

## **MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**September 17, 2002**

The minutes of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, held at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon.

### **Those Attending**

Those present were Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Jon Eck, Roger Gould, Anna Marie Larson, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, and Kevin Stufflebean. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Nathan McClintock, 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.

### **Report from Marshfield High School Council Representative Leslie Wall**

Leslie Wall reported the school year is off to a great start for 1,280 students and the first home game will be played on the 27<sup>th</sup> against Springfield. Freshman orientation was held on the first day of school and election of their class officers was held on Friday. A moment of silence was held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, a new elevator is being installed and fall sports have started.

### **Approval of the Management Agreement with PALS for the Public Access Channel**

City Manager Bill Grile reported citizens have expressed an interest for some time in having public access television available, and the agreement with Public Access Local Supporters [PALS] will provide that service. Councilor Miller moved to approve the agreement with PALS. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Approval of the Agreement with School District 9 for the Provision of Technology Support**

City Manager Bill Grile reported the relationship between the City and Coos Bay public schools is building and they continue to look for other ways to share resources. Councilor Eck moved to approve the agreement with School District 9 for the provision of technology support. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Recognition of 30 Years of Service for Sgt. Dave Main and Detective Larry Mauer**

Mayor Benetti commended Sgt. Dave Main and Detective Larry Mauer on their dedication and years of service to the citizens of Coos Bay. He presented each with a myrtlewood plaque commemorating 30 years of service with the Police Department. Councilors Gould, McKeown and Stufflebean also shared personal experiences and anecdotes about Sgt. Main and Detective Mauer.

## **City Council Minutes – September 17, 2002**

### **Department Head Report by Police Chief Chuck Knight**

Chief Knight commented he has worked with both Dave Main and Larry Mauer and knows them both to be compassionate and a joy to work with. Chief Knight reported Officer Morris Taylor started his law enforcement career with the City of Coos Bay in 1983 prior to relocating to Coquille. His death brings sadness to all police officers, especially those who knew him, and he was a fine officer and will be missed. Chief Knight reported Coos Bay and area law enforcement officers recently completed the forensic academy presented by the State. With the closest crime lab now being in Springfield, the classes were very helpful in advancing skills and evidence collection. He reported the Oregon K-9 Association held their annual conference in the Bay Area this week and introduced the Ray Turney, president of the association. Mr. Turney reported 98 officers were registered for the conference and the community has been very welcoming.

### **Consideration of a Public Safety Operating Levy**

City Manager Bill Grile explained one of the revenues the Budget Committee had recommended for consideration was a special operating levy, and after studying the budget for additional savings, staff is recommending a levy to help fund public safety operations. Under Ballot Measure 5, government entities can go up to \$10 and with other general government bodies levying taxes, the City can only go to \$1.03 per thousand. If the airport and SCINT districts both pass, the amount the City could receive drops down to 83 cents. Mr. Grile reported the city charter mandates a staffing level for police and fire officers, however, the city cannot support the minimum staffing without additional revenue. The Police Officers Association came to the Council and expressed their support for the operating levy at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> council meeting, however, it was too late to get the issue on the November ballot. Mr. Grile explained the process which allows the Council to declare the necessity of a special emergency election. The deputy recorder has prepared a schedule for either December 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> as possible election dates.

Mr. Grile commented it is Council's desire to bring the city's spending in line with revenues, and currently, in order to have a balanced budget, the City is spending cash savings in order to sustain programs and services. Mr. Grile noted \$650,000 needs to be cut from general fund this year, and done on a percentage basis, it would be \$540,000 from public safety and \$210,000 from non-public safety. He has met several times with department heads and Mayor Benetti and Councilors McKeown and Eck to develop the best and fairest plan. If the cuts are postponed until the end of this fiscal year, \$1.1 million would need to be cut. Mr. Grile commented that even if the operating levy is supported, there will not be sufficient revenue to continue to support public safety services at the current level, cuts will be required in the future due to increases in health insurance and contract pay increases.

Mayor Benetti inquired when staff would be presenting the plan for the cuts to the Council and when it would become effective. Mr. Grile indicated the report could be ready for the next Council meeting and would be initiated in January. There was further discussion on the impact the levy would have on the budget and the need for future cuts in public safety. Councilor Gould commented the charter adopted by the Charter Commission last evening provides that any debts in existence at the time of consolidation will remain with the geographical area where the debt came from. There was discussion on structuring the ballot language to allow the Council to discontinue the levy if consolidation comes to pass, the support for the levy expressed by the Police Officers' Association, and the merits of moving forward with the levy in order to maintain services. Consensus of the Council was to support going to a vote for a public safety

## **City Council Minutes – September 17, 2002**

levy. Dan Crutchfield, representing the Firefighters' Association, read a statement from the Association supporting the levy, but also admonished the Council to look for all savings possible before going to the voters and suggested the Council wait until a regular election rather than hold a special election for the levy. The Association also expressed interest in meeting with the city manager and finance director to discuss the City's financial situation. Mayor Benetti commented he would be glad to set up a meeting with both police and fire personnel. Mayor Benetti recommended proceeding with the special election and noted the process requires a public hearing be held. After a brief discussion, the hearing was scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and directed the city attorney to prepare the ballot title for an operating levy to help fund public safety.

### **Public Comments**

Frances Cooley, Coos Bay, asked the status of the wayside project in Empire. Mr. Grile commented due to staff and budget issues, a starting date has not been set. Mayor Benetti reported all projects on are hold and no new projects will be started. Mrs. Cooley asked how much longer the city would have urban renewal and Mr. Grile stated there is no immediate threat. Councilor Stufflebean noted the Empire Plan has a 20-year life and is only in year six.

### **City Attorney's Report**

City Attorney Nathan McClintock reported the owners of the McAuley building are planning to have all the occupants out by October 31<sup>st</sup>. If they are unsuccessful, the owners will file a judgment for removal of the residents. He commented that due to a trial in Washington County, he may or may not be at the next council meeting.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Bill Grile reported staff has discussed the residency requirements for emergency callback personnel and recommends using the same requirements used by the Police Department. The policy will be prepared as an administrative directive and will not be retroactive to existing personnel. Consensus of the Council to proceed as recommended by staff. Mr. Grile reported the target date for completion of the consolidated budget project is the end of the month. He commended Community Services staff and Joe McClay for stepping forward to help the City of North Bend while their building inspector recovers from surgery. An intergovernmental agreement is being prepared and will come to the Council for their approval at the next meeting. Mr. Grile commented guests from Indonesia will arrive in Eugene on Friday and will spend the week in the Bay Area.

### **Council Comments**

Councilor Miller commended staff for doing a fantastic job of organizing the September 11<sup>th</sup> memorial, the Downtown Association meeting will be held at noon on the 26<sup>th</sup> and interested citizens are invited, the Fun Festival weekend was larger than in previous years, and reminded everyone of the concert in the park Wednesday evening. Councilor Eck reported a meeting to take public input on transportation needs will be held Wednesday evening at SWOCC, work will begin on the Timber Inn island in November, and expressed his appreciation to staff for organizing the September 11<sup>th</sup> event. Councilor Gould reported the Charter Commission adopted the city charter and will file with both cities on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The two councils are required to meet in joint convention within 30 days of the filing date to adopt the ballot title

## City Council Minutes – September 17, 2002

for the question of consolidation and adoption of the charter and tax base. Councilor Gould commented Jerry Lesan was a fine addition to the commission. Mayor Benetti expressed appreciation to Councilor Gould and Mr. Lesan for their service on the Charter Commission.

Councilor Larson also thanked staff for arranging the September 11<sup>th</sup> memorial in Mingus Park and noted the Fun Festival includes waterfront activities. Councilor Stufflebean reported a swim meet will be held the first week of October and thanked Police Department personnel for their assistance with the playground equipment project. Councilor Stufflebean distributed a report regarding the impacts of state budget cuts and explained Coos County receives over \$2 million per month in medical, food stamps, family assistance, and foster and day care providers. He commented the quality of life for the needy, elderly and homeless will be greatly affected by the budget cuts.

Councilor McKeown commented schools and cities are also going through difficult financial situations and it points out the need for strong leadership in Salem. He commended staff on the September 11<sup>th</sup> commemorative, and thanked the Charter Commission for their work and time. Mayor Benetti conveyed a special thanks to Chief Knight, Chief Gibson and Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs on organizing the September 11<sup>th</sup> event and extended his appreciation to Councilor Miller for the many years of volunteer service on the Fun Festival Committee. Mayor Benetti reported a certificate and key to the City had been sent to the crew of the USS Coos Bay for their annual reunion celebration.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to October 1, 2002.

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Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder