

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

**September 26, 2002**

The minutes of the proceedings of a special 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, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, and Kevin Stufflebean. Councilor Anna Marie 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, and Police Chief Chuck Knight.

### **Flag Salute**

Mayor Benetti opened the meeting and led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

### **Public Hearing on the Proposed Public Safety Levy Ballot Measure**

Mayor Benetti briefly explained the purpose of the meeting and opened the public hearing for comments. Len Luttrell, 525 Shorepines Avenue, Coos Bay, asked about article in The World stating salary increases for police personnel would be \$200,000. City Manager Bill Grile explained the correct amount is approximately \$100,000 for fiscal year 2002/2003 for police, \$38,000 for fire, \$49,000 for AFSCME, and \$70,000 for non-represented employees, however, non-represented employees have elected to not receive the salary increases. Mr. Luttrell stated support for the levy, however, if the levy is to save police and fire positions, he suggested the associations each donate \$2,500 towards the cost of the election. Ken Harlan, 628 12<sup>th</sup> Court, Eastside, commented if police and fire employees are laid off, there are a lot of resourceful people in the community and they can take care of themselves. He stated opposition to the levy and suggested police and fire unions discuss being paid less.

Mayor Benetti commented both the police and fire associations have met with him and the council president to discuss cost saving measures. Mayor Benetti reported a letter has been submitted by Denny Powell and Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen read the letter to the assembly. Mr. Powell stated his opposition of the proposed levy and gave suggestions on positions and items to cut from the budget. Councilor McKeown commented in response to Mr. Powell's statements that using urban renewal for city projects helps the improve the economy and the one hope for the community is improving the economy. Councilor McKeown further noted that non-represented staff did not take salary increases and the assistant to the assistant city manager has been gone a long time. Councilor Gould suggested not addressing Mr. Powell's statements as they lack merit.

Mayor Benetti asked if there were further comments and there being none, he closed the public hearing.

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**Adoption of Resolution 02-28 Substantiating the Need for an Emergency Election**

Mayor Benetti commented on the need to move forward as soon as possible with budget cuts and recommended proceeding with an emergency election. Councilor Stufflebean moved to adopt Resolution 02-28 substantiating the need for an emergency election. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

**Approval of the Ballot Title and Measure and Adoption of Resolution 02-29 Calling for an Emergency Election and Setting the Date for the Election**

Councilor Stufflebean reported there is some public concern whether police and fire will receive the same funds they are now receiving if the levy is passed. Mayor Benetti commented funding will remain at this level, however, there may be some cuts down the road. City Manager Bill Grile explained 2003/2004 costs would not be covered in the levy due to police and fire salary increases. He noted the AFSCME Union has agreed to defer their next salary increase in 2003/2004 and there is hope the police and fire unions will join in. Councilor McKeown also expressed concern that funding not be used from public safety budgets to supplement other departments. City Attorney Nathan McClintock commented the levy is intended to help fund public safety operations, not to take budgeted funds and place them elsewhere. Councilor Gould commented it is clear the levy will be used solely to fund public safety operations of the city.

Councilor Stufflebean stated it should be clear to the public what the funds would be used for and that the City is not playing a shell game. Mayor Benetti commented 70 percent of the budget is police and fire and the ballot language is clear. Councilor Gould commented the consolidated cities charter does not include public safety staffing requirements because it would be an unfunded mandate and the best way to support the services is with an operating levy. Mayor Benetti reported if consolidation goes through, the Council has the ability to discontinue the levy. Councilor Stufflebean moved to approve the ballot title and adopt Resolution 02-29 calling for an emergency election and setting December 3, 2002 as the date for the election. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to October 1, 2002 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

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Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder