

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

June 17, 1999

The minutes of the proceedings of a joint work session with the City Council of the City of North Bend, held on June 17, 1999 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room at Bay Area Hospital, 1750 Thompson Road, Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon.

Those Present

Coos Bay Mayor Joanne Verger and Coos Bay City Councilors Joe Benetti, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, Kevin Stufflebean, Don Spangler, and Judy Weeks. North Bend Mayor Lee Golder and North Bend City Councilors Dale Bishop, John Briggs, Larry Garboden, Howard Graham, Janet Rubin, and Rick Wetherall. Crystal Shoji as facilitator. Staff present were Coos Bay City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, and Support Services Supervisor Linda Spence; and North Bend Interim Administrator Aaron Giesler and City Recorder Janelle Evens.

Introductions

The meeting was called to order and Mayor Golder and Mayor Verger welcomed the assembly to the meeting, and introductions of the Councilors were made. Crystal Shoji reviewed the agenda and procedure for the meeting.

Discussion of Coordinated City Clean-up

Councilor Bishop suggested both cities discuss with the Oregon Department of Transportation the possibility of paying the cities to clean up the portion of Highway 101 located within the city limits. There was discussion on how to help property owners clean up and paint their property through incentives and special funding programs. It was suggested that garbage service be mandatory and Coos Bay is currently looking into such an ordinance. Consensus was the cities need to be actively involved in helping businesses and property owners by being encouraging, developing a brochure and making personal contacts.

Sharing Information on Cities Involvement with Youth Activities

Councilor Miller reported on the Youth at Risk Committee and noted the big issues with youth are transportation, jobs, and a place to meet. Discussion of funding the public transportation system, development of a larger skateboard park, and bussing to the Boys and Girls Club followed. It was reported the City of Coos Bay also supports the youth with a donations to the Boys and Girls club and the Coos Art Museum art education program, providing School Resource Officers, Safety Town, and DARE, and partnering with the high school in producing the television program Focus. The City of North Bend's Parks and Recreation Department partners with the schools for youth programs. Councilor McKeown reported the Boys and Girls Club has a Board of Governors and it would be a good idea to have representation from both City Councils on the Board. The development of a parental responsibilities ordinance was also discussed.

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Discussion of Ambulance Service Issues

The City of Coos Bay has looked into providing ambulance service as a cost savings to citizens because 90 percent of Fire Department calls are for EMS. Other cities in Oregon have their own service; however, it would need to be a joint effort for Coos Bay and North Bend. There was discussion regarding the cost of setting up and running the service, and government taking over private business. It was noted the hospital would be a key player in this issue. Concerns about the response time of the ambulance and the City of North Bend's charge for transporting patients. Consensus was to have a joint committee study the feasibility of providing the ambulance service.

Discussion 911

Mayor Verger reported on the concern of having Coos Bay's 911 center located in downtown Coos Bay in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. She commented a number of options have been reviewed and the City is considering locating at Bay Area Hospital. Besides the location, a big advantage is the availability of emergency and back up services. Mayor Golder commented there are two issues; 911 and dispatch, and the North Bend prefers to have dispatch service on premise. Mayor Verger commented Coos Bay's decision is based on a safety issue. Councilor McKeown commented the decision should be left up to the professionals.

Update on PEG Access TV

Mayor Verger reported with government access back on the air, the decision now is whether the cities want to go out for RFPs for a non-profit organization to run public access. Discussion followed regarding the necessity of public access using a separate channel, use of cameras and equipment, and how public access would be managed. Mayor Verger suggested the cities get together about the equipment and perhaps donate the current equipment to public access. Mayor Golder commented the cities seem to be in agreement that public access be handled by a non-profit and out of the hands of local government. Consensus to have staff work out the details and prepare a joint RFP.

Summary and Wrap Up

City Cleanup. It was recommended a joint committee be formed to look in to grants and programs to help owners to paint and cleanup property.

Youth Activities. It was suggested the Youth at Risk report be made available for the City of North Bend as there are no plans to continue the committee once their task has been completed.

Ambulance Service. Consensus on the need for more information about providing the service and how to finance the service.

911 Center. Consensus the 911 Center need to be located in a safe place.

Public Access. Consensus to pursue going out for RFPs for a non-profit to run the public access channel.

Fiber Optics. Councilor Bishop commented fiber optics is very important to the area and Councilor Benetti noted Coos Bay is already moving forward on this matter.

Future Joint Meetings. Councilor McKeown commented the meeting had been very positive and suggested joint meetings be held on a regular basis.

Public Comments

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Gene Bailey, North Bend, commented by working together the community can accomplish great things; such as the hospital and community college. He urged continued communication and problem solving between the cities.

Bill Smith, North Bend, advocated getting everyone involved in cleaning up the cities and county.

Jack Goll, North Bend, commended the councils for meeting together and suggested future meetings be held for solve area problems and keeping communication lines open.

Dale Jessup, Bay Area Hospital, commented the hospital is interested in working with both cities on the ambulance and the 911 center issues. He stated in his opinion 911 and dispatch is actually one issue.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Coos Bay City Council, the meeting was adjourned to 7 p.m. on July 6, 1999.

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