

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

February 18, 2003

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, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Library Director Carol Ventgen.

Flag Salute

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

Department Head Report by Fire Chief Stan Gibson

Fire Chief Stan Gibson read into the record a letter, which is attached and hereby made a part of the record, from the presidents of the Coos Bay Firefighters Association and the Volunteer Firefighters Association. Chief Gibson commended Bob Huggins for raising funds for the purchase of a thermo-imaging camera for the Fire Department. To date, approximately \$12,000 has been donated. He reported the investigations of the November 25th fire are ongoing and it is anticipated the report from the Fire Marshall's Office will be ready in a few weeks. The OSHA investigation continues with additional interviews next week, the NIOSH report has been completed with tests on the breathing apparatus to be completed in a month, and the test results on the personal protective equipment expects in 30 days.

Direction to Proceed with Public Display of historic Sause Tug: *The Irene*

City Manager Bill Grile reported the Tug Irene was donated to the city for display and historic purposes with the request that the tug be located on Hwy 101. Staff is recommending a site near the Menasha Log display and the city has received a grant in the amount of \$100,000. Council action is needed to authorize receipt of the funds and for the city manager to sign the documents. Mr. Grile commented the Urban Renewal Agency is also required to take action on this matter. Councilor McKeown commented the Urban Renewal Agency needs to spend time discussing the future of urban renewal before spending the funds. Councilor Gould stated he would like to know more about the project and matching grant before making a decision. Mayor Benetti suggested postponing the matter until March 4th and the Councilors agreed.

Award of Contract for Landscape Architect/Urban Designer Consultant of Record

Councilor Stufflebean moved to award the contract for landscape architect/urban designer consultant of record to Alpha Engineering Incorporated and Councilor Miller seconded the motion. Councilors Stufflebean and Eck explained the number of proposals received and the selection process used. Councilor Gould recommended using local firms for city services and Councilor Eck noted none of the respondents are local firms, but each uses a local contact. City Manager Bill Grile commented Alpha Engineering did a great job in Empire and with the Downtown study. There was further discussion on using local businesses for city services, scheduling a work session for discussion of urban renewal projects, and postponing the matter. Mayor Benetti expressed concern that the Council was very supportive of hiring a consultant of record after the Empire work and now the Council is changing direction. Councilor McKeown commented Alpha Engineering does have local ties and they did bring a

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fresh approach to ideas for both Empire and the Downtown areas. The motions were withdrawn and consensus was to postpone the decision until March 4th. Councilor McKeown suggested holding an urban renewal agency work session before making a decision.

Appointment to the Tourism Promotions Committee

Mayor Benetti reported he had resigned from the Tourism Promotions Committee and recommended Councilor Stufflebean be appointed to the Committee. Councilor Miller moved to ratify the Mayor's appointment of Councilor Stufflebean to the Tourism and Promotion Committee. Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Public Comments

Margery Whitmore, President of Zonta, requested the City Council consider including a sign listing the area's service clubs with the display of the Tug Irene.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Nathan McClintock reported Attorney Tim Sercombe has submitted a judgment to the court regarding the Walberg [city charter] case.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile congratulated Ms. Shribbs on accepting a position with the City of Salem. He reported a council work session will be held at noon February 27th, coastal mayors and city managers will be meeting to discuss a possible tourism tax, LOC Executive Director Ken Strobeck will be the speaker at this week's IBO forum and will be available at city hall to meet with staff and the council at 3:30 p.m., and the Chamber Transportation Committee will be meeting March 6th to discuss a possible countywide gas tax. Mr. Grile reported the community services director position will not be filled in the near future due to budget restraints. Councilor McKeown expressed concern about not filling the position for the long-term and noted the department is already at barebones staffing.

Councilor Stufflebean requested current organizational charts since there have been a lot of changes and reductions in staffing. Mr. Grile reported two positions are open in the police department and recommended filling the positions although the general fund will be short \$.5 million next July. Mr. Grile reported meeting with a developer interested in building in the southern part of Coos Bay. He noted the project is consistent with the South Coast Development Council's economic development work. Mayor Benetti expressed support for development as long as it was not at the expense of current businesses.

Council Comments

Councilor Larson commented the bridal show last weekend went very well, and wished Ms. Shribbs well in her new position. Councilor Stufflebean commented he was sorry to see Ms. Shribbs leave Coos Bay, and briefly reported on a recent trip to Washington DC. Councilor Eck congratulated Ms. Shribbs on her new position, and commented Coos Bay is blessed with very good department heads. He also congratulated Janell Howard on the birth of her son on the 8th, and reported on the recent Zonta Club fundraising event. Councilor Miller also congratulated Ms. Shribbs on her appointment, and commented the Zonta event was a good cause. Councilor McKeown congratulated Mrs. Howard on her new baby, and commented Ms. Shribbs' leaving is a great loss for the city. He thanked Bob Huggins for his efforts in raising money for the thermo imaging camera. Mayor Benetti reported Ms. Shribbs' last Council meeting will be March 4th, and that Judy Tidwell had contacted him to apologize for her comments made at the January 21st council meeting regarding Chief Gibson as they were in error.

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Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to March 4, 2003 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder