

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 4, 2003

The minutes of a meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning with an executive session at 6:30 p.m. and proceeding to the regular meeting held 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, Anna Marie Larson, and Jeff McKeown. Councilors Miller and Stufflebean were absent due to illness. 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

Executive Session

An executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (f) for consideration of records that are exempt from public disclosure, including written advice from legal counsel. At the conclusion of the executive session, the City Council reconvened into the regular meeting.

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 adoption of Resolution 03-09 amending a permit parking district in the area of Marshfield High School, and cancellation of the solicitation for a landscape architect/design consultant of record. Councilor Eck moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Presentation by Dolly Brock of Charter Communications Regarding a Memorial for Fallen Coos Bay Firefighters

Dolly Brock, Charter Communications, presented the City with a check for \$2,195 in memory of Firefighters Randy Carpenter, Jeff Commons, and Chuck Haner. The funds were raised by Charter employees and will be used specifically to purchase memorial benches and plaques. Mayor Benetti thanked Charter Communications for the contribution on behalf of the Council and citizens. Councilor Gould, representing the Carpenter family, expressed appreciation for the donation.

Public Hearing Regarding a Proposed Street Vacation and Enactment of the Ordinance

Planning Administrator Laura Barron read the public hearings disclosure to the assembly and reported several letters had been received which were taken into consideration by the Planning Commission before the decision was made. Part of the original street vacation proposal has been withdrawn due to the letters and on February 11th the Planning Commission approved the amended application. Ms. Barron commented the purpose of the hearing is to consider the record and take testimony, and approval of the street vacations would be accomplished by enacting the ordinance.

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Mayor Benetti opened the public hearing. Jerry Lesan, attorney for the applicant, explained the area to be vacated has a steep canyon with a creek running through it and there is no possible expectation to build on G Street or open the streets and alleys through to G Street. Mr. Lesan commented the City does not have an ownership interest and right of ways are set aside for streets. The applicants own most of the property in the area and have maintained the area in a park-like condition. The other owner has signed agreement to the vacation, and the application was amended at the request of the other property owner for use of a turn around. Mr. Lesan explained the City initiated the vacation proceedings due to the size of the property, and notices were sent and comments requested with no comments forthcoming. There were no further public comments and Mayor Benetti closed the public hearing. Councilor McKeown expressed support for the application because all the land around the vacation is owned by the applicant, and the land is very steep and it is unlikely that the street would ever be built. Councilor Larson expressed opposition to the vacation because it would be giving the property away. Councilor Gould commented the topography doesn't permit use as a right of way and the property would go on the tax rolls. Mayor Benetti commented the applicant owns the property around the area to be vacated, and the only owner in opposition now agrees.

Councilor Gould moved to adopt the findings and conclusions of the Planning Commission. Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and Councilors Eck, Gould, and McKeown voting aye, and Councilor Larson voting no. Councilor Gould moved to enact Ordinance No. 332 and Councilor Eck seconded the motion. Deputy Recorder Jansen read the ordinance by title only and the ordinance was enacted by the following vote:

Voting Aye:	Mayor Benetti and Councilors Eck, Gould, and McKeown
Voting No:	Councilor Larson
Absent:	Councilors Miller and Stufflebean

Discussion of Street Lighting Cost Savings

Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs reported the City spends approximately \$150,000 annually for street lights and there is a possible \$25,000 savings available if some of the lights were turned off. Mayor Benetti recommended staff move forward with the option and also have the Budget Ad Hoc Committee review the plan. Councilors Eck and Gould commended staff for looking for ways to save money and Councilor McKeown suggested the City be sensitive to which lights are turned out. Mayor Benetti noted the intent is to turn out the lights for a period of time to allow citizen response before removing the lights. Consensus of the Council is to move forward with the project.

Authorization to Move Forward on the Tug Irene Project

Councilor Gould moved to authorize expenditure of the funds awarded by the Urban Renewal Agency, authorize the city manager to execute the documents, assume responsibility for the maintenance of the site, and direct staff to prepare a supplemental budget for the Tug Irene Project. Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Department Head Report

Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs briefly reviewed the staffing level and services provided by the department and recommended the Council consider the daily workload and current projects before adding new projects. Mayor Benetti expressed the Council's appreciation for Ms. Shribbs' enthusiasm and commitment to the City and presented her with a Myrtlewood paperweight. Ms. Shribbs commented the opportunity to come to Coos Bay and learn from this Council and city manager has been incredible, and the Community Services Department staff is phenomenal.

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City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Nathan McClintock reported the franchise with Northwest Natural Gas is close to being ready to present to the City Council. He is also reviewing a lease option offered by Union Pacific for the property along the waterfront and boardwalk.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported he had recently testified in Coquille in support of the Bandon Dunes application for development expansion. The Chamber Transportation Committee will meet on Thursday with the County Commissioners to discuss a local gas tax. Mr. Grile suggested the noon Council work sessions be held once a month rather than twice a month with the next meeting scheduled for March 27th.

Council Comments

Councilor Larson wished Ms. Shribbs well in her new position, and commented the Timber Inn island is looking much better. Councilor Eck congratulated Shanda on her position with the City of Salem and reported the annual Lions TV auction will be televised on KCBY on Sunday. Councilor Gould thanked Ms. Shribbs doing a great job for the city as Community Services Director and also for the assistance with the Boys and Girls Club grant before she came to Coos Bay. He announced the Boys and Girls Club will host a thank you event Thursday evening for everyone who has contributed to the club. Councilor McKeown reported Sause Brothers recently launched a new barge that was built in the community. The launch was a big event and is also a big part of community's economy. Councilor McKeown expressed best wishes to Ms. Shribbs on her departure.

Mayor Benetti commented the Budget ad hoc committee will hold their first meeting Thursday evening, and the City received an appreciation certificate from RSVP at their annual appreciation luncheon. He explained that after attending Water Board meetings, Councilor Gould has recommended that it is in the City's best interest to have citizens serve as Coos Bay's representatives on the Board. Mayor Benetti recommended re-appointment of Mike Helfrich. Councilor Gould moved to re-appointment Mike Helfrich to the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board. Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and all Councilors present voting aye.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to March 18, 2003 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder