

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

January 15, 2002

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 Larson, Jeff McKeown, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean and Judy Weeks. Councilor Miller was absent due to jury duty. 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, 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 reported Councilor Larson has requested Resolution 01-01 be removed from the consent calendar, Councilor Weeks has requested surplus police vehicles be removed from the consent calendar, and an agenda item has been added to ratify the Firefighters' Association agreement.

Mayor Benetti reviewed the amended consent calendar which consisted of approval of the December 4, 2001 meeting minutes, adoption of Resolution 02-02 supporting improvements to transportation systems, adoption of Resolution 02-03 dissolution of the Parking Committee, approval of a special event permit for street and parking lot closure for the Boy Scouts, approval of Martin Luther King, Jr. proclamation, and approval of Resolution 02-04 adjusting the Water Board's alum sludge rates. Councilor Stufflebean moved to accept the consent calendar as amended. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and all Councilors present voting aye.

Adoption of Resolution 02-01 Establishing Truck Parking on Kruse Street

Mayor Benetti explained areas for truck parking were changed from 7th Street to Kruse Street at the last meeting. Mayor Benetti moved to adopt Resolution 02-01 establishing truck parking on Kruse Street between 5th and 7th Streets, which is attached hereto and thereby made a part of the record. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and Councilors McKeown, Spangler, Stufflebean and Weeks voting aye, and Councilor Larson voting no.

Approval to Surplus Police Department Vehicles

Councilor Weeks reported one of SCINT's budget items was purchase of vehicles and suggested the City donate or sell one of the surplus police cars to SCINT. Chief Knight commented the City has donated

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vehicles to SCINT and other police agencies in the past, with the understanding that the vehicles should not be used for pursuit driving due to their condition, and he has contacted Sgt. Dan Looney with SCINT about the availability of the vehicles. Councilor Spangler noted one of the vehicles to be surplus only has 60,000 miles on it and Chief Knight explained it has problems with the brakes and is a high maintenance vehicle. Councilor Weeks moved to approve surplus the police department vehicles. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and all Councilors present voting aye.

Report from Chamber of Commerce Director Shirley Liberante

Shirley Liberante, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, reported the visitor information center is open seven days a week with the help of volunteers and the Independent Business Operators have organized a weekly forum on a variety of topics. The Chamber has done a lot of media to get the Chamber out into the community. Ms. Liberante explained the Board came up with the word for the year, which is positivity, and they are focusing on being positive and seeing the positive things in the community. The Chamber's web site receives many hits each month and the Chamber has sold a number of banner ads on the site. Ms. Liberante commented the Government Affairs Committee has been reactivated, the economic forum was a success, they are working with a local printer for the community profile publication, and they are working on Drugs Don't Work Taskforce. Ms. Liberante reminded everyone of the upcoming annual Chamber banquet being held Saturday, January 26th at The Mill Casino.

Department Head Report by Fire Chief Stan Gibson

Fire Chief Gibson reported the department received 55 applications for the two firefighter positions and has narrowed the applicants down to four finalists. The Police Department is currently doing background checks and he anticipates having two firefighters hired on February 1st. Chief Gibson recently attended a meeting with the State Department of Emergency Management regarding tsunami mapping and hopes to have maps of the local area available by the first of May. He commented of major concern for the City is Wastewater Treatment Plant II and the Empire boat ramp facility; however, the downtown core area has been determined as a relatively low hazard area. Because of the length and position of the bay, it is estimated only four to six inches of water would be in the downtown area. Chief Gibson reported the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association will hold their conference in the bay area in June 2002. The conference will be held primarily at the college and at the Boys and Girls Club, and will bring an estimated 450 to 500 visitors to the area. Councilor McKeown commented there are a number of tsunami warning signs up and down the coast, but there is nothing that tells people where to go. Chief Gibson reported the maps will be posted around the community for the public and not only in Coos Bay, but also in North Bend and Charleston.

Ratification of the Firefighters' Association Agreement

Chief Gibson reported through mediation the City and the Firefighters Association were able to come to an agreement on impact bargaining on the reorganization of the Fire Department. He noted the reorganization began in August 1998 and at this time staff is requesting the Council ratify the agreement. There was a brief discussion of the affect the agreement would have on the volunteer association and Mayor Benetti commented the volunteers serve an important function in the community and the department. Councilor Weeks moved to ratify the tentative agreement. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and all Councilors present voting aye.

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Approval to Purchase a Pickup Truck for the Fire Department

Councilor Stufflebean inquired if the surplus fire vehicle would be made available to the Community Services Department. Chief Gibson reported they would be surplus two vehicles, a 1993 Ford pickup and a 1993 Ford Explorer and both would be offered to other city departments. The price of the new vehicle would be \$23,705, with additional equipment of \$3,800. Councilor Weeks commented it is unfortunate that local dealers do not bid on vehicle purchases for the city, county, schools and state. Mr. Grile noted the last low bidder for a Fire Department vehicle was in Roseburg. Chief Gibson explained that going through the state is allowed under the city's purchasing rules and has the benefit of the lowest price because of quantity purchasing. He noted local dealers can participate in the state purchasing process. There was further discussion on the bidding process and Council suggested staff do something to help local dealers compete. Mr. Grile stated he would look into the matter. Councilor Weeks moved to approve the purchase of a 2002 Ford F350 pickup from Gresham Ford through the state bid and purchasing process. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and all Councilors present voting aye.

Re-appointment of Larry Werhan to the Tourism Promotions Committee

Mayor Benetti reported Mr. Werhan currently serves on the Tourism Promotions Committee and is agreeable to being re-appointed to a two-year term. Councilor Stufflebean moved to appoint Larry Werhan to the Tourism Promotions Committee. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and all Councilors present voting aye.

Enactment of Ordinance No. 317 Providing for the Final Assessment of Property for the Costs of the Construction of a Local Improvement on Old Wireless Lane

Mayor Benetti reported the ordinance came before the City Council on January 2nd and due to changes made in the calculations of debt, the ordinance was not enacted at that time. Councilor Stufflebean inquired about Mr. Wright's protest and Mayor Benetti reported Mr. Wright was now pleased with the LID and wished the Council to proceed. Councilor Stufflebean moved to adopt Ordinance No. 317 and Councilor Weeks seconded the motion. Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen read the ordinance by title only and polled the council with the following results:

Voting Aye: Mayor Benetti and Councilors Larson, McKeown, Spangler, Stufflebean and Weeks.

Voting No: None

Absent: Councilor Miller

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Randall Tosh expressed appreciation to the Council for ratifying the tentative agreement with the firefighters. He noted this matter has taken four years of work.

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City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported a work session to present the technology plan will be held next Wednesday and staff has held two meetings regarding pedestrian safety on Newmark Avenue. Mr. Grile commented some changes should be done within the month and include signage, placing multi-colored striping in the crosswalks, and more police enforcement in the area. A town hall meeting on pedestrian safety has been scheduled at Sunset Middle School on February 7th at 7 p.m. Mr. Grile reported the city attorney has written a memo on HB 2934 transient lodging tax, and suggested the Tourism Promotions Committee examine both the Coos Bay and North Bend ordinances with an eye toward standardizes the ordinances. Mr. Grile reported the owner of a 95-foot steel hulled yacht is interested in mooring his vessel at the city dock. In order to do so, the City would need to make some electrical improvements to the dock and the City would pursue a three-year lease with the vessel owner.

Mr. Grile updated the Council on the progress of the County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and noted there are some concerns that need to be addressed; the Beaver Hill facility will most likely close on or before 2013 when the current ash trench is full, and the County faces an under-funded liability totaling about \$9.4 million for facility closure and post-closure environmental monitoring. If there are not garbage fees to pay for this, the County has the ability to go to the taxpayers for the funding. Councilor Stufflebean commented Coos Bay could haul the garbage out of the area, but it would cause the Beaver Hill facility to close down. Mr. Grile reported Eugene land use attorney Douglas DuPriest has been retained as a special hearings officer to hear the Liberti appeal on the Bay Area Rescue Mission site plan. A citywide staff meeting will be held January 23rd at 8 a.m. in the council chambers.

Council Comments

Councilor Spangler reported he has received inquired from the public about the Newmark project and asked for an update. Mr. Grile reported the Dyer Partnership is doing the work we've contracted them to do and Ms. Shribbs said a significant amount of work has been done, and staff has responded to a number of questions from them.

Councilor Weeks inquired about the report from bond council regarding determination on urban renewal funds. Mr. Tosh reported the opinion has been drafted and is being reviewed by their tax counsel and he expects to have a report ready for the next council meeting. Councilor Weeks reminded everyone of the Coquille Indian Tribe Mid-Winter gathering on Saturday.

Councilor Larson expressed sympathy for the Bertrand family for the recent loss of their son Lance Cpl. Bryan Bertrand. Councilor Larson commented the workshop with ODDA suggested ways to attract businesses to the area include keeping a positive attitude and getting building owners to dress up empty store windows. She thanked citizens for their support of the Tribe's recreation center.

Councilor Stufflebean also expressed condolences to the Bertrand family and reminded everyone there are thousands of men and women serving overseas protecting our country's freedom. He thanked the Council for their prayers and thoughts while he was in the hospital and reported he is doing well. Councilor Stufflebean reported the Regional Workforce Board meeting was held yesterday and a meeting is being planned for April which will include economic development folks from Coos and Curry Counties, and representatives from social services, work force board, and public officials. The purpose of the meeting will be to gain an understanding of what everyone does so that they can better work together. The meeting is being coordinated with the Business Development Center at the college and he encouraged all interested citizens

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to attend the meeting. Councilor Stufflebean reported the Community Action Board has asked him to serve on their board as an elected official.

Councilor McKeown commented he is glad to have Kevin back, and also extended sympathies to the Bryan Bertrand family. He reported a meeting of an SCDC subcommittee was held to study the log supply in the area and the consensus of the members was that potentially the log supply would support a sawmill. Councilor McKeown commented he has been asked to serve on the Oregon Economic Community Development Finance Committee and so far has attended two meetings. It has been very interesting and he has learned that there are a lot of opportunities for money to support businesses, however, a lot of businesses are not aware the funding is available. Councilor McKeown commented SCDC has learned it does make a difference when a community approaches a business and asks them to relocate to their community.

Mayor Benetti congratulated the Police Department for being nominated to receive an Excellence in Training award which will be presented January 23rd at the annual DPSST banquet and he expressed appreciation for the dedication of the Police Department employees. He reminded everyone of the Chamber banquet on January 26th. He expressed his condolences to the Bertrand family and noted there will be a memorial service at the high school on January 27th at 2 p.m. Mayor Benetti recognized city employees for their years of service: Chief Chuck Knight for 35 years, Fire Capt. Ed Jackson for 30 years, Sgt. Kevin Hedgepeth for 25 years, Ann Couture from the Library for 15 years, Sgt. Ron Robson and Fire Capt. Dan McAvoy for ten years, and firefighters Robert Borra, Dan Crutchfield, Matt Fare and Mike Seldon, police dispatcher Sheri Layton, and Community Services Department Carol Anderson for five years of service. Awards will be given at the citywide staff meeting on Wednesday.

Public Comments

Michael Decaires, Public Access PALS, explained some time ago he had reported to the Council that his group would be applying for non-profit status, and they have now received their non-profit status. They are applying for grants and working on a budget, and are looking forward to getting a public access channel on the air. Mr. Grile commented the city is planning to go out for proposals to provide PEG access services by a non-profit organization.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to February 5, 2002 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder