

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

August 7, 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, and Don Spangler. Councilors Kevin Stufflebean 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, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Library Director Carol Ventgen 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 of May 15 and 29, 2001 and adoption of the findings on the Horizon Air appeal regarding reimbursement of hotel/motel tax gunds. Mayor Benetti reported at the suggestion of the city attorney the adoption of finding on the Horizon appeal will be placed as an agenda item. Councilor Miller moved to approve the consent calendar as amended. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion, which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Department Head Report from Library Director Carol Ventgen

Library Director Carol Ventgen reported the summer reading program is going well with 600 children participating and library usage is up. The library received a grant from Bay Area Hospital for a computer to provide health information to the public, and Bay Area Hospital and Verizon have given grants to buy self-help and bilingual books. A display of Artist Maggie Karl's water colors will be at the library this month and an adult series to begin soon.

Horizon Air Appeal

City Attorney Randall Tosh reported a proposed order has been prepared for the Council to adopt; it sets forth a series of findings of fact, and when adopted will begin the 60-day appeal period. Mr. Tosh commented he had conversed with a Horizon employee about this matter and there is a possibility they will appeal the decision. It is customary to provide a copy of the proposed order, which he did for Ms. Lindner. She had some objections to the content of the letter and asked for changes to the order. Mr. Tosh stated he would not

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recommend the changes Ms. Lindner requested, and asked that Ms. Lindner's objections and his response memo be submitted for the record. Consensus of the Council to accept the documents as part of the record. Councilor McKeown requested an explanation of the order and Ms. Lindner's requests. Mr. Tosh reviewed Ms. Lindner's comments and noted a copy of the final order would be sent to Horizon after the Council's adoption of the findings of fact and order. Councilor Miller moved to adopt the proposed opinion and order in the matter of Horizon Air hotel/motel tax refund issue. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Presentation from Empire Historical Wayside Support Group

Melody Caldera, 525 Fulton, Coos Bay, reported she is representing a group of interested citizens who have formed the Empire Historical Wayside Support Group. Ms. Caldera commented the group supports the City's purchase of the property in Empire near Eureka fisheries and they would like to assist the City in the process of improving the site. Ms. Caldera reported early Empire City was nearly exactly where this property is located. She explained there is a hunger for ties that bind us together and there are several people with areas of expertise who would be happy to assist the City. Ms. Caldera commented the upper area would be great to leave open for the view. Councilor Spangler asked if the support group wants to play a role in the planning stages. Ms. Caldera said yes, as she is fascinated by the history of our area. City Manager Bill Grile stated anyone who wants to give advice is welcome. He commented the plan would assess the resource and identify the alternatives and the process would also include asking the community what is the best possible use of the property.

Presentation of the July Jubilee Annual North Bend - Coos Bay Softball Championship Traveling Trophy

North Bend Mayor John Briggs reported a re-match between the Coos Bay and North Bend softball teams has been scheduled during the upcoming Bay Area Fun Festival. Mayor Benetti presented Mayor Briggs with the softball trophy. North Bend Administrator Gary Combs introduced Police Chief Scibelli, North Bend's new chief. Chief Scibelli commented it had always been one of his goals to settle on the Oregon coast and he is looking forward to working with Coos Bay Chief Knight.

Report from Wayne Wolf Representing the Korean War Veterans

Wayne Wolf, chairman of the Bay Area Kor-Vets Committee, reported there were over 2 million lives lost and 21 different nations fought in the Korean War. The mission of the Bay Area Kor-Vets is to remember those lost and bring recognition to them. The Korean War Veterans have committed to holding at least three events per year. They will hold upwards of twenty events this year and are one of the most active groups in the nation. They have a three-day event to be held at the North Bend AirFair in September with several activities including a military reunion for veterans of the Korean War and a full Combat MASH Unit. The event is part of a national three-year celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. Mayor Benetti commended Mr. Wolf for his hard work.

Approval of AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement and Adoption of Resolution 01-25 Transferring Funds

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City Manager Bill Grile reviewed the effect of the AFSCME contract on the general fund and recommended the Council authorize him to sign the contract. Councilor Miller moved to sign the agreement with AFSCME and to adopt Resolution 01-25 which is attached hereto and made a part of thereby, transferring appropriate funds. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which passed with all the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye. Councilor Spangler stepped out of the room before and was absent during vote.

Approval of Coos Bay Police Officer's Association Collective Bargaining Agreement

City Manager Bill Grile reported an arbitrator has ruled in favor of the CBPOA. Mr. Grile reported there will be additional costs to the City and he recommended that Chief Knight cover the extra costs from within the Police Department's budget, which would not be difficult considering recent staff turnover. Councilor Spangler asked how much the salaries would increase over the three-year period and Finance Director Janell Howard reported the cost is \$1.2 million including benefits. Councilor Miller moved to authorize the city manager to sign the CBPOA collective bargaining agreement. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion Which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Approval to Proceed with Fund Exchange Program and Overlay Project

City Manager Bill Grile reported through ODOT's Fund Exchange Program, exchanged federal dollars for dollars that could be used following local contracting guidelines. The rate of exchange is \$0.92 for each federal dollar and would provide the City with \$80,156 in funds that must be spent before December 2002. The City's Blue Ribbon Committee prioritized projects from the Streets Capital Improvement Plan in 1997 and many of the projects have been completed. Staff's recommendation is to pave three streets: South 10th from Ingersoll to Lockhart, Johnson Avenue from 7th and 10th Street, and South 11th Street from Ingersoll to Ferguson. Estimated total for these projects is \$72,615. Alternatives to be added to the bid would allow the City to complete additional streets if funds are available include Ingersoll Avenue from 4th to 7th Street, South 7th Street from Kruse to Lockhart, and Kruse Avenue from 5th to 7th Street. Estimated total for these projects is \$35,010. Councilor Spangler moved to fund the street paving projects as recommended by staff. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Public Comments

Steve Skinner, North Bend 2408 Broadway, commented after the City purchased the old Bay Club property he came to Council meeting with support and continues to support the projects in that location. Mr. Skinner suggested the view should be preserved and a wayside or pullout for tourists and residents be developed. He also suggested emphasizing the historic aspect and careful planning so as to use it as a springboard for other projects in Empire. Mr. Skinner introduced Nathan Douthit from Coos Historical Society.

Nathan Douthit, 663 South 11th Street, Coos Bay, commented Empire City is important because it is the area where the first white settlers came. Much of the history is not visible today and many of the structures are gone. Mr. Douthit commented a great deal could be done to improve the interest in the Empire area with historic images and he encouraged the Council to continue with the project.

Ken Gowen, 201 North Schoneman Street, Coos Bay, reported he walks through Empire every day and the area is in need of upkeep along the sidewalks and curbing. Mr. Gowen suggested the City notify property

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owners of their responsibility and he supports doing a “Don’t be a Litterbug” campaign. City Manager Bill Grile commented he would be happy to discuss this issue with Mr. Gowen. Councilor Larson commented it is necessary for property owners to get involved. Councilor Spangler complimented Mr. Gowen for getting involved and also supported contacted property owners about the issue.

Bill Parham, Bay Area Rescue Mission, commented recently there was a letter to the editor in the local paper about the blight the Mission has brought to the Empire area. Mr. Parham reported the Mission is trying very hard to be a good neighbor and he regularly has the men staying at the Mission sweep streets, pull weeds, and wash windows from Webster’s Hair Salon to Cape Arago Highway.

City Manager’s Report

City Manager Bill Grile commented he hopes Assistant City Manager Joyce Jansen is feeling better and thanked Clerical Assistant Stacey Babb for “pinch hitting”. He invited Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs to report on projects started on her first day with the City. Ms. Shribbs reviewed downtown improvement projects and the proposed Oregon Federal Credit Union office at Johnson and Hwy 101. Staff is considering improvements to Front Street and provide a shared access to Napa and the credit union. Mayor Benetti commented he travels this area often and it needs improvement as the bank will have a major impact on traffic. Councilor Spangler stated he does not support moving forward with Front Street before improving the downtown area, possibly with low cost loans. Ms. Shribbs said this is a small project with a cost of maybe \$80,000. Councilor Mckeown said there might be some federal safety dollars available for this project and this would certainly qualify as a safety issue area.

Mr. Grile said there is also a possible south town project to correct a flooding problem and the area falls within the urban renewal district. Improvements to First Street and Lockhart could provide better access to the industrial properties in this area. Mr. Grile also commented staff is also looking at a better use of the city shop property. Councilors McKeown, Miller and Spangler were in favor of making improvements to the area. John Neikirk, 1150 South Front Street, Coos Bay, reported he recently purchased the property where Coos Bay Homes is located. He suggested establishing an alternative street to access the Englewood area and alleviate traffic problems on Johnson. Mr. Neikirk commented the street to his property is gravel and causes great expense as well as chasing away business. Councilor Spangler suggested the business owners participate in an LID to improve the street. John Chambers, 225 West Lockhart Avenue, Coos Bay, commented the flooding in the parking lot does not help business and the intersection is dangerous. He supported making the improvements in the near future.

Council Comments

Councilor Miller congratulated Barbara at the North Bend visitor’s center for a great July Jubilee celebration and reminded everyone of the upcoming Charleston Seafood Festival and Blackberry Arts Festival events. Councilor Miller commented in the last two weeks she has received six calls from the public complimenting Barbara Seeger in the Community Services department and it is nice to see the public take notice of the fine staff at City Hall.

Councilor Larson welcomed the new Bi-Mart store into the old Safeway plaza. She commented she has heard many positive comments on the County nuisance abatement ordinance.

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Councilor McKeown reported his term as chair on South Coast Development Council has been completed and he welcomed John Sweet as the new chair. SCDC has completed the strategic plan and marketing plan and they determined that cold calling techniques are not very successful so a task force has been formed to get warm leads on businesses outside the area that might be interested in relocating to our area.

Mayor Benetti thanked Ken Gowen and the Bay Area Rescue Mission for their involvement in the Empire area, and he agrees that the City could help get people involved. Councilor McKeown reported SCDC has formed a committee to look at improving tourist corridors and Councilor Miller added the Chamber of Commerce also has a committee that improves local areas twice a year. Mayor Benetti said some issues have come up regarding Choshi Gardens and vandalism and he realized Coos Stop Crime is not advertised like it has been in the past. Chief Knight said Coos Stop Crime continues to meet monthly and continues to offer rewards and there is a link on the City's website. Councilor Miller said she is on the board of Coos Stop Crime and will make an effort to publicize more information. Mayor Benetti commented he received a call from Joe Kuharik of Burger King commending Fire Chief Stan Gibson and Building Codes Administrator Joe McClay for going beyond the call of duty in their involvement regarding the recent Empire Burger King incident. Mayor Benetti reported he recently toured of Coos Bay North Bend Water Board dam project and was given water bottles for each of the Councilors.

Executive Session

The City Council met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (d) for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations.

The City Council reconvened into regular session

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to August 21, 2001 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder