

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

August 19, 2003

The minutes of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning with a work session at 6:30 p.m. and proceeding to the regular meeting 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, Anna Marie Larson, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, and Kevin Stufflebean. City staff present were Interim City Manager Chuck Knight, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Nathan McClintock, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Library Director Carol Ventgen, and Police Chief Eura Washburn.

WORK SESSION

Review of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Requirements

Walt Meyer of West Yost Associates explained the negotiation process for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for the wastewater treatment system. The permitting process is handled by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with oversight by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The city's permits have expired and it is time to renew the permits for Plant I and Plant II. Mr. Meyer reported Plant I is listed as being not in compliance and will be required to do a better job of disinfection and removal of residual chlorine. Plant II discharges into a shellfish bed area and the permit will require a reduction of the ammonia level of the discharge. DEQ has approved a timeline to implement the discharge standards and has required the city to prepare a facilities plan as part of the renewal process.

Mr. Meyer reviewed the timeline for each step of the permit renewal and implementation process. There was a brief discussion on the expansion of Plant II and Mr. Meyer noted most communities in Oregon are facing the same permit requirements. Mr. Meyer commented the process would include help from DEQ in putting the requirements in the agreement with Charleston Sanitary District. Mayor Benetti inquired about grants and funding for system improvements. Mr. Meyer reported there are limited funds available in the form of USDA grants and Oregon Economic Development grants, as well as the State's revolving loan program; however, to qualify for a grant, the city would need to demonstrate the cost for single family residential exceeds \$42 per month. Mr. Meyer commented the city most likely would not qualify for grants.

Mr. Meyer reported the cost for Plant II improvements is estimated at \$4 to \$5 million and would take approximately four years to complete. Mayor Benetti inquired about doing a facilities plan for Plant I and Mr. Meyer commented it would make sense to do Plant I at the same time as Plant II.

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COUNCIL 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 Blanco Avenue Acceptance of New Development. Councilor Stufflebean moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Eck seconded the motion with passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Authorization to Proceed with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Process for the City's Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Interim City Manager Chuck Knight commented the engineering costs for the project are estimated at \$310,000 and funds were budgeted for this work. The Budget Committee recommended Empire Urban Renewal funds be used to fund Plant II's NPDES requirements. The Urban Renewal Agency will be asked to consider extending the Downtown District's boundary to include Plant I. The city would save money by combining the engineering for Plant I and Plant II. Councilor Gould moved to authorize the city manager to sign the Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) with DEQ, authorize staff to solicit a request for proposals for engineering the dechlorination systems for both plants, and forward to the Urban Renewal Agency for consideration of the funding recommendations proposed. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Nate McClintock reported he has communicated with the owner of the McAuley property and the building has been secured. The owner is also planning to cleanup the appearance of the outside area.

City Manager's Report

Interim City Manager Chuck Knight reported the results of the testing of fire department equipment are expected soon. The siding for the Marshfield Sun Building is being milled and is expected to be delivered September 8th, and an informal conference was held with OSHA yesterday and the process was positive.

Public Comments

No comments.

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Council Comments

Councilor Miller reported the Blackberry Arts Festival would be held this weekend; Fun Festival arrangements are coming together; and this month the Channel 14 Focus program features the Fun Festival. Councilor Gould reported the Firefighter Memorial Committee met and is looking at sights for the memorial and funding options, and Menasha Corp. has committed \$5,000 for the memorial. Councilor Larson congratulated the South Coast Aquatic Team on the recent swim meet and commented it was unfortunate that the Weyerhaeuser paper mill closed.

Councilor Stufflebean commented 158 total jobs were lost with Weyerhaeuser's closing. The swim meet was a success and Vera Richter was recognized for her donation of funding for the pool. Councilor Stufflebean expressed concern that the Oregon Parks' response to the city regarding implementing user fees at certain parks was that everyone could afford to pay the fee. He requested a letter signed by the mayor be sent to our legislatures asking for support in opposition to the fee on Sunset Bay Park. Consensus of the Council was to send the letter.

Councilor McKeown commented he would like to see a new fire station to tie in with the firefighter's memorial, and suggested this be considered by the Firefighter Memorial Committee and the Urban Renewal Agency. He thanked everyone who helped with the swim meet and thanked Vera Richter for the donation. Mayor Benetti reported he had spoken with many of the swim meet attendees and they expressed how enjoyable it is to attend meets in Coos Bay. He reported the Newmark project is looking good and is on schedule. Mayor Benetti expressed disappointment with Weyerhaeuser's closing of the paper mill.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to September 2, 2003, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder