

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

August 6, 2002

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 Jon Eck, Roger Gould, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, and Kevin Stufflebean. Councilor Larson was absent. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Nathan McClintock, Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Chief Chuck Knight, Finance Director Janell Howard, and Library Director Carol Ventgen.

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 a recommendation to approve an OLCC license for Checkerberry's (new owners) Beth Burdick and Richard Clarkson, a recommendation to approve an OLCC license for Elizabeth's (274 South Broadway) Elizabeth Kinzie, and approval of the May 2, 2002 minutes. Councilor Miller moved to approve the consent calendar as presented and Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Recognition of 30 Years of Service to Firefighter Bruce Ramberg by Mayor Benetti

Mayor Benetti commended Firefighter Bruce Ramberg for his dedication and commitment to the City of Coos Bay and presented him a myrtlewood plaque. Mayor Benetti also presented a bouquet to Kathy Ramberg for her support of Bruce. Mr. Ramberg expressed his appreciation for the award and to everyone who has helped during his battle with cancer. He hopes to return to duty October 1st.

Department Head Report by Fire Chief Stan Gibson

Chief Gibson commended Bruce Ramberg for his service and presented him with a number of T-shirts from fire stations in California, New York City, Nebraska and North Carolina. Chief Gibson reported Coos Bay firefighters had been deployed to two of the state's fires this year and both employees and equipment are now back in town. It is very dry this time of year and he urged citizens to take extra precautions. Chief Gibson reported the September 11th memorial will be held in Mingus Park at 7 p.m.

Report from Music on the Bay by Larry McCabe

Mr. McCabe reported Music on the Bay [MOB] has received a matching grant of \$7,500 from the Ford Family Foundation to be used to provide entertainment in Mingus Park. Concerts are planned for 7 p.m. on Wednesdays in September and MOB will also participate in the September 11th memorial.

City Council Minutes – August 6, 2002

Consideration of a Request to Install a Stop Sign at 16th Street and Teakwood Avenue

Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs reported a request has been received for installation of a stop sign at 16th and Teakwood. Staff has reviewed the request but it does not meet the warrants the city uses in determining placement of stop signs and it is staff's recommendation that a sign not be installed. Councilor Stufflebean moved to deny the request for a stop sign at 16th and Teakwood. Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Authorization to Contract with the League of Oregon Cities for Preparation of a Model Budget

City Manager Bill Grile reported the consolidation committee filed a budget as required by Oregon statute for the first and third year and due to criticism of the budget, it has been requested that the League of Oregon Cities be contacted about putting together a model budget for a city of 25,000. The League could provide such a budget for \$4,950. Finance Director Janell Howard commented the model budget would show a considerable savings and noted the committee was very conservative in their budget preparation. Mayor Benetti commented the model budget would be a useful tool and clear up some of the concerns expressed by citizens at the joint meeting last month. Councilor Gould moved to approve a contract with the League of Oregon Cities for preparation of a model budget and adopt Resolution 02-25 transferring funds to pay the League. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Public Comments

Bob Miles, Coos Bay, asked why a background check had not been done on the battalion chief applicants and expressed concern about the qualifications of the battalion chiefs. Mr. Miles also inquired if the Battalion Chiefs would respond to fire calls. He commented two of the battalion chiefs live in Eugene and commute to work, and neither are medically qualified.

Chief Gibson reported background checks were conducted by the Coos Bay Police Department and the standards for battalion chiefs are the same standards as for captains. Councilor Gould inquired if there are statewide standards for battalion chiefs and Chief Gibson responded no. Councilor McKeown asked about the battalion chiefs living in Eugene and Chief Gibson reported the department does not have a residency requirement. He explained that two of the battalion chiefs do live outside the area, but they have been on the job for six weeks and are in the process of moving their families to the bay area. Mayor Benetti commented that in earlier discussions, it was stated the battalion chiefs would be available for callouts. Chief Gibson commented in review of the number of callouts for the past five years, it was determined it would not be a problem if all the battalion chiefs did not respond to a callout. Mayor Benetti suggested revisiting a residency requirement emergency personnel, but not make it a requirement that they live in the city limits, but in the bay area.

Councilor McKeown commented he was involved in the assessment center process for the battalion chiefs and those selected for the positions were excellent candidates. Mr. Miles stated the quality of firefighters in Coos Bay has been downgraded and he challenged the Council to visit the stations and talk with the firefighters.

City Council Minutes – August 6, 2002

Ken Harlan, Coos Bay, commented he had been concerned about the use of jurisdictional exchange funds and was glad to see it used in Eastside.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported on July 24th department heads met with non-represented employees to discuss the city's economic situation and there was overwhelming support to defer salary increases due to budget concerns. He attended a meeting with Coos County Commissioners regarding airport district and a public hearing has been scheduled for August 14th. There was further discussion on the airport district and election of a board, and Coos Bay's support of the airport. Councilor Gould moved that a letter of support for the Mayor's signature be prepared and sent to the County Commissioners. Mayor Benetti seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Council Comments

Councilor Gould asked if anything could be done to improve the Timber Inn corner. Ms. Shribbs reported this area has been discussed and a makeover planned and approved by the Parks Commission. Councilor Gould expressed concern about the employee survey results and stated he would work hard to make improvements in employee relations. Councilor Stufflebean commented the state has found that labor-management meetings are very productive and ideas from the meetings are implemented immediately. Councilor McKeown commented the first step was the survey, the next step will be implementing improvements. Mayor Benetti noted the survey points out that the Council needs to be involved. Councilor Gould commented the rank and file employees need to have input and involvement in making decisions and recommendations. Councilor Stufflebean stated the Council needs to display confidence in staff.

Councilor Eck reported he deals with city staff through his business and even with the loss of 11.5 positions, staff is still providing a great level of service. He congratulated Mayor Benetti for the successful running of the joint convention with Coos Bay and North Bend. Councilor Miller congratulated Bruce Ramberg on his 30 years of service and reported the farmers market will be extending to the Sportsman Pedway this week. Councilor Stufflebean expressed concern that the entrance to Coos Bay is not inviting, the welcome sign is too small, the planters in Empire are damaged, and areas of the city need to be cleaned up. Mr. Grile commented maintenance is a reoccurring theme and it is difficult to get service clubs to continually do the upkeep. Ms. Shribbs reported SCDC has a committee working on beautification of the area. Councilor Stufflebean reported it is anticipated the upcoming swim meet will bring 350 swimmers to the area. Councilor McKeown commented the swim meet is a three-day event and families come with the swimmers. It is important that we all speak positively about our community. He thanked Bruce Ramberg for his service.

Mayor Benetti reported the Hawaiian Chieftain enjoyed a successful visit to Coos Bay and plan on returning. The Discovery at the city dock is drawing attention and it was a good decision to invest in the dock facility. He reported the city has been invited to provide ornaments for the capitol holiday tree in Washington DC. Mayor Benetti commented on a conversation with Eric Engles regarding a meeting of furniture store managers from around the country held in the bay area. The group really enjoyed their visit and had many good comments about the community. It occurred to him that part of the problem is that people locally do not talk positively about our community. Mayor Benetti expressed his appreciation of city staff for their work.

City Council Minutes – August 6, 2002

Executive Session

Councilor Miller moved to go into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (h) regarding potential litigation. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

The Council reconvened into regular session.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to August 20, 2002 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder