiction collection, complete the new bar coding project for the self-checking system, and finish putting together the computer network. Ms. Ventgen reported the new phone system has the capacity to make public announcements which is also necessary for the emergency evacuation plan. She reported the farewell for Brian Bond was last Friday and commended Brian for his many contributions to the community through the library programs.

Annual Report from the Coos Art Museum – Helen Scully, Director

Helen Scully, Director, reported on the art museum's revised accession/deaccession procedures, and explained how the permanent collection was established and the criteria used. Ms. Scully commented the museum board concentrates on American and a number of international print makes and noted the long term objective is to remain flexible in accessing work into the museum's collection. She reported the museum has received a grant which will allow the collection to be digitized and available via the WEB. Ms. Scully explained additions to the collection are done primarily through donations and the acquisition committee meets four times a year to review and approve the pieces. She explained the process for putting together exhibits and the student art competition. Mayor Verger thanked the museum for providing the Front Street prints for the Mayor's office.

Appointment of an Attorney to be the Municipal Judge

City Council Minutes – May 4, 1999

Mayor Verger explained the municipal judge would be appointed by the Council as required in the City Charter and would be an attorney from the area. Mr. Robert King, Coos Bay, reviewed his concerns with the City and parking tickets and repeated that having the finance director serve as municipal judge is clearly a conflict of interest. Mayor Verger explained he is referring to the past and she is referring to the future. Mr. King stated the judge should be an elected position. Councilor Spangler asked Mr. King if judges receive public money should they not rule in cases where fines are levied. Mr. King commented the city's judge is a city department head and receives the funds from the fines as well as regulates the parking. Councilor Spangler explained the City Council sets the policy and staff only carries out that policy, and they do not benefit from this. Mr. King asked the Council to terminate the city manager, city attorney and finance director and warned the Council he intends to make a very big issue of this matter. Mayor Verger commented changes to the charter would have to be made by the voters and currently the City Charter states the municipal judge is appointed by the City Council.

Review and Adoption of the Parking Committee Recommendation

Mayor Verger commended the Parking Committee for doing a good job in simplifying things and agreed a free lot would be beneficial and suggested permit parking not be allowed Lots G, H, I and J during the summer months when parking is needed for tourists and visitors. Councilor McKeown commented no one is parking on the eastside of Bayshore from Anderson north. Councilor Benetti reported for many years this area was designated for employee or three hour parking. Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti and McKeown agreed the east side of Bayshore should be free parking from Curtis to Market. Trish Midyette, Parking Committee Chair, commented during the winter months it is dark when employees get off work and many of them are carrying money from their businesses, and she suggested designating some of the free parking for permit parking from Anderson north. Councilor Benetti commented there is a railing along this area and no sidewalk and the area works best for employee parking. Councilor McKeown suggested providing another free lot and make all other lots two-hour parking would keep employees from relying on moving their cars instead of buying a permit. Mayor Verger expressed concern that permit parking is allowed in the Kaffe 101 and Fiddlesticks lots taking away customer parking. Ms. Midyette suggested leaving one of these lots available for permit parking. Councilor Stufflebean commented Lot C is just as close and Councilor McKeown noted Lot D is not any further away. Councilor Spangler commented the problem would be resolved by posting the east side of Bayshore for permit parking and allowing no permit parking in Lots G, H, I and J. Councilor Benetti suggested permit parking on the east side of Bayshore from Anderson Avenue north and free parking from Anderson Avenue south. Councilor McKeown commented no one is parking on Market Avenue which is posted for 90 minute parking and suggested the west side of Market Avenue be designated as free parking. Ms. Midyette reported the Parking Committee would meet again in six months and will do two seasonal surveys for review.

Councilor Benetti moved to change all the lots to two hour permits except Lot F, make Lot D a free lot, provide free parking west of 2nd on Market Avenue, provide free parking on Bayshore south of Anderson Avenue, make Lot E a free lot, make the east side of Bayshore from north of Anderson to Market two hour permit parking, and no permit parking in Lots J, H, I, and G. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti, McKeown, Spangler, and Stufflebean voting aye. Councilor Weeks voted no.

Discussion of Proposal From Diamond Parking Services Regarding Privatization of Parking Enforcement

Chief Knight reported city staff was approached by Larry Summers of Diamond Parking with a

City Council Minutes – May 4, 1999

proposal to contract for parking enforcement in the downtown area. Staff is requesting Council authorization to pursue discussion with Diamond Parking and bring a proposal back for Council's review. Councilor Spangler moved to authorize proceeding with Diamond Parking on a proposal for parking enforcement. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Approval to Apply for a Grant from the Oregon State Marine Board for Sewer Pump-out and Dump Station

Community Services Director Bill Finney reported the grant will provide for a waste disposal facility at the city dock. Councilor Stufflebean suggested moorage fees increase for the added benefit of the facility. Councilor Spangler moved to authorize proceeding with the Marine Board grant. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Request to Adjust Salaries for Management and Non-represented Employees

City Manager Bill Grile reported he has identified six positions in the non-represented employees who in his view are not compensated equitably internally. Mayor Verger commented if a salary comparison was to be done it should be conducted with the private sector. Mr. Grile noted if directed by the Council he would do a survey. Councilor Spangler moved to increase management and non-represented salaries by two percent including the city manager. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion. Councilor Benetti inquired if this increase would be the same as awarded to the bargaining units and Mr. Grile responded if his schedule was followed, it would be the same. Councilor Spangler amended his motion to one percent plus one percent increase for management and non-represented employees including the city manager. Councilor Stufflebean amended his second and the motion passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Councilor Benetti asked what the impact would be for the special adjustments and Mr. Grile reported \$11,932 for general fund, \$935 for gas tax, \$741 for wastewater, and \$1,186 for the library for a total of \$14,794. Councilor McKeown commented it would be appropriate to do an adjustment for the city manager and suggested a five percent increase. Mr. Grile said he appreciated the confidence but could not accept a special adjustment and suggested it be spread among the department heads. There was further discussion regarding internal parity, position responsibility and work load, and the number of hours management staff works. Councilor Weeks commented all the raises are very well deserved and suggested in the future consideration be given to hiring a part time person for the manager's office. Councilor Spangler moved to grant the special adjustments. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye. Councilor McKeown moved to approve a special five percent adjustment for the city manager; the motion died for lack of a second.

Proposal to Regulate On-street Heavy Truck and Trailer Parking

Rod Stalcup of Stalcup Trucking reported cities he does business with do not allow truck and trailers to park on the streets and recommended the City take action to prohibit this practice in Coos Bay. He commented it would stimulate private industry if a truck stop was established and truckers paid to park. Mr. Stalcup recommended an ordinance eliminating on-street parking for trucks and trailers and reported a number of local businesses also supported an ordinance. Councilor Spangler asked Mr. Stalcup if such an ordinance would prohibit trucks from coming to Coos Bay and Mr. Stalcup replied they would look for places to park and they expect to pay to park. Councilor Stufflebean supported Councilor Weeks' recommendation to use Urban Renewal funds to establish a truck lot. Councilor Weeks commented there are three lots in the

City Council Minutes – May 4, 1999

south area of the City that could be considered for a truck stop. Councilor Spangler noted the project would require a plan amendment, and suggested the streets be posted for no truck parking with a follow-up review by the city manager. Councilor Stufflebean suggested proceeding with drafting an ordinance prohibiting truck parking on streets.

Councilor Spangler moved to direct the city manager to post no truck parking on City streets where appropriate. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti, Spangler and Weeks voting aye; Councilors Stufflebean and McKeown voting no. Mike McGuire, Coos County Trucking Company, commented the safety issue of sight impairment caused by trucks parking on the street should be considered. Rod Stalcup commented the community would best be served if the truck stop was done by private business. Councilor McKeown agreed and commented it would be inappropriate for the City to compete against private industry. Councilor Stufflebean moved to have staff draft an ordinance prohibiting trucks parking on City streets. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Award of Wastewater Collections Television Inspection Equipment

Mr. Grile reported the equipment is necessary for maintenance and inspection of the sewer lines and noted \$55,000 was budgeted. Councilor Benetti moved to award the bid to Municipal Supply Company in the amount of \$51,862 to purchase television inspection equipment. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Public Comments

Geno Landrum, Coos County, thanked the Council for the changes in downtown parking and expressed concern that the funds to remove the Empire island at the Y be recovered. He supported the placement of public restrooms in the downtown area. Robert King, Coos Bay, commented the city manager should not receive a raise and the manager had not done enough about his complaint against Falcon Cable. Sargent Webster, North Bend, thanked Mr. Grile for refusing a five percent pay increase. Councilor McKeown commented he believes the manager has done an excellent job for the city and deserves the increase.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Randall Tosh reported the foreclosure on outstanding liens has been paid off.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported the ODOT jurisdiction exchange has been tentatively scheduled for the June 1st Council meeting and Paul Mather of ODOT would be making the presentation. Mr. Grile displayed the Old Marshfield Historic District signs.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Weeks requested the meeting with ODOT on June 1st begin at 6:45 p.m. and asked for an update on the fishtank for the boardwalk. Mr. Grile reported staff had asked Steve Clay, architect, to review the plans and Mr. Clay reported the boardwalk would need substantial reinforcement to hold the tank. Staff had also requested Greg Solarz, engineer, to review the plans and he is in agreement with Mr. Clay. M.r

City Council Minutes – May 4, 1999

Solarz recommended a tall cylindrical tank which would cost considerably less and would be placed on piling for support. Councilor Weeks expressed disappointment in the outcome of the reports. Mr. Grile commented the City could have a serious liability problem with the current design and requested additional time to pursue another design for the tank. Councilor Weeks reported the Mingus Stage Fund is at \$1,200.36.

Councilor Spangler reported receiving a letter from Barbara Rose complementing the City on the Empire project. He asked that the City respond to requests made by citizens at Council meetings.

Councilor Stufflebean reported the next Youth at Risk Committee meeting would be May 17th, and commented the general feeling from a community meeting in North Bend is that a number of people are not in favor of Nucor. He suggested if citizens are in favor of Nucor they need to show their support. Councilor Stufflebean recommended looking at the property at Bayshore and Market for possible location of a rest stop.

Councilor McKeown reported the retirement party for Brian Bond was very nice and expressed his appreciation for Brian's years of service to the community. He reported the Livability Committee was moving forward and on schedule. Councilor McKeown asked for an update on the F Street project and Mr. Finney reported the weather has kept the contractor from finishing the paving.

Mayor Verger reported the Governor's New Carissa Committee has met and the next meeting will be held in Coos Bay on May 21st with public input taken in the afternoon. She invited all interested citizens to attend the meeting. Mayor Verger commended Brian Bond on his service to the library and community.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to May 18, 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