

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

January 30, 2001

The minutes of the proceedings of work session of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Anna Marie Larson, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Capt Eura Washburn, Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs, and Library Director Carol Ventgen.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Benetti reported the City has a number of projects planned or in the works and the purpose of the work session is to prioritize the projects and give direction to staff. Councilor McKeown asked if the meeting would be focused on the projects or if the Council goals would also be discussed. Mayor Benetti commented many of the goals have been accomplished and the projects are tied in with the goals. Councilor Spangler commented the meeting should have been a joint City Council/Urban Renewal Agency.

City Manager's Comments

City Manager Bill Grile reported the current goals have been reviewed by staff and the fundamental goals have not changed. Mr. Grile reviewed the mission and vision statements and explained the projects were divided into two groups; 18-month horizon and long-term. Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs reported the City is looking into funding for making improvements to the American and North Point Realty buildings in the downtown area. A downtown strategic plan would determine what has already been done, develop a recruitment plan, and perform a structural review of the buildings. The plan would provide the City with information on what kinds of businesses would work for the downtown area and for 2nd floor and 3rd floor spaces. Councilor Spangler commented the plan should be for the whole downtown area and not just the American and North Point Realty buildings. Ms. Shribbs reported the overall plan would look at the entire downtown and the American and North Point Realty buildings are a starting place; one is currently on the historic registry and the other is ready to be added to the registry, and one elevator serves both buildings. Mr. Grile commented a plan is needed before the City can proceed with improvements and recruitment.

Mr. Grile explained the process for prioritizing the projects and briefly reviewed the listing of projects. Councilor McKeown requested the fire station facility review be added to the list. The Council proceeded to vote on prioritizing projects using a method of voting three green dots to place a project as a priority and four red dots to postpone a project. Orange dots indicate projects already in progress and include the city technology plan, 911 operations alternatives, Front Street rezone, Newmark improvement pre-design, Bunker Hill urban growth boundary, 5th Street Plaza, annual wastewater projects, annual street projects, and 4th and Elrod. The results of the voting are as follows:

City Projects

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In Rank Order of Priority

- 1 Skate Park (4 votes to proceed)
- 1 Downtown Strategic Plan (4 votes to proceed)
- 2 City Technology Plan (3 votes to proceed)
- 2 Fire Station Review and Replacement (3 votes to proceed, 2 votes to defer)
- 2 Fire Equipment Improvement Plan (3 votes to proceed, 1 vote to defer)
- 2 911 Operations Alternatives (3 votes to proceed)

Voted to Postpone or Not Enough Votes to Keep on the Priority List

- 10th and Central Intersection/turn lane (4 votes to postpone, 1 vote to proceed)
- Public Ambulance Service (3 votes to postpone)
- Bunker Hill Urban Growth Boundary (2 votes to proceed, 2 votes to postpone)
- Mingus Park Stage Improvement (2 votes to proceed)
- Front Street Rezone [*currently in progress*] (2 votes to proceed)
- Annual Wastewater Projects [*currently in progress*] (1 vote to proceed)
- Annual Street Projects [*currently in progress*] (1 vote to proceed)
- 4th and Elrod [*currently in progress*] (1 vote to proceed)
- Newmark Improvement Pre-Design [*currently in progress*] (1 vote proceed)

Urban Renewal Projects - Downtown District

In Rank Order of Priority

- 1 Sportsman Plaza/Pedway (6 votes to proceed)
- 2 Front Street Overlay (3 votes to proceed)
- 2 Bayshore/Threater District Streetscape (3 votes to proceed)
- 2 South Town Infrastructure/Front Street area (3 votes to proceed)
- 2 Property Acquisition for Redevelopment (3 votes to proceed, 1 vote to defer)

18-Month Horizon Projects

- Boat in a Bottle (5 votes to defer short-term action)
- 5th Street Plaza (4 votes to defer short-term action; 1 vote to proceed)
- Anderson Alternative (2 votes to defer short-term action)
- Historical Museum (no immediate action is required)
- Rail Museum (no immediate action is required)

Urban Renewal Projects - Empire District

In Rank Order of Priority

- 1 Crowley Property Development (4 votes to proceed)
- 2 Empire Facade Program (4 votes to proceed)
- 3 Property Acquisition for Redevelopment (3 votes to proceed; 1 vote to defer)

18-Month Horizon

- Empire Gateway

Discussion

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Boat in a Bottle - Mr. Grile commented that although the project was voted to be postponed, the Tug Irene was donated to the city and still needs to be displayed. Councilor Weeks suggested the tug be placed on the Crowley property and consensus of the Council as to do so.

City Charter - Councilor Stufflebean suggested an ad hoc committee be formed to review the city charter. Mayor Benetti commented North Bend used the League of Oregon Cities to evaluate their charter and he agreed to consider appointing an ad hoc committee to review Coos Bay's charter.

Parking Structure - Mr. Grile asked for direction on proceeding with construction of a parking structure in the downtown area and commented the structure would be helpful when the City is seeking grants for improvements. There is a perception that there is a parking problem and he asked that the possibility of building the structure be discussed at some point. Councilor Spangler commented the structure is in the urban renewal plan and when businesses are looking at Coos Bay, let them know this.

Ambulance Service - Councilor Weeks commented the Coquille Fire Department charges for ambulance service. Chief Gibson explained the County approves the ASA and he will continue working on the issue. Mayor Benetti noted that Fire Department staff respond to the calls now so it would make sense for the City to run the ambulance service. Mr. Grile commented Bay Cities Ambulance salaries are a lot less than the City's and previous discussions with Bay Area Hospital and North Bend had not been encouraging.

5th Street Plaza - Councilor Stufflebean suggested improvements be made to the 5th Street Plaza to help promote the downtown area. Mayor Benetti commented the current plans have been put on hold, but he would support installing some lights and benches, and planting some trees. Councilor Larson did not support making any improvements to the plaza. Mr. Grile commented the plaza could be incorporated in with the downtown strategic plan.

10th and Central Intersection - Mr. Grile explained the proposed 10th and Central intersection project and noted it would require a rezone. The project would help with traffic flow and encourage development of a multi-office facility in this area. Consensus of the Council to proceed with the project if the property owner shares the development costs and the City does not use jurisdictional exchange funds for the project. Mr. Grile commented the intersection improvements would help with economic development efforts. Councilor McKeown recommended not proceeding until funding from the property owner is committed.

Current Goals

City Manager Bill Grile reported staff would review the current goals and bring back to the Council for adoption.

Adjourn

The work session was adjourned to the regular meeting of February 6, 2001 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder