

## **MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**July 24, 2000**

The minutes of the proceedings of a joint meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians at 7 p.m. on July 24, 2000 at the Tribal Hall, 338 Wallace Avenue, Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon.

### **Those Present**

Those present were Chair Wanda Williford, Vice-Chair Carolyn Slyter, and Council Members Ron Brainard, David Brainard, Cheryl Hoile and Tony Havelock. Chief James Lott was absent. Those present from the City of Coos Bay were Mayor Joanne Verger and Councilors Joe Benetti, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. Staff present were Tribal Administrator Frances Somday and City Manager Bill Grile.

### **Introductions by Tribal Chair Wanda Williford**

Chair Wanda Williford brought the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The prayer was offered by Chief Brainard. Chair Williford introduced the members of the Tribal Council and Administrator Frances Somday.

### **Introductions by Mayor Joanne Verger**

Mayor Verger thanked Chair Williford for the welcome and introduced members of the City Council and City Manager Bill Grile.

### **Explanation of Agenda by Facilitator Crystal Shoji**

Crystal Shoji reviewed the agenda and suggested time schedule for the meeting.

### **Confederated Tribes Vision for the Future**

Frances Somday, Tribal Administrator reported originally 1.6 million acres belonged to the Tribe; currently 6.2 acres are owned by the Tribe which was donated to the Tribe by a private citizen. Mr. Somday commented on the importance of the two government entities to work together and in order to develop a partnership, they need to understand each other more. Mr. Somday reviewed the history of the Tribe beginning in early 1800 when white settlers arrived in the area. In 1855 a treaty was drafted that allowed acquisition of Tribal land for which the Tribe would be reimbursed for the loss of their homeland, however the treaty was not fulfilled. Half of the Tribe perished while imprisoned at Yahats and in 1916 the tribal government was established. In 1954 the Termination Act terminated the tribe and from 1954 through 1984 the tribe was on their own. In 1984 President Regan re-recognized the Tribe and Tribal membership was up to 650 members in 1997. Currently Tribal lands comprise of ten acres in Coos Bay and 90 acres in Florence.

Mr. Somday explained the Tribe has sovereign authority from Congress and decisions are made by Tribal Council which is made up of seven elected officials. The Tribe's mission is to perpetuate the unique identity of the Tribes, secure the rights and powers inherent in the tribe, preserve historic and religious beliefs, promote social and economic welfare, and maintain peace and order of the Tribes. Mr. Somday commented the Tribe has a substantial economic impact in Oregon and in the Coos Bay area with

## **City Council Minutes – July 24, 2000**

development of housing and business opportunities such as the proposed Alishanee entertainment center. Tribal policy for employees, contractors and vendors is to spend money locally and they in turn pay taxes on this revenue.

Mr. Somday reported the Tribe also has the goal of restoring forest land to the Tribe as part of the self-sufficiency of the Tribe. The area includes north of Florence to south of Coos Bay. Mr. Frances commented this is part of the Tribe's strategic plan and also includes using federal income with economic development, commercial capital resources, investment capital and natural resource assets. The Tribe desires to form a partnership with the City of Coos Bay and Coos County to meet common goals and further economic development.

### **City of Coos Bay – City Mission**

City Manager Bill Grile reviewed the City's mission statement: The Mission of the City of Coos Bay is to work as a stable, moving force to enhance the quality of life for all citizens through a government that is accessible to everyone and dedicated to the development of a diversified economy, sound fiscal planning and the preservation of the historical and natural beauty of our area. Mr. Grile commented the values expressed in the mission statement are represented in the City's comprehensive plan, both urban renewal plans, zoning ordinance, and annual budget. The total operating expenses provide for the wastewater facilities, streets, tourism and promotion program, library, codes program, police, fire, and community services. The biggest source of revenue comes from property taxes, second is from franchise fees, and third comes from other fees, licenses and permits. Mr. Grile explained how recent measures have limited funding received from property taxes and the impact on municipalities in providing services to the public. Revenue from property taxes for this year is \$3.6 million and police and fire budgets equal \$4.5 million. Conceptually all property taxes go to police and fire. Mr. Grile commented the Councils of the City and the Tribe can advance their mutual benefits when they understand each other better. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hold a joint meeting

### **Common Vision/Mission**

Crystal Shoji asked for comments from the councils regarding their common goals and vision for the community. Mayor Verger noted a common thread is economic development, healthy eco-systems, good quality water and forests. Don Spangler commented the Tribe's interest in being responsible for their Tribal members is the same as the City Council's responsibility to their constituents. Jeff McKeown commented we are all part of the same community and the health of the community is important for all. Mr. Somday commented both councils recognize the need for a partnership and the importance of working together. Judy Weeks said there is a mutual agreement for meeting housing needs in the community. Chair Williford commented both councils want to work together to improve the community and noted the City's comprehensive plan to preserve the City's resources is also reflected in the Tribe's goals.

Jeff McKeown commented it is important to recognize the Tribe as a government. Carolyn Slyter reported violence begins in the community, not in schools, children and their safety is the Tribe's top priority. Bill Brainard commented education is a top priority and the community needs to learn more about both governments. Cheryl Hoile commented on the importance of thinking of the long-range view of the community. Mr. Howard Roy said he would like to see decisions based on mutual benefits.

### **Discussion of Items/Issues**

## City Council Minutes – July 24, 2000

Mr. Somday commented the most substantial issue facing the Tribe is their forest proposal. A series of meetings have been held in the community regarding the government's proposal to give approximately 95 thousand acres of US Forest Service land to the Confederated Tribes. The property represents the Tribe's homeland and would make good the 1985 treaty. The Tribe would like to have the support of the City for this proposal. The forest would generate approximately \$1 million in revenue from pre-commercial thinning and would continue to be a managed forest. Councilor Spangler expressed concern with moving property out of public use. Mr. Somday responded the Tribe lost 1.6 million acres with no compensation made to the Tribe and the 95 thousand acres would be held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The public would still have access and use of the forest lands, current payments to counties would continue, the property would continue to be managed under the current forest plan, and they would comply with the salmon recovery plan.

Councilor McKeown commented the trend of the federal government has been to tie up the land with only a small portion available for harvesting and if transferred to the Tribe, it would benefit the local economy. George Smith, forest consultant, reported that ultimately, Congress will determine how the land will be managed. Mayor Verger commented the City has been concerned about properties placed in trust are removed from the tax roles. Mr. Somday said the Tribe has a need to increase their land base to meet housing and economic development requirements of their members. If the forest plan passes Congress, the need for the Tribe to acquire economic development land will greatly lessen, if it does not pass, the Tribe must look for other alternatives to generate funds. Mr. Howard Roy stated income generated by the Tribe goes into the community.

Chair Williford said the Alishanni recreation facility will bring funds into the area and develop Coos Bay as a destination area offering good family entertainment. Councilor Kevin Stufflebean inquired if the Tribe has a master plan for placing property into trust. Chair Williford comments the property in question is adjacent to Tribal property and they has looked at several other parcels, but there is no specific plan. The Tribe's interest is in providing housing and economic development. Mayor Verger commented cities rely on property taxes to fund services and the Council is concerned about property being taken off the tax rolls.

Crystal Shoji inquired if the Councils would like to hold more meetings and the consensus of the Tribal Council and City Council that future meetings would be beneficial in developing a better understanding of one another and building a partnership for attaining their common goals. It was suggested the meetings be scheduled on a quarterly basis.

### Adjournment

There being no further discussion to come before the Councils, the meeting was adjourned.

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

ATTEST:

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