

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 21, 2000

The minutes of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning at 6:30 p.m. with Council interviews in the Manager's Conference Room and proceeding with a work session at 7 p.m. and 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, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, and Kevin Stufflebean. Councilor Judy Weeks was absent. 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, Chief Stan Gibson, and Library Director Carol Ventgen.

INTERVIEW WITH THE COUNCIL

The City Council interviewed Willie Sadler, III, for consideration for appointment to the Library Board to complete an unexpired term.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Verger requested reappointment of City Council representatives to the County Urban Renewal Agency be added to the consent calendar, and noted the Marshfield High School report would be rescheduled to the next meeting and Downtown Association President Ken Larson would be giving a report on the Association's recommendation on downtown parking. City Manager Bill Grile reported staff is recommending expending the remainder of the poolhouse project funds to pay the building permit fees and for the alternates that were non-building items. Chief Chuck Knight reported the Budget Committee approved replacement of the current telephone system at city hall which was installed in 1978. A committee comprised of members from each department at city hall has reviewed the requirements for phone service and are recommending purchasing a system that will last a good many years, include digital technology and ports to handle fiber technology, and is compatible with the new system at the library. The committee's recommendation is to purchase a system from General Telephone which is the low bidder on State purchasing for a cost of approximately \$30,541. City Attorney Randall Tosh briefly reviewed the draft ordinance that would amend Ordinance No. 239 the Uniform Building Codes ordinance to clarify the sections dealing with enforcement issues, dangerous buildings, and substandard buildings.

COUNCIL MEETING

Flag Salute

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

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Consent Calendar

Mayor Verger reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of the approval of minutes for February 1st and 15th, 2000, a request to change the Planning Commission hearing date April 11, 2000 to initiate a legislative Ordinance text amendment, and appointment of the city attorney as successor trustee for the City of Coos Bay/Paquin-O'Brien trust deed and proceed with foreclosure. Reappointment of Mayor Verger and Councilor Benetti as the City Council's representatives to the County Urban Renewal Agency was added to the consent calendar during the work session. Councilor Miller moved to approve the consent calendar as amended. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Presentation to Mary Hopkin

Mayor Verger commended Mary Hopkin of the The World for exemplary reporting on city business and presented her with an appreciation certificate. Ms. Hopkin will be moving to Hermiston to accept other employment.

Presentation from the Oregon Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society by John Kruse and Dick Jamsgard

Carl Siminow, Coos County Historical Society board member, introduced John Kruse and Dick Jamsgard and reported it was his pleasure to sign over ownership of the train engine to the Oregon Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. John Kruse reported the Railway Society holds regular meetings on Saturdays and is making progress on the restoration of the engine. Mr. Kruse explained the Society's plan of constructing a museum depot in the Bay Area and requested the City's help in applying for grants. Dick Jamsgard reported the Railway Society is working on acquiring two other engines that originally worked in Coos County and has plans to acquire property located at Hwy 101 and Hall which was originally railway property. Mr. Jamsgard noted they will be working through Rep. Peter DeFazio's office for grants and funding of the project. One of the requirements when seeking Transportation Enhancement funding for this type of project is to have a city with a planning department to partner with. He encouraged the City Council to lend their support for the railway museum project. Mr. Grile commented it is more complex for the City to help with a grant to acquire property the City does not own. Mr. Jamsgard noted the Rep. DeFazio has helped other communities to fund railway projects.

Presentation from Southwestern Oregon Community on the Proposed Capital Construction Bond Measure

President Kridelbaugh expressed appreciation to the City Council for allowing the College to make a presentation on the upcoming ballot measure, and commented there are a number of upbeat things going on in the community including the establishment of South Coast Development Council and South Coast fiber optics consortium. Mike Gaudette explained the College is requesting the City Council's endorsement of the bond measure for May 16th. He commented Southwestern College is a valuable part of the community and an affordable resource to the south coast. As the community has grown, so has the college. Enrollment has doubled since 1991 and more than 14,000 students a year take classes with students now on waiting lists for some classes. Improvements in the science labs and technology classes are needed to keep up with changes. The bond measure will raise up to \$15 million for use on capital improvement projects which

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includes building facilities in Curry County, expanding learning centers in Reedsport, Coquille, Bandon and Port Orford, expanding the college library. Mr. Gaudette reported citizens need better access to up to date education if they are to keep up with technology and technology looks like an opportunity for our community. With a better prepared workforce it is more likely businesses will locate here; 800 Support is a good example. The bond measure, if passed, would be 15-year commitment and cost approximately 24 cents per thousand of assessed value. Southwestern began in 1961 in old buildings located at the airport and 1979 was the last time the college received capital construction funds.

Mayor Verger inquired if it would be better to continue to build up the main campus. Mr. Gaudette commented the main campus does need to be expanded; but the reality is that many citizens in the college district live some distance away, making it more difficult to attend classes on campus. Councilor Spangler inquired about funding for campus housing. Mr. Gaudette reported the College borrowed the money which is repaid with the revenues generated from the housing; this was also done for the Family Center and the Newmark Center. However, this type of funding would not work for the new science building. Councilor McKeown commented the College not only prepares a work force, it also attracts students to the area, and the college is important to the economic development of the area. Mr. Gaudette reported younger students do move to the campus, but a great number of students are working adults and need the outlying facilities.

Councilor Miller moved to adopt Resolution 00-09 supporting the capital construction bond measure for Southwestern Oregon Community College. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Department Head Report by Community Services Director Bill Finney

Mr. Finney reported attending a meeting regarding the community incentive fund which is funded under HB 2088 and is intended to promote affordable housing, revitalize downtowns, and assist in rebuilding rural and distressed economies. This is a new program with funding coming from the lottery and the ground rules have yet to be established. The City is eligible for funds and staff will keep informed of the process.

Appointment to the Library Board

Willie Sadler was interviewed by the City Council for consideration of appointment to the Library Board prior to the Council meeting. Mayor Verger moved to appoint Mr. Sadler to fill the unexpired term ending June 30, 2002 on the Board. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Approval of a Policy for the Use of Downtown Parking Lots

Ken Larson, Downtown Association President, reported a survey was sent to the Association membership, approximately 60 members, and 12 were returned. The survey asked if the City should continue non-enforcement of downtown parking lots, and if downtown businesses would support the Anderson Alternative two-way from Hwy 101 to Second Street. The majority of the returned surveys supported continuation of non-enforcement of downtown parking lots, half supported enforcement in the Rite Aid and Jennie lots, and a majority did not support changing Anderson Avenue to two-way traffic. Councilor Benetti asked if the members were asked about the carnival using downtown lots. Mr. Larson reported the Association supports activities in downtown but a majority of those surveyed were not in favor of the carnival using downtown parking lots. Mayor Verger commented those who appose the carnival in the downtown area

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are not in opposition to the carnival. The Council is challenged to make long-term public policy while working with downtown businesses. There is strong objection to the carnival being held downtown and the City's recommendation is not to allow use of the parking lots because of the heavy equipment.

Larry Goodman reported other locations suggested by the City and Downtown Association for the carnival are not usable. He has been in contact with Father O'Connel at St. Monica's and the church is willing to let him use their parking lot for the carnival. Mr. Goodman requested use of the Library's parking lot at 6th and Bennett. Mayor Verger noted this lot is used for library staff and overflow patron parking. Library Director Carol Ventgen reported Mr. Goodman had approached her about the use of the lots and she had concerns about enough parking for patrons and possible damage to landscaping. Mr. Goodman suggested closing a portion of 6th Street for the carnival. Mr. Grile expressed concern about the noise and lights from the carnival in a residential neighborhood and did not recommend closing the street. Mr. Goodman commented he would be giving up on holding the carnival and perhaps the City would like to put it on. Councilor Stufflebean said many children attend this event and it has been held in downtown Coos Bay for many years. There was further discussion of possible sites for the carnival. Mayor Verger commented there is a problem with a business person using public property for gain and noted that if public property is used, the funding needs to be tracked and an accounting made. She commented that Wal*Mart and K-Mart have the same objections as downtown businesses to the carnival in that it disrupts their business. Councilor Benetti commented that in previous years the money from the carnival went to pay for the July 4th fireworks. Consensus of the Council to follow staff's recommendation of not allowing the carnival use of the downtown parking lots.

Authorization to Expend the Mingus Park Bathhouse Contingency Fund

City Manager Bill Grile reported in April, 1999 the City Council waived the permit fees for the Mingus Park Bathhouse project in order to complete as many of the proposed project alternates as possible from the \$500,000 bond proceeds. The project is now complete and came in \$7,745 under budget. Staff recommends the permit fees in the amount of \$2,493.20 be paid and the project management team be directed to use the remaining funds on project alternates as they see fit. Councilor Spangler moved to pay the permit fees and direct the project management team to spend the balance of the fund on project alternates. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Authorization to Purchase a Telephone System for City Hall

Police Chief Chuck Knight reported there is funding in the current budget to replace the telephone system. A committee comprised of representatives from various city departments reviewed the needs of the city including future digital technology and fiber optics. The committee recommends purchasing the GTE system through a State purchasing agreement for approximately \$32,000 which would save the City an estimated \$7,000. Councilor Spangler moved to authorize the purchase of the telephone system through State purchasing. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Randall Tosh reported the County has filed an answer regarding the tax appeal for the Art Museum, the State and 911 may have settled, and he is reviewing Mr. Leason's for response on the

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Water's Edge appeal.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported the Newmark/Ocean plan will be coming before the Council in a few weeks; staff has reviewed street and sewer issues and would like to invite the Council to take a tour of the streets. Councilor Spangler suggested reviewing the street maintenance priorities already set by committee. Mr. Grile reported a Brownsfield public forum would be held next Monday at the library and Front Street property owners have been invited to attend.

Mr. Grile commented last January Mayor Verger and Council President Miller had met with City of North Bend officials to discuss public access and government access TV. Following the meeting North Bend administrator and Mr. Grile prepared a budget for government access. North Bend has now indicated they would rather be a subscriber to the government access channel rather than partner with the City of Coos Bay. A meeting has been scheduled in Bandon on Wednesday to meet with interested government entities and school districts to discuss participating in Channel 14.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor McKeown reported the South Coast Development Council will meet on Tuesday and the meeting is open to the public. He suggested a committee be formed to look at improvements to the downtown area.

Councilor Stufflebean commended Mr. Finney on the project summary report.

Councilor Benetti reported the Promotion Committee meetings are open to the public and meet at noon at the Red Lion once a month.

Councilor Spangler commented there was a good turnout for the employee appreciation luncheon and thanked Councilor Weeks for organizing the event. The Fiber Optics Consortium is going well and will be a boon for the local economy on the south coast.

Mayor Verger commented the additional parking at Mingus Park is being utilized and requested staff review the park for child safety concerns. Mayor Verger reported that sidewalk conditions will be addressed by concerned citizens at a future council meeting, and thanked Councilor Weeks for doing the Focus program. Mayor Verger commented the Community Incentive Fund is for downtown development and perhaps Councilor McKeown's comment on downtown improvements could be addressed by the Community Solutions Team.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to April 4, 2000 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Joanne Verger
Mayor of the City of Coos Bay

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Coos County, Oregon

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen
Deputy Recorder of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon