

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2001

The minutes of the proceedings of the 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 Present

Those present were Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Anna Marie Larsen, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, and Judy Weeks. Councilor Kevin Stufflebean was absent. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Library Director Carol Ventgen and Police Captain Eura Washburn.

Flag Salute

Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen brought the meeting to order and led the assembly in the salute to the flag. Mayor Benetti then arrived and resumed conducting the meeting.

Consent Calendar

Mayor Benetti reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of annual renewal of OLCC licenses for Bassett-Hyland Energy Company, Belle Bee Tavern, Benetti's Italian Restaurant, Cedar Grill, Dawson's, Eagles Lodge #538, Englewood Market, Fred Meyer, Kleoni's Blue Moon Café, Kum Yon's Restaurant, Lighthouse Grocery and Deli, McKay's Market, 7-11 Store #2352-17090C, Smith's Bayway Market, Sumin's Restaurant, Sun Wah Restaurant, Sunset Pub, T N T Market, and Wanda's. Councilor Miller moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Presentation of Bay Area Together Youth Scholarship Awards by Barbara Aspinall

Barbara Aspinall, youth group advisor with Bay Area Together, reported this is the first year their organization has recognized two youth for their work in the community on drug and alcohol abuse prevention. Ms. Aspinall presented scholarships to Britney Farrer and Amber Amber Amsbary.

North Bend Jubilee Celebration

Barbara Parker, Coordinator for the July Jubilee, reported the theme for the Jubilee is We Are Family and many events have been scheduled through the month of July including theatre events, a picnic in the park, parades, dedication of the California Street boat ramp, and much more. Ms. Parker invited the City of Coos Bay employees to a challenge softball game on July 28th at Ferry Road Park at 4:30 p.m.

Report from Marshfield High School by Nick Gerritsen

City Council Minutes – June 5, 2001

Nick Gerritsen reported this is his last City Council meeting and introduced Jonathan Hansen who will be the representative attending City Council meetings next year. Mr. Gerritsen reported this is the last week for 265 seniors with graduation being held on Saturday at 7 p.m. Fifty high school students helped recently at Camp Baker teaching 6th and 7th graders outdoor skills. School counselors will be working with 8th graders to prepare them for their freshman year and a new mentor program will begin in the new school year. Mayor Benetti commended Mr. Gerritsen for his contributions to the City Council meetings and presented him with an appreciation plaque.

Report from New Thought Center by Bill Burt

Bill Burt reported the New Thought Center is a drug and alcohol recovery house in Coos Bay. The center was started in Coos Bay in January 1997 and is a family oriented program. Mr. Burt reported the Center's program has a minimum 90-day stay and has an on-site counselor. They also have a careful screening process before accepting anyone to the program. The Center is a non-profit organization and accepts donations of food, clothing, transportation, and other items of help to the program.

Update on the Anderson Housing Project from Coos-Curry Housing Authority by Paul Colbert

Paul Colbert reported the Blossom Creek Housing project proposal is for an eight-unit complex to house people with developmental disabilities. The City Council previously agreed to donate property at 10th and Anderson with a stipulation that funding be in place for the project before the Housing Authority receives the property. Mr. Colbert reported the Housing Authority has been awarded a State grant for the construction of the project and he requested an inter-governmental agreement between the City and Housing Authority be drafted. With the funding in place, they are ready to proceed and expect to begin construction in the Fall. Mr. Colbert expressed appreciation to the City for contributing the property for the project and for supporting the project. Mayor Benetti commented the city attorney would draft the necessary agreements.

Department Head Report by Fire Chief Stan Gibson

Chief Gibson reported the Fire Department sponsored the fishing derby for the 4th of July celebration in Mingus Park and will also arrange for the fireworks over the bay. Chief Gibson recently attended a national tsunami warning workshop in Portland and noted the main issue is how to get word out to citizens. He reported the City is in good shape and does have a warning system in place which includes the national alerting system in cooperation with all commercial broadcasters and the national weather service radio. In addition, the City has a warning siren in the Empire area and its purpose is to alert people to turn on a radio and TV.

Chief Gibson noted that depending on the location of an earthquake, we could have a three to six hour warning before a tsunami would hit. In cooperation with the State, new tsunami maps are available that show the major risk areas. In Coos Bay the major areas are in Empire and somewhat along the inner bay along the downtown area. Tsunami signs have been posted and evacuation routes established.

Public Hearing – Annual Performance Review of Charter Communications

City Council Minutes – June 5, 2001

Linda Kimberly, manager of Charter Communications, reported progress has been made with installation of the master head-in and high speed internet access will soon be available. Coos Bay has the largest head-in on the coast. Improvements to the Coos Bay facility estimated at \$2.5 million include a new 4000 square foot building, all new equipment, and backup power generators. Another \$1.5 million will be spent on all new electronic technology for the building. Upgrades will be done to the existing cable plant, concentrating in the Coos Bay and North Bend areas. The existing office building will be partly remodeled next year as well as improvements to the warehouse. Ms. Kimberly commented Charter Communications employs 50 full time employees and anticipates adding more positions next year.

Ms. Kimberly reported there will be a rate increase this month; increasing basic from \$20.01 to \$23.17. The increase does not impact the package prices and is necessary because of increased programming costs. They will be changing the customer discount from 10% to 15% and eligibility will be based on social security benefit requirements so that more citizens will be eligible for the discount. Ms. Kimberly commented Charter believes it is important that all citizens are able to watch local news and programs.

City Manager Bill Grile thanked Ms. Kimberly for the report and commented Charter has been a great community partner. He also expressed appreciation for negotiating the franchise with the City and he hopes to bring the agreement to the July 3rd Council meeting. Mr. Grile noted there is a possibility of restoring public access television. Mayor Benetti thanked Charter Communications for their investment in the Coos Bay area.

Public Hearing – Proposed Anderson Alternative Project

City Manager Bill Grile explained the purpose of the project is to create a main street appeal to the downtown area while moving traffic efficiently. Central Avenue businesses desire to have better access from South Bayshore and opening up the remaining block of Central was discussed, but is not possible. The proposal for a left turn onto Anderson Avenue from Bayshore was developed, along with a right turn from Anderson onto 4th Street. ODOT approved the idea and paid for the Kittleson Plan to implement the changes. Diagonal parking along Anderson is proposed in front of the Coos Art Museum. The 4th and Anderson alternative was done to divert south bound traffic from the downtown area because ODOT was concerned about the amount of congestion at Anderson and Broadway. The left onto Anderson would bring traffic seeking downtown business. Also for consideration is additional diagonal parking along 4th Street, south of Anderson and continuing to Curtis Avenue. Mayor Benetti opened the hearing to receive public comments.

Geno Landrum, Coos Bay, asked why not develop parallel parking and Mr. Grile responded the Council can to either, although diagonal parking is easier. Mr. Landrum expressed concern about making changes to the Anderson traffic pattern and having traffic back up because of the short distance. Mayor Benetti reported the study showed 70% of the traffic congestion on Anderson was caused by people waiting to turn south, and that is why the 4th and Anderson Alternative was developed. Mr. Grile commented the light to be removed is at 2nd and Anderson and ODOT is committed to do in-sinc signal work which should help with congestion. Ralph Larson, Coos Bay, expressed concern that citizens will not like the changes and they will not stop and shop in downtown. Many senior citizens don't like change. Mr. Larson supported opening up the last block of Central Avenue. Councilor Miller commented the proposed plan was discussed at the Downtown Association meeting and when previous traffic changes were made, there were the same fears, but people adapted. She further commented that the City should do what is best for the whole community.

City Council Minutes – June 5, 2001

Rita Todd, Coos Bay, commented she has a business on 2nd Street which would be greatly impacted by changing the traffic and she expressed support of the proposed plan. Currently it is difficult to give directions to her business and even though she has been in this location for two years, customers still have difficulty getting to her business. Ms. Todd commented the City has a beautiful downtown area and it has incredible potential and with more traffic into the area more businesses will move into the vacant spaces. Don Landus, Coos Bay, has a law office in the downtown area and after looking at the plans suggested diagonal parking along Anderson Avenue near his office. He expressed concern about losing the parking in front of his office along 4th Street and requested the parking spaces on the north side of his office be reinstated.

Terry Tice, Island Sun, supported changing a portion of Anderson Avenue to two-way traffic and is in favor of diagonal parking on Anderson. Jim Davenport, Cottonwood Studio, expressed support for locating the historical museum in downtown. He commented the museum will stop people and the traffic changes will help bring people into the downtown area. Mr. Davenport stated his business would also benefit with the Anderson Alternative and agreed that the change would help the vacant buildings fill up. He also stated his support for diagonal parking along Anderson.

Reed Lockhart, director of the Coos Art Museum, commented the additional parking would help the downtown area and attendance at the museum. Mr. Lockhart stated a vibrant downtown area is healthy for the whole community and he supports the Anderson Alternative. Councilor McKeown asked if he was speaking for the Museum Board and Mr. Lockhart said it is the consensus of the Board to support the alternative. Gary Rifkin, Coos Bay, suggested the two-way traffic be extended up to the corner of the JC Penney building to bring more people into the core downtown. Mr. Grile commented two-way on 2nd wouldn't work because the street is too narrow and improvements to the parking lots has already been completed. Councilor Spangler suggested two-way up to 4th Street. Mr. Rifkin commented that would help all the businesses located along that section of Anderson. Councilor Weeks expressed concern about the jog at the 4th and Anderson intersection.

Mark Daily, Coos Bay, supported two-way up to 4th Street. He commented with BiMart locating in the old Safeway Plaza there will be more traffic. Doug Fletcher, Coos Bay, supported making changes in the traffic pattern and also supported two-way up to 4th Street. He encouraged the Council to implement the changes immediately. Mike Decairis, Coos Bay, commented there is a need for more parking in the downtown area and the diagonal parking would help; he expressed support for the project. Anna Brands, Coos Bay, commented she moved off of Central Avenue because of no traffic or parking, and since being on 101, her business has been doing well. Ms. Brands stated she did not support two-way traffic on Anderson, but would support opening up the remaining block of Central Avenue.

There being no further public comments to come before the City Council, Mayor Benetti closed the public hearing. Councilor Spangler made a motion to open Anderson Avenue to two-way traffic up to 4th Street. The motion died for lack of a second. Councilor Miller made a motion to open Anderson Avenue to two-way from Bayshore to 2nd Street with a left at the museum. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion. Councilor Miller amended her motion to include diagonal parking in front of the museum and Councilor Weeks amended her second. Councilor Spangler asked how many new parking spaces this would create and Mr. Grile reported 18 to 20 spaces. Mayor Benetti commented diagonal parking in front of the museum would be lost if the two-way continued up to 2nd Street. The motion failed for lack of a majority vote.

Councilor Miller moved to leave diagonal parking on Anderson with two-way traffic from Bayshore to 2nd Street and a right turn on 2nd Street to Central Avenue. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion. There

City Council Minutes – June 5, 2001

was further discussion on how far the two-way traffic should extend and which portion of 2nd Street was intended in the motion. Councilor Miller restated the motion to open Anderson Avenue to two-way traffic from Bayshore to 2nd Street with a right on 2nd to Central and include diagonal parking on the north side of Anderson. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion. Councilor Spangler commented this would adopt the plan as presented and Councilor Anna Marie stated she could not support the plan. The motion passed with Mayor Benetti and Councilors McKeown, Miller, Spangler, Stufflebean and Weeks voting aye; Councilor Larson voting no.

Approval of Vacation of a Portion of Division Avenue and Enactment of Ordinance No. 308

Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs reported this is for a vacation of a portion of Division Avenue and borders the north side of Topits Park. The Planning Commission has reviewed and recommends approval of the vacation. Councilor Weeks moved to enact Ordinance No. 308 and Councilor Miller seconded the motion. Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen read the ordinance by title only and the Council was polled with the following results:

Voting aye:	Mayor Benetti and Councilors Larson, McKeown, Miller, Spangler, Stufflebean, and Weeks
Voting no:	None
Absent:	None

Public Comments

Geno Landrum, Coos Bay, thanked the Council for the improvements on Bayshore and for the restrooms which will be included in the historical museum facility. Mr. Landrum asked if the City has plans to improve Market Street. Councilor McKeown commented there are many nice looking establishments along Market. Mr. Landrum responded he would like to see a streetscape in this area. Mark Daily, Coos Bay, reported there is a local group of supporters for public access television. He is one of the board members and they have a three year lease with the Senior Citizens Center. Equipment has been donated and they have submitted paperwork for non-profit status.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Randall Tosh reported arbitration with the Police Officers Association was held May 18th and post hearing briefs are expected June 18th with a decision expected July 27th.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported the Charter Communications franchise proposal will include a proposal for a PEG fee which would help fund the Public-Education-Government access channels. Mr. Grile commented staff continues to look for ways to operate cost effectively and today met with City of North Bend representatives to discuss some of North Bend's concerns about moving forward with the 911 issue. There are a number of things to consider and there would not be a cost to the City for the study. Mayor Benetti commented both chiefs would like to move forward with the review and noted this is for dispatch services.

City Council Minutes – June 5, 2001

Mr. Grile reported a proposal for the Empire facade program will be brought to the Urban Renewal Agency June 19th for their consideration. Some of the work done on the Sportsman pedway has not met specifications and staff is looking at options on how to make sure the contracts are adhered to. Mr. Grile reported he will be on vacation through June 18th and the assistant city manager will be in charge.

Council Comments

Councilor Larson reported she has received several favorable comments on the Sportsman Plaza and expressed concern on transients being attracted to the area. She commented the Bayshore Streetscape looks very nice with the hanging baskets and suggested hanging baskets be placed on Broadway as well.

Councilor McKeown reported while he was at the Portland airport recently he was pleased to see an advertisement for the South Coast. He stated he is happy with the efforts to attract people to the downtown area.

Councilor Miller commented the Bayshore Streetscape is looking beautiful and reminded everyone the Farmer's Market is now officially open on Wednesday's at 10 a.m. She welcomed Diane O'Brien as the market master.

Councilor Spangler commented it is good to hear positive comments on the downtown project and noted these are urban renewal dollars at work. Councilor Spangler expressed opposition to a PEG access fee as it would only be paid by Coos Bay citizens and the PEG channel is available county-wide. Citizens have already had an increase in cable service. City Attorney Tosh commented the PEG fee was proposed by Charter Communications. City Manager Grile reported there is an interest in getting public access back on the air and the issue of a PEG fee is a Council policy choice.

Councilor Weeks commented the Bayshore Drive street improvement project is looking good and the Sportsman Pedway is coming along. She noted the Southern Oregon Visitor's Guide is a nice piece of work but does not represent Coos Bay and North Bend. Mayor Benetti commented the Tourism Promotions Committee belongs to the organization, but they do not pay for any of the advertising. Councilor Weeks reported Mrs. Aldridge's third grade class has invited her to participate in a city tour on Thursday.

Mayor Benetti congratulated the Marshfield High School Band for participating in the Rose Parade in Portland and also congratulated graduating seniors. Mayor Benetti reported interviewed for applicants for the Library Board will be scheduled for June 19th and he has received many compliments on the improvements around the city.

Executive Session - Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (d) for the Purpose of Discussing 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 McKeown seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

The Council reconvened into regular session.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to May 1, 2001 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

City Council Minutes – June 5, 2001

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder