

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

May 15, 2001

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

Those Attending

Those present were Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Anna Marie Larson, Jeff McKeown, Don Spangler, and Kevin Stufflebean. Councilors Cindi Miller and Judy Weeks were absent. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, 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 an OLCC license for Bayshore Chevron, approval of meeting minutes for March 20, April 3 and April 5, 2001, adoption of Resolution 01-13 supporting the application for a transportation system plan grant, approval of appointment to the Library Board to fulfill an unexpired term and South Coast Mayor's Association proclamation for Water and Electricity conservation. Councilor Stufflebean moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Report from the Coos Bay Downtown Association by Board member Rondi Potter

Downtown Association Board Member Rondi Potter reported the Farmer's Market began on May 30th which is earlier than the prior year. The Association recently conducted a survey of their membership regarding changing traffic on Anderson Avenue. Ms. Potter reported 20 percent of the members replied and a majority of the responses support two-way traffic up to 2nd Street and some of the businesses supported two-way traffic up to 4th Street. Councilor McKeown inquired what percentage of the responses were businesses and Ms. Potter reported it was a mix of businesses, services and professionals. Councilor Spangler expressed concern with the low response rate to the survey, however, since the majority have indicated a support for two-way traffic on Anderson, he would like the City to proceed with the project. Councilor McKeown commented two-way to 2nd Street would be beneficial to businesses. Councilor Stufflebean reported he has received more negative comments than positive on changing the traffic. Mayor Benetti commented most people have stated they want to see better traffic flow in the downtown area and he recommended staff prepare a report for the next council meeting.

Department Head Report by Library Director Carol Ventgen

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Library Director Carol Ventgen reported “Phrasemakers: Three Writers Talk about Writing” is scheduled for May 19th, an exhibit called “Full Throttle: a Glimpse of Motorcycles” is currently on display in the lobby, and watercolors by Reedsport artist Christine Davis are on display in the library. The final children’s story time for this year will be on June 7th, the summer reading program will resume June 26th, and the bilingual reading time started May 7th. New library employee, Gary Lark, will begin work on May 21st, the Friends of the Library book sale is scheduled for June 2nd and 3rd, and the Coos Bay Library will be hosting two regional library meetings.

Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Oregon Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Museum

City Manager Bill Grile reported significant progress has been made on the railway museum and the memorandum of understanding will memorialize the basic understandings that are important between the Railway Association, the City of Coos Bay and the Urban Renewal Agency. It would commit the City to assist with utilities and the Urban Renewal Agency to covering the cost of permits and building fees. Mayor Benetti reported a ceremony to drive the “golden stake” has been scheduled for next Tuesday and North Bend Mayor John Briggs has been invited to participate. Railway Society President John Kruse reported approximately \$52,000 in donations of materials and services has been received from 20 or more local businesses. Councilor Spangler moved to approve the memorandum of understanding with the Oregon Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Museum. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion. Councilor Larson commented a number of people she has spoken to do not support the railway museum, so she cannot support the project. The motion passed with Mayor Benetti and Councilors McKeown, Stufflebean, and Spangler voting aye; Councilors Miller and Weeks were absent; and Councilor Larson voting no.

Presentation of the Final Report from Tri-Land on the Newmark Study

City Manager Bill Grile reported staff is requesting direction from the Council to move forward with using jurisdictional exchange funds to hire an engineer to complete the final plans and specifications for improvements to Newmark Avenue, and to assist with obtaining bids for the project. Mr. Grile explained the project would be for five lanes from Wal-Mart to LaClair, with a signal at LaClair and Newmark, and three lanes from LaClair to the “Y” with sidewalks on the south side of the street. The first alternative would be a sidewalk on the north side of Newmark Avenue and the second alternative would be to complete five lanes from LaClair to the “Y”. Mr. Grile reported the next step would be for staff to review the 23 lane miles with Bracelin and Yeager and develop a maintenance capital improvement plan to better determine the costs of maintenance and funding available for projects.

Councilor McKeown commented he is not willing to undertake the Newmark project until it is clear on how much it will cost to maintain the 23 lane miles. Councilor Spangler suggested option 1, improving Newmark to five lanes from Wal-Mart to LaClair, and three lanes from LaClair to the “Y”. Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs noted the numbers from TriLand indicate the lanes already done would not need to be redone. Councilor Stufflebean recommended Wal-Mart be responsible for a portion of the improvements as their new construction will be on property affected by the project. Mayor Benetti inquired about the \$1.6 million figure and Larry Lewis of TriLand reported it is the base option of \$480,000 and includes 800 feet in front of Staples. Councilor Stufflebean commented TriLand is now proposing five lanes instead of eight

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as previously stated, and inquired how many years before additional lanes would be required. Mr. Lewis reported increased traffic is indicated at 15 to 20 years. Mayor Benetti commented a left turn lane at Staples would be helpful and Mr. Lewis reported it would be difficult from a traffic standpoint and would have “stacking problems”.

Councilor Spangler suggested creating a center turn lane all the way and Councilor Stufflebean commented Eugene’s West 11th uses this and it works well. Mr. Lewis commented this could present a number of problems in the future and could hamper growth. Mayor Benetti asked for an explanation of how \$1.6 million was reached. Ms. Shribbs explained by using TriLand’s figure of \$2,055,000 and subtracting \$275,000 in design fees and sidewalks. Mr. Grile reported both Wal-Mart and SWOCC will be approached to help with the improvements.

Julia Spangler, 476 Newmark, and Frances Cooley, 720 Prefontaine, both spoke in favor of the project. Tom Wilson expressed concern about the project because his property is not represented and inquired how it would be worked into the design. Mr. Lewis reported access must be provided. Andy Nasburg, Coos Bay, expressed support for the project and encouraged the Council to move forward quickly. Councilor Stufflebean clarified their only access would off LaClair and asked Mr. Nasburg if the developers were comfortable with this and Mr. Nasburg answered in the affirmative. Mr. Grile asked the Council if they were ready to proceed with RFPs on creating lanes with turn lanes without barriers. Mr. Lewis reported it would be close to a year before drawings are completed. Councilor Spangler commented the longer the project is delayed, the more it will cost and he supported moving ahead as rapidly as possible. Mr. Nasburg commented the increase in tax revenues from the development would more than pay for the cost of the project and would benefit the area.

Mayor Benetti made a motion to proceed with using jurisdictional exchange funds to hire an engineer to complete final plans and specifications for improvements to Newmark Avenue as well as construction drawings. Mr. Grile inquired if the motion included getting RFPs and Mayor Benetti said yes and includes the base bid of five lanes from Wal-Mart to LaClair, a signal at LaClair, three lanes from LaClair to the “Y” and sidewalks on only the south side of Newmark, including alternate no. 1 to add a sidewalk on the north side of Newmark and alternate no. 2 to complete five lanes from LaClair to the “Y”. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Consideration of Adoption of Resolution 01-14 Increasing the Building Permit Rates

City Manager Bill Grile reported Section 9.13 of the City Charter requires the building inspection program to be entirely funded by user fees, based on the actual cost necessary to administer and continue the program without contribution of any property tax revenue. Since 1997 the City has experienced several large construction projects which have financially carried the building codes program over the past four years; however, during the past year there has not been similar large construction projects and none forecast for the coming fiscal year. The Community Services Department has made an effort to decrease costs for the current budget year by decreasing spending for both personnel and materials and services. Councilor Spangler commented it saddens him to increase the rates, but there is no other option if the City is to continue with the building codes program, and builders have come forward in support of the increase. Councilor Stufflebean moved to adopt Resolution 01-14 establishing a schedule of permit fees to be collected by the Department of Community Services effective May 16, 2001. Mayor Benetti seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

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Approval of a Letter of Support for the Proposed Fifth Street Historic District

City Manager Bill Grile reported if approved, the letter of support would be presented at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHIPO) at their meeting next week in Coos Bay. Councilor Larson commented if 51 percent of the neighbors voted in favor of the historic designation, then she would also support it. Mr. Grile commented there were 40 valid signatures out of 94 which does not give 51 percent. Councilor Stufflebean stated all contacts to him have been favorable and he would support the historic district. Julia Spangler, 476 Newmark, commented establishment of the historic district would be a benefit to the community. Patricia Williams, 955 South 5th Street, stated her home is on the historical register and she has found working with SHIPO to have been a positive experience. Dennis Netter, 979 South 5th Street, commented historical recognition establishes pride in our community. Mr. Grile commented 51% of the vote is required in order to proceed with the historic designation. Councilor Spangler moved to approve the letter of support for the proposed Fifth Street Historic District. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Public Comments

Linda Newman, Pacific Cove Humane Society, reported they are a non-profit organization established in January 2000. The society began as a result of the County Commissioners desire to privatize the animal shelter. Pacific Cove has received letters of support from the County Commissions and they have also reported to most of the City Councils in the County. The Society is looking for possible locations for the facility and they are also looking into grants. Councilor Spangler inquired if the Society could use the County's facility and Ms. Newman reported the current site does not have room for growth and they are having problems with the septic system.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Randall Tosh reported the draft ordinance for establishing the Historical Design Review Committee will be coming to the Council shortly and Police Arbitration has been scheduled for Friday.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported the Historical Society will be unveiling plans for the new museum at their next meeting. He and the city attorney recently met with Linda Kimberly of Charter Communications and reviewed the franchise agreement. A work session for discussion of the proposed budget for FY 2001/2002 was scheduled for May 29th at 5:30 p.m. Councilor Spangler requested a report on the total cost of the salary increases be available for the meeting.

Council Comments

Councilor Spangler reported the formal signing of the fiber optics contract will take place at the end of the month in Creswell. He commented fiber optics service to the area will do good things for the local economy.

Councilor Larson commented she has heard good comments from the public on the Bayshore street scape project.

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Councilor Stufflebean reported the first Solid Waste Committee meeting has been held and they will be touring the facilities on Saturday. December has been set as the deadline for the Committee's recommendation.

Councilor McKeown thanked Councilor Spangler for his work on the fiber consortium. He requested a report on the sewer system within the urban renewal areas be on a future meeting agenda. Councilor McKeown also reported the South Coast Development Council has finished up with the fourth forum and Melinda Anderson has made many contacts.

Mayor Benetti thanked Councilor Spangler for his dedication to the fiber project. He attended the release of 200,000 Salmon at Blossum Gulch, and reminded the Council of the meeting with Tom Rumriech tomorrow. Visitors from Singapore will meet at city hall tomorrow for a tour.

Executive Session – Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (d) for the Purpose of Discussing Labor Negotiations

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

The Council reconvened in regular session.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to June 5, 2001 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder