

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

May 1, 2001

The minutes of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Present

Those present were Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Anna Marie Larsen, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean and Judy Weeks. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Clerical Assistant Stacey Babb, Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Library Director Carol Ventgen, Planning Administrator Laura Barron and Police Chief Chuck Knight.

Flag Salute

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

Consent Calendar

Mayor Benetti reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of approval of the minutes from the March 6, 2001 meeting and adoption of Resolution 01-12 supporting a grant application for improvements to the Mingus Park ball field. Councilor Weeks recommended amending the consent calendar by moving item 2b to the agenda. Councilor Miller moved to accept the consent calendar as amended. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors voting aye.

Presentation of the Proclamation May as Better Hearing and Speech Month by Mark Stephens, South Coast ESD Speech – Language Pathologist

Mr. Stephens reported that audiologists and speech pathologists are professionals who specialize in the identification of communication disorders that effect nearly 42 million Americans. One in ten families in Coos County are effected by a communication disorder. Since 1927 audiologists and speech pathologists have designated May as Better Speech and Hearing Month. Councilor Miller moved to adopt Proclamation May as Better Hearing and Speech Month. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Department Head Report by Police Chief Chuck Knight

Chief Knight reported a ritual for police officers completing their probationary period is to recite the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics from memory and answer a question from the city manager. Chief Knight introduced Officer Scott Rogers and City Manager Bill Grile explained a committee comprised of union and management personnel meet once a month for the purpose of encouraging dialog about anything of interest. The committee has been named the Peace Team. Police and Fire personnel do not regularly attend the meetings due to their schedules and this has been somewhat disappointing. Mr. Grile's question to Officer Rogers was what can be done to facilitate Coos Bay Police Officer Association participation in the Peace Team meetings and discussion process.

City Council Minutes – May 1, 2001

Officer Rogers commented a few years ago the police officers had a program called “library time” to give officers time to read work related articles keeping them abreast of new trends in their profession, but the title invoked a feeling of being back in grade school again. It had a good purpose but suffered from its title. From a police officer’s point of view, peace team, like library time, causes him to believe there is a war between city hall management and its employees. Officer Rogers reported one-third of the police force has less than two years of experience and many of them may not be aware of the Peace Team and its purpose. He suggested calling the meetings Coffee with the City Manager and sending out invitations. He volunteered to assist the city manager with the meetings for the next three months to help other officers meetings. City Manager Bill Grile said Officer Rogers’ answer to the question was excellent.

Report from South Coast Development Council Director Melinda Anderson

Ms. Anderson reported she recently moved from Bend, Oregon and is learning what it means to live in a small community. She explained the South Coast Development Council (SCDC) is a public/private partnership serving the area from Bandon to Reedsport and the Coquille Valley and their mission is to increase family wage jobs with business recruitment and retention. The SCDC office is located in North Bend and they are currently conducting a survey to determine the wants and needs of the community. SCDC is in the process of completing a strategic and marketing plan, and working on a web site. Ms. Anderson commented Bend, Oregon had previously been a timber related economy which developed as a tourism industry with Mt. Bachelor, Sun River and Black Butte. Many of the people who came to visit Bend relocated their business to the area. Councilor Spangler inquired what kind of business came as a result of tourism and Ms. Anderson responded most were technology based. Councilor Larson asked if SCDC has advertised on the Internet and Ms. Anderson reported she is still compiling information about the community before marketing the area. Councilor Weeks suggested SCDC work with the Port on marketing. Councilor McKeown commented SCDC is interested in hearing ideas from the community invited citizens to attend the SCDC community forum Wednesday evening in Reedsport.

Adoption of Resolution 01-12 Supporting a Grant Application for Improvements to Mingus Park Ballfield

Councilor Weeks said she was surprised to see the ballfield lights and bleachers project on the agenda so soon and was disappointed that the Parks Commission had not been given more time to discuss this issue. She expressed surprise at the cost, as it was her understanding that Bracelin and Yeager would be donating the concrete and that OMI, Inc. would be partnering in this venture. City Manager Bill Grile commented there was some volunteer effort behind the project and there is a possibility of a grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs reported there was little time before the application deadline and the grant application requires a match be committed at the time the application is submitted. After learning how much concrete was needed for the project, Bracelin and Yeager committed to donating half of the concrete and help from OMI was not needed as it turned out the City could use their own staff. Councilor Weeks asked if the Softball Association had been approached. Ms. Shribbs reported both the Softball Association and the School District had been approached and they could not participate any more than they already do on a regular basis. Councilor McKeown said he is pleased to see Community Services apply for more grants because one of his concerns has been that they have not been aggressive enough in obtaining grants. Councilor Weeks moved to adopt resolution 01-12 supporting a grant application for improvements to Mingus Park ballfield. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

City Council Minutes – May 1, 2001

Public Hearing – Continuation of the Hearing on the Front Street Design Standards and Consideration of Adoption of Ordinances Amending the Comprehensive Plan and Establishing the Front Street Waterfront Heritage District

Planning Administrator Laura Barron reported the design standards would be applicable for changes to building exteriors, but excludes normal maintenance. Items discussed at the previous hearing included non-water uses in WH3 (Central Dock) as a conditional use, property development requirements, noise levels, and type of industrial uses allowed. Ms. Barron reported there are three options for determining acceptable noise level; option 1 would measure the noise level from the property being impacted by the noise, option 2 would use DEQ standards raised by 10 decibels, and option 3 would have the noise levels exceeding the typical level of the area considered as an impact. Mayor Benetti commented the noise level is a consideration in WH3 only. Ms. Barron commented existing water depend businesses do not have to conform to the standards. Councilor McKeown noted some businesses are now in violation of accepted noise levels and option 3 would be more lenient than current standards. Ms. Barron commented the level is high and if option 3 is chosen, standards for light, glare, dust, odor and vibration would still be included. Councilor McKeown commented standards should not make it more difficult to attract business to the area.

Mayor Benetti opened the hearing, which is a continuation from April 17, 2001, for public comments. Jack Schniederma, Coos Bay, commented John Knutson has plans to add to his business and was told the standards wouldn't be a problem. Ms. Barron reported Mr. Knutson has stated he would not mind making changes to his facade to go along with the standards. Ralph Larson, Coos Bay, commented 10% of value can be used up in maintaining a building and if painting the building, the owner must have the City approve the work and the colors. Ms. Barron explained the owner can paint 10% of the paintable wall area without approval of the color, and noted there are more than 110 colors available. Councilor Weeks commented if a property owner painted 10% a year, it could take years to completely paint the building. Ms. Barron noted the percentage was done with small weekend jobs and general maintenance in mind.

Coos County Commissioner John Griffith stated the County's comments are already on record, but he would like to correct his statement regarding dredging at the Central Dock location. He reported permits are currently in place and the area can be dredged. There were no other comments to come before the Council and Mayor Benetti closed the public hearing.

Councilor McKeown moved to enact Ordinance No. 307, eliminate 17D1 and replace with Option 3. Councilor Miller seconded the motion. Ms. Barron read Section 17 in full with the changes stated in the motion. Councilor Weeks recommended non-water dependent industrial uses be added to the ordinance. Councilor McKeown amended his motion to include non-water dependent industrial uses and Councilor Miller amended her motion to second the motion. Ms. Barron read the changes into the record and Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen read ordinance by title only. The Council was polled and the ordinance enacted with the following vote:

Aye:	Mayor Benetti and Councilors Anna Marie Larson, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, Kevin Stufflebean, Don Spangler, and Judy Weeks.
No:	None
Absent:	None

City Council Minutes – May 1, 2001

Ms. Barron reported there is a 21-day appeal period before the ordinance become final. Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs commended Ms. Barron for her work in developing the Empire and Front Street design standards. Mr. Grile also commended Ms. Barron and the City Council for handling a complex land use issue. Mayor Benetti commended staff, City Council and the public for their work on the standards.

Public Comments

Lyn Haller, 100 Ingersoll, commented the student problems in his neighborhood have not improved since he spoke to the Council a month ago. He requested the City Council become involved in resolving the situation. Mayor Benetti reported he has personally talked with Marshfield High School principal Arnie Roblan and has driven the area, and the situation is under control. Chief Knight has also visited the high school and reviewed the situation. Mr. Haller stated students continue to come to his neighborhood and yell obscenities, and he wants some action taken. Councilor McKeown reported the school is making efforts to resolve the problem and he lives in the area and does not see there is a problem. The City has a school resource officer working with the students and will continue to monitor the situation. City Manager Bill Grile commented he and Chief Knight would like to meet with Mr. Haller to discuss the matter. Chief Knight reported the department has been working with the school and undercover officers have taken surveillance pictures.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported staff met recently with Bi-Mart representatives regarding development of the old Safeway property. He has accepted an appointment as an ex officio member on a local officials advisory committee for LCDC. Voters in Oregon have sent a clear message that they desire less regulations and rules on land development. Councilor Spangler inquired if the cable franchise agreement has a provision for the Council to comment on fee increases. Mr. Grile reported the Council can have input on the fees, but the fees are basically out of the Council's control. He commented Charter Communications is preparing to invest millions of dollars in the Bay Area on improvements.

Council Comments

Councilor Larson reported attending the open house at Blossom Gulch School and the program was enjoyable and impressive.

Councilor McKeown thanked Ms. Barron and staff for the work on developing the Empire and Front Street standards. He also attended the Blossom Gulch program and commented the school district and staff are doing a good job with the children.

Councilor Miller commended the principal and teachers at Blossom Gulch for their work. The skateboard park committee will be selling candy as a fundraiser and encouraged the community's support. She attended a meeting of the Commission on Children and Families at the Tribal Hall and it was very impressive.

Councilor Spangler also commended staff and the Planning Commission on developing the design standards, and commented attending the program at Blossom Gulch School was very rewarding and reinforces how important kids are to the community.

Councilor Weeks commented it took many meetings for staff and the Planning Commission to develop the design standards, and commended them on their work. She also attended the program at Blossom Gulch School and commented being around kids brings a smile to your face. Councilor Weeks encouraged citizens to participate in the SMART reading program. She inquired on the status of the railway museum and Ms. Shribbs reported a memo of understanding will be presented at the May 15th meeting.

City Council Minutes – May 1, 2001

Mayor Benetti reported Back to School Week is April 30th through May 4th and encouraged everyone to attend school programs. The ribbon cutting at Marshfield High School for Pirate Hall will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Friday. Mayor Benetti reminded everyone of the budget committee meeting Thursday evening and noted at the track dedication last week, all the Councilors and Rep. Joanne Verger were mentioned in the dedication.

**Executive Session Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (d)
for the Purpose of Consulting with Legal Counsel
Concerning Labor Negotiations**

Councilor Miller moved to go into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (d) for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

The Council reconvened into regular session.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to May 3, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. in the library meeting room.

Joe Benetti
Mayor of the City of Coos Bay

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen
Deputy Recorder of the City of Coos Bay