

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 5, 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, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean and Judy Weeks. Councilor Cindi Miller was absent due to medical reasons. 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, Police Chief Chuck Knight and Library Director Carol Ventgen.

Flag Salute

Mayor Benetti opened the meeting and members of Girl Scout Troop No. 542 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 the February 5, 2002 meeting, approval of Marine Corp League Weekend proclamation, and adoption of Resolution 02-08 to reassess certain properties of the California Street Local Improvement District. Councilor Stufflebean 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 by Girl Scout Troop No. 542 in Celebration of the Girl Scout's 90th Birthday

Ms. Joyce Hammer presented a proclamation for Girl Scout Week, which is attached and made a part of the record. Ms. Hammer explained the Girl Scout organization was started by Julia and Gordon Lowe in 1912 and this year is the 90th birthday of the organization. Ms. Hammer read the proclamation to the assembly. Councilor Weeks moved to adopt the proclamation declaring March 10th through 16th as Girl Scout Week. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Report by Marshfield High School Council Representative Jon Hanson

Jon Hanson reported January and February have been busy months at Marshfield High School and the Mr. MHS pageant was held last Saturday which raised \$16,000 for the Children's Miracle Network in Eugene. Senior Brad Burnette was crowned as 2002 Mr. MHS. Spring sports begin March 11th, the dance team will be going to state competition in Portland, the drama department will be performing Little Shop of Horrors, and college scholarship applications are being prepared. Valedictorians this year will be Nick Gerritson and

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Luke Soules [call MHS for names]. The high school will be switching to a trimester system and classes will begin one hour later and end one hour later.

Department Report by Fire Chief Stan Gibson

Chief Gibson reported the Coos Bay and North Bend Fire Departments were recognized for their service to the community by the Bay Area Sportsman at their annual banquet. Chief Gibson introduced and issued the oath of office to two new firefighters, Kevin Haggan and Kevin Cunningham. The department will be applying for federal grant monies available to fire departments throughout the country and Chief Gibson has been selected to serve on the committee evaluating applications for the \$362 million grant funds.

Chief Gibson reported recently the North Bend Police Department was dispatched to an emergency at Blossom Gulch School by South County 911 Dispatch Center. Coos Bay Police and Fire Departments overhead the dispatch and corrected and responded to the call. The 911 call had been placed by a bus driver using his cell phone, and those calls are routed to Coquille. Councilor Weeks expressed concern about 911 calls being routed to the right people at the right time and inquired if cell phone calls can be redirected. Councilor McKeown commented it is a little frightening when our area dispatcher didn't know where the school was located. Police Chief Chuck Knight explained the administrative rules state the calls and revenues go to South County. It is a challenge, and he will have a plan submitted in August to maintain the North County 911 Center. Councilor Spangler asked how the calls get to Coos Bay and Chief Knight explained the calls are rerouted to Coos Bay. Councilor McKeown inquired where the emergency calls went when South County was down during the February 7th storm. Chief Knight reported Verizon switched the equipment which is located at their center at 4th and Donnelly to reroute the calls to the emergency center at Coos Bay city hall.

Report by South Coast Development Council Executive Director Melinda Anderson

South Coast Development Council Executive Director Melinda Anderson reported the mission of SCDC is to create new jobs, business recruitment, and business retention. Of the 12 customized response packets sent by her office, four businesses have visited the area, and one of them was American Bridge which has located to Reedsport. Ms. Anderson commented John Sweet, Chair of SCDC, helped explain the shipping advantages of the area, and Douglas County offered them the property. Construction of the facility will begin later this Spring and it is anticipated American Bridge will bring 120 living wage jobs within two years.

Two other businesses are still looking at the area and one is a company that has not yet started up. Since December five more packets have been sent out. Ms. Anderson reported SCDC's web site has received 3,000 hits since the site has been on line and business inquiries have been received from the site as well. She has attended trade shows in Santa Clara and Anaheim, SCDC is helping sponsor the Rotary Convention in May, and a public relations campaign has begun to get information about the South Coast out. Ms. Anderson explained about SCDC's action teams and their purpose, and the development of the business retention plan which the Business Development Center and CCD helped develop. She explained the importance of having what businesses need in the way of infrastructure and shovel-ready land. SCDC is also working on transportation options, supporting telecommunications, and the gas pipeline. Ms. Anderson commented the appearance of the highway corridor and noted SCDC is working with other groups to help beautify the area.

Ms. Anderson reported up through January 30, 2002, SCDC has an ending balance of \$416,550.29 and has

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collected two years on the three-year commitments. Councilor McKeown commented the State of Oregon paid their full three-year commitment of \$100,000 in one payment. Ms. Anderson commented the board meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month and invited anyone interested to attend.

There was discussion on the possible development of the old Coos Head Naval Facility property and the advantages of having publicly-owned property available to offer to businesses looking to locate to the area. Councilor Spangler inquired about SCDC sponsoring conventions such as Rotary and Ms. Anderson responded that is a possibility if the conventions bring business owners to the area. Ms. Anderson concluded her report expressing appreciation to the City Council for their commitment and support of SCDC.

Adoption of Resolution 02-07 Approving Application to the State to Request the Designation of “Electronic Commerce” Status for the Bay Area Enterprise Zone

Mayor Benetti reported the Bay Area Enterprise Zone is making application to the State for designation as an Electronic Commerce Enterprise Zone and only four enterprise zones in Oregon will receive this designation. Councilor Stufflebean moved to adopt Resolution 02-07 approving the application to the State. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding Between Southern Oregon Coast Housing Opportunities Provider and the City of Coos Bay

Mayor Benetti commented representatives from south coast communities have met several times with Umpqua Community Development Corporation staff, other providers of services and housing to low and moderate income families and representatives from the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to discuss development of a regional Housing Center. Councilor Stufflebean moved to approve the memorandum of understanding for the mayor’s signature. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Request to Waive the Late Fee for Transient Occupancy Tax Payment for the Best Western Motel

Councilor Stufflebean moved to deny the request to waive the late fee for Best Western and Councilor Spangler seconded the motion. Councilor Spangler commented the Council recently amended the ordinance and extended the time for submitting the tax to the City. Councilor Stufflebean commented the only reason given for not making the payment was that it was an oversight. Councilor Larson reported Mr. Cottrell has been busy with construction and the Council recently waived the late fee for Lucky Logger RV Park.

Mayor Benetti commented Mr. Cottrell has not been late in making payments before and suggested waiving it for this time. Councilor Spangler inquired if the Council would be willing to retro-actively waive late fees paid in the past in the name of fairness. Mayor Benetti commented they couldn’t go back, but he understands Councilor Spangler wanting to be fair. Councilor McKeown recommended each situation be considered separately and since Mr. Cottrell has never been late, he agreed with the Mayor in waiving the fee. Councilor Stufflebean stated he agreed with being business friendly, but the Council does not want to set a precedence. Councilor Weeks also agreed requests should be considered on a case by case basis and she would support waiving the fee. The vote was called and failed for lack of a majority with Councilors Spangler and

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Stufflebean voting aye, all others voting no. Councilor Weeks moved to waive the late fee as requested by Mr. Cottrell. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and Councilors Larson, McKeown, and Weeks voting aye; Councilors Spangler and Stufflebean voting no.

Public Comments

Julia Spangler, Coos Bay, commented the bus shelters are attractive and blend into the community. She expressed disappointment with the County for not following through with cleaning up the Bunker Hill area, and unfortunately, motorists passing through think it is a part of Coos Bay. Mayor Benetti reported the State's Community Solutions Team was in town this week and stopped in Bunker Hill, so they are aware there is a problem with this area. Councilor McKeown commented the State meeting included department heads of State offices and improving the Hwy 101 corridor was discussed.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Randall Tosh reported arrangements have finally been worked out with Glenn Olson, owner of the building adjacent to the Sportsman Pedway, and work should begin in the near future. The oral arguments on the Coos Art Museum tax appeal will be heard next Wednesday.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported work has advanced on the Newmark improvements project and a meeting has been scheduled with Councilors McKeown and Spangler to discuss funding options. There has been some controversy over business licenses required for real estate offices located in North Bend. Mr. Grile noted businesses licenses net \$25,000 annually.

Mr. Grile reported progress on fiscal year 2002/2003 budget shows city revenues are down, interest earnings are down, Gas Tax funds are down considerably, and franchise fees are flat. For the remainder of the current fiscal year, department heads have been instructed to spend only on essential items and fiscal year 02/03 budget requests for materials and services have been cut. Mr. Grile noted salary increases compound the challenge and balancing the General Fund in 02/03 will require significant cuts, including personnel cuts. Every department will consider cuts, except the library because of their funding source. Mr. Grile reported positions being considered are the City Manager's Office/Finance Department clerical assistant, three 9-1-1 funded dispatchers, one clerical specialist, and 1/2 evidence/property custodian in the Police Department, one firefighter above the charter amendment and one office manager in the Fire Department, and one engineering technician, one planner, one lead maintenance worker II and one maintenance work II in the Community Services Department. Mr. Grile stated he would continue to look for ways that would reduce the number of personnel to be laid off and the 11.5 positions represents ten percent of the city's work force. These are serious challenges and staff is committed to finding ways to minimize the impact and continue to give the best service possible.

Council Comments

Councilor Weeks read a letter from Helpline which stated if cities do not fund their organization, the calls would be directed to elected officials. Councilor Weeks commented other cities in the county have received the same letter and the feeling is that it is blackmail. She noted the City of Coos Bay provides office space and utilities free to Helpline at the Eastside fire station. Councilor Weeks commented that Helpline duplicates existing services and she would not support giving them money from the city budget. She reported the Parks Commission met last evening and discussed the seagull problem in Mingus Park. Also discussed

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was the problem of dogs without leashes and dog owners not cleaning up after their animals. Councilor Weeks commented Ordinance No. 248 has a provision for fines. The commission requested staff contact ODF&W about the seagull problem and prepare a press release regarding the leash and clean up requirements in city parks. Councilor Weeks reported no response has been received on the RFP for Choshi bridge and staff will be looking at the possibility of a different solution for the bridge. Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs will be looking into the possibility of a Resource Assistance for Rural Economy [RARE] student to develop the Parks Master Plan. The cost to the city would be \$17,000 and the State pays the balance.

Councilor Spangler reported receiving several calls regarding Charter Communication's rate increase and noted the city does not have control over the rates. He commended Larry Frerkes for his work as the Meth Task Force Coordinator. Councilor Spangler inquired if the city has a drug testing program and Mr. Grile replied yes, although federal regulations permit only random testing for employees with CDL licenses. Mr. Tosh commented the issue is complex for government employers and allows only for safety related jobs. Councilor Spangler commented that OLCC licenses are State issued and the city cannot stop a license from being issued, but the Council can at least make a recommendation.

Councilor Larson wished Councilor Miller good luck and commented it was good to hear improvements to the Glenn Olson building would be moving forward.

Councilor Stufflebean thanked the Council for their concern while he was out and thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their service during his family emergency.

Councilor McKeown commented Mr. Grile's budget message points out the importance of the work of the South Coast Development Council in improving the area's economy. It is also encouraging to have State representatives visiting the Bay Area and showing an interest in helping improve conditions. Councilor McKeown commented the city has concerns, however, there are good things going on, and we are moving in the right direction.

Mayor Benetti thanked everyone for participating in the school reading programs and reported Blossom Gulch Booster Club is making an application to the Ford Family Foundation and is requesting a letter of support from the City. Consensus of the Council to direct the assistant city manager to prepare the letter for Mayor Benetti's signature. Mayor Benetti reported he participated in the induction of 39 SWOCC students into National Honor Society, and reminded everyone of the Jazz Festival taking place this weekend. He commented the new banners look very nice and are in time for the festival.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to March 9, 2002 at 10 a.m. in the Manager's Conference Room at city hall.

Joe Benetti
Mayor of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon

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ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen
Deputy Recorder of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon