

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

April 18, 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 6:15 p.m. with interviews in the Manager's Conference Room and proceeding with a work session at 7 p.m. and the 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 Judy Weeks. Councilor Stufflebean was absent. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Community Services Director Bill Finney, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Library Director Carol Ventgen.

COUNCIL INTERVIEWS

The City Council interviewed Bruce Harlan, Andrew Locati and Pete Zyta for consideration of appointment to the Building Codes Board of Appeals.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Verger reviewed the consent calendar and noted there would be a report from Marshfield High School, presentation of the Tree City USA award, and a department head's report from Library Director Carol Ventgen. City Manager Bill Grile reported the issue of repair and maintenance of sidewalks will be discussed with the Council. Review of the city's notification policy to property owners has been placed before the Council at the request of a citizen. There are a number of sidewalks around town that need repair and the City's policy has been to rely on a notification process; once the codes officer knows of a situation it is reviewed and the property owner notified. Mr. Grile commented if the Council would have the current procedure changed, it would directly impact the budget and the attention given to other codes violations. He recommended the program be maintained at its current practice. Mr. Grile noted there are city-owned properties also in need of repair. Mayor Verger reported funding and evaluation of city sidewalks had been done in 1995. Councilor Weeks inquired if Jim Rowe had time to look at sidewalks. Chief Knight reported he is part time and fully utilized for parking enforcement. Councilor Spangler noted sidewalks can become hazards and was surprised the City does not have an ongoing inspection program. Councilor Benetti commented the current policy has worked well and recommended staff continue with this policy. He commented sidewalk inspections could easily develop into a full time position and cautioned whether the City really wanted to take this on. Councilor McKeown agreed with Councilor Benetti and noted the department does not have the budget to hire a full time position for sidewalk inspections. He supported the current notification policy. Councilor Spangler commented that many property owners do not realize they are responsible for the sidewalks.

Mayor Verger briefly reviewed the state parks grant and added appointment to the Building Codes Board of Appeals to the agenda. Mr. Grile reported the recommended project for the grant would be pave trails and add lights in Mingus Park. Councilor Miller inquired if the grant could be used for the skateboard park or for additional restrooms. Mr. Grile reported they could if they meet the criteria of the grant. Councilor McKeown suggested looking at the pathway along the bay. Councilor Benetti commented the pathway could

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be done with urban renewal funds. Mayor Verger recommended seeking funding for downtown restrooms. Mr. Grile reported the last discussion on providing restrooms it had been decided to hold off and do with the historical museum. The City has also looked at building a restroom facility in the parking lot south of Kaffe 101. Councilor Spangler suggested reviewing again placing a facility in northeast corner of this parking lot.

COUNCIL MEETING

Flag Salute

Mayor Verger opened the meeting and Scout Troop 151 led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

Consent Calendar

Mayor Verger reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of approval of the minutes for March 7, 2000, approval of an OLCC license for Broadway Café and Diner, approval of an OLCC license for Oregon Wine Cellars, Etc., adoption of Resolution 00-11 accepting grant funds for the Empire boat ramp, adoption of Resolution 00-12 accepting grant funds from HUD for partnership with the Police Department, and adoption of Resolution 00-13 establishing the jurisdictional exchange streets reserve fund. Councilor Weeks moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and voting aye all aye

Marshfield High School Report by Laurie Brands

Laurie Brands reported Kelly Fitzpatrick is March Girl of the Month and Artie George is the March Boy of the Month, Erica Nelson is April Girl of the Month and Mitch Wade is April Boy of the Month. Student Body election will be held this week; Spring Fling will be held May 1st through 4th; the Blood Mobile was held at MHS and collected more than 100 units; and the Mr. MHS pageant will be held on Saturday with all proceeds going to the Sacred Heart Neonatal Unit.

Proclamation for Arbor Day and Tree City USA Presentation by Jim Young, State Forestry Dept.

Jim Young, State Forestry Department, congratulated the City of Coos Bay for being recognized as Tree City USA. Mr. Young explained the criteria for the recognition and presented Mayor Verger with the Tree City flag and award. Mayor Verger complimented the forestry department in their efforts to educate communities on the importance of trees and said the City is proud to have had the Tree City USA designation for the past six years. Coos Bay is one of 34 cities in Oregon with successful tree programs.

Department Head Report by Library Director Carol Ventgen

Library Director Carol Ventgen reported there are a number of ongoing programs at the library for children and adults. A celebration for the conclusion of Around the World in 80 Days reading program will be held tomorrow; the South Slough children's program will be on May 17th; the last in a series of Chataqua programs will be held on May 13th on the Tillamook Forest. Ms. Ventgen reported the library will be a drop off for election ballots; the Friends of the Library book sale is scheduled for May 5th and 7th; and the Library

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Board is accepting citizen comments regarding increasing open hours.

Discussion of Sidewalk Repair Notification Policy for City Ordinance No. 69

City Manager Bill Grile commented the City's current policy on sidewalk notifications was discussed during the work session. Mayor Verger reported the question is whether the Council wants staff to be on a reactive status. She commented citizens can contact the Community Services Department with a complaint and it is inspected and the property owner contacted. Mike Martin, Codes Enforcement Officer, reported he receives an average of two call per month and has had 100 percent compliance once the owner has been contacted. The policy works well and he would be reluctant to initiate a new policy due to budget restraints. Mr. Martin noted that he and Brad Carlson from the Streets Division have been identifying City properties in need of repair. Councilor Spangler requested staff to prepare a report on the number of man-hours it would require to survey all the sidewalks in the city. Councilor Benetti suggested an article be placed in the next issue of the City News. City Attorney Tosh reported the City's ordinance is very common throughout the state. Councilor McKeown moved to continue with the current policy for sidewalk notifications. Councilor Benetti seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Authorization to Apply for State Parks and Recreation Department Grant and Adoption of Resolution 00-10

City Manager Bill Grile reported the Council could request another project be submitted for this grant application as discussed during the work session. Councilor Spangler inquired if applying for the grant would affect funding budgeted for downtown restrooms. Community Services Director Bill Finney reported the budgeted funds would be used as match for the grant. Councilor Benetti moved to submit the grant for downtown restroom facility to be located in the northeast corner of the parking lot south of Kaffe 101. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Appointment to the Building Codes Board of Appeals

Mayor Verger commented the Council has interviewed three applicants for appointment to the Board. Councilor Miller moved to appoint Bruce Harlan, Andrew Locati and Pete Zyta for three year terms on the Building Codes Board of Appeals. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Award of Design Contract for Pump Station No. 7

City Manager Bill Grile reported the ten-year capital improvements plan requires one pump station be designed each year and constructed during the following year. This year pump station no. 19 in Eastside will be constructed and the request before the Council is for award of the design contract for pump station no. 7 located at 421 Morrison Street. The pump station was constructed in 1956 for the City of Empire, rebuilt in 1974 and modified in 1982, 1986 and 1990. The station serves approximately 2800 residents and has been given the next highest priority by City staff and OMI. Councilor Weeks moved to award the design contract for wastewater pump station no. 7 to HGE, Inc. for \$28,500. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Public Comments

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Betty Peterson, Coos Bay, reported a friend of hers, Mary Ziemann, fell recently on a sidewalk at 8th and Anderson and sustained several injuries. Mrs. Peterson commented there are many sidewalks in need of repair, but many property owners are not aware of their responsibility. She agreed an article in the City News would be helpful; but also suggested that the budget be adjusted to provide staffing for inspections.

Mary Ziemann, Coos Bay, expressed concern about sidewalks needing repairs and the number of people who have fallen on the city sidewalks. Mrs. Ziemann commented City staff was very helpful after her accident and the sidewalk has been repaired by the property owner.

Rondi Potter, Coos Bay Downtown Association, reported the deadline for turning in items for inclusion in the time capsule has been extended two weeks. She encouraged groups, clubs, and individuals to bring items to The World, Fiddlesticks, or the Art Connection. The dedication of the capsule has been scheduled for May 20th.

Frances Cooley, Empire Community Association, reported the planter boxes have been cleaned and planted and suggested potting soil and fertilizer be supplied.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Randall Tosh reported an ordinance to amend the Building Codes Board of Appeal to three members is being prepared, and the Labor Relations Board has ruled the City did not create an unfair labor act when the battalion chief positions were created in the Fire Department.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported Chief Gibson will proceed with developing a process for recruiting for the battalion chief positions. Mr. Grile reported he will make a presentation to the Coos County Commissioners at their next regular meeting regarding participating in Channel 14 programming. He explained letters were sent to all local government entities inviting them to participate in Channel 14 for a trial period through June 30th at no charge. Mr. Grile noted that Langdon Marsh will be the speaker at the Chamber of Commerce Forum on Wednesday, the lawn and yards ordinance requested by Ed Noble has been completed by the city attorney and will be coming to the Council for review; and the first budget committee meeting will be held on Thursday. Councilor Spangler commented the Council may want to stay with a five member appeals board.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Weeks commented the city receives a lot of feedback from the public on Channel 14 programming and the subscription plan is a win-win situation. She thanked Lon Samuels for his communications with the Council regarding the progress of his City projects. Councilor Weeks commented on the need to establish a policy for the use of downtown parking lots.

Councilor Spangler reported the OCZMA meeting was held in Yahats and the grant for improving the tourism information center was rated no. three out of five. He requested an update on the boardwalk fish tank. Councilor Spangler expressed appreciation to Lon Samuels for the progress reports on project; however, there have been no such reports on the Empire Street Scape Project. He reported in speaking with the architect, the project was delayed due to waiting on City staff. Community Services Director Bill Finney reported he and Councilor Spangler had personally visited the businesses that would be affected by the project and he had contacted Rich Turi's office to proceed with the bid package. Councilor Weeks noted the request for bids was in the newspaper this week.

Councilor Miller complimented the Empire Association for their work with the planter boxes, and

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reported the Governor’s Conference on Tourism was great and our region is in the top ten for customer service.

Councilor Benetti commented the Empire District is looking very nice and commended the Empire Association for their work. He requested staff look into tying a walkway along the bay to Eastside. Mr. Grile commented the City may already have paved as far as the easement with the railroad company allows.

Councilor McKeown commented a lot of people use the walkway and being connected to Eastside would be a tremendous asset. The South Coast Development Council is moving forward with establishing a job description for the business recruiter and board members are continuing to speak with other entities and organizations about SCDC. Mayor Verger commented the economic development plan has come a long way and commended Councilor McKeown and the board for doing a good job. Councilor Spangler asked if smaller cities can pool together for a vote and Councilor McKeown reported they are working on this matter. He noted board members are also speaking to other groups and small businesses in the community about participating in SCDC.

Mayor Verger reported she would be meeting with Langdon Marsh, the head of DEQ, on Wednesday, and Mike Graybill and Peter DeFazio will be featured on the next two FOCUS programs. The unspoken policy on use of city property has been that public property will not be used for the benefit of any one business. There has been exceptions, such as the carnival when it was used as a fundraiser for the July 4th fireworks and use of the boardwalk for the Saturday Market. Councilor Benetti recommended the use be at the discretion of the city manager and if there is a question, refer to the City Council. Councilor McKeown commented the City has always tried to help business and if using the parking lots will help, then the City should allow the use. Councilor Spangler agreed that a written policy should be in place. Mr. Grile reported staff would prepare a policy for Council’s approval.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to May 2, 2000 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen
Deputy Recorder of the City of Coos Bay

Joanne Verger
Mayor of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon