

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 2, 2004

The minutes of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held at 7:00 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, and Jeff McKeown. Councilors Cindi Miller and Kevin Stufflebean were absent. City Staff present were City Manager Chuck Knight, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Nathan McClintock, Finance Director Janell Howard, Planning Administrator Laura Barron, Sergeant Rodger Craddock, and Fire Chief Stan Gibson.

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 approval of the February 11, 2004 and the February 17, 2004 minutes. Mayor Benetti noted a correction of a typographical error on page 13 of the minutes. Councilor Eck moved to approve the consent calendar as corrected. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion, which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Presentation of Audit Report by Rob Wall

Rob Wall reported the 2002/2003 audit has been completed and the city received a clean unmodified report. Mr. Wall reported the overall financial condition of the city shows a positive trend throughout all funds, the city has a good carryover balance, the revenue collected was better than anticipated, and expenditures went down. Mayor Benetti noted the carryover balance was \$1.3 million and asked if the balance should be more. Mr. Wall commented it was a good amount although a higher carryover would be better to see the city through November when tax funds come in. Mr. Wall reported the city does have depreciation consideration in the report that has not been previously available, and the city is now fully implemented with GASB 34. Mayor Benetti commented the report does not reflect the city's timber assets. Mr. Wall reported general accounting practices do not take this into account, and agreed the timber is a huge asset for the city.

Mr. Wall reported the Urban Renewal Agency audit was also a clean unmodified report and the city saved a considerable amount of money with bond refunding when the interest rates went down. The agency has a positive cash flow and a fund balance of \$8.4 million. Councilor Gould commented some of the agency funds would be used for sewer plant improvements. Finance Director Janell Howard commented the carryover is currently adequate for this year and agreed that continually increasing the carryover in small increments was good financial planning.

**Public Hearing on the Proposed Street
Vacation of a Portion of North Third Street
Lying Between Park and Highland Avenues**

Planning Administrator Laura Barron read the public hearing disclosure to the assembly and reported the applicants are proposing to vacate a portion of North 3rd Street. A portion of the property is currently being used for a parking lot and part of the area is undeveloped. Ms. Barron reported a sewer line runs down the center of the street and the city is requesting a utility easement of 15 feet be set aside. The Planning Commission has reviewed the request and recommends approval of the vacation with the easement. Mayor Benetti opened the public hearing. There being no comments presented, Mayor Benetti closed the hearing.

Councilor McKeown moved to enact the ordinance vacating a portion of North 3rd Street with the easement. Councilor Gould seconded the motion. Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen read the ordinance by title only and polled the Council. Ordinance No. 346 was enacted by the following vote:

Aye:	Mayor Benetti and Councilors Eck, Gould, Larson, and McKeown
No:	None
Absent:	Councilors Miller and Stufflebean

**Consideration of Enactment of the Proposed
Ordinance to Amend the Solid Waste Franchise
to Show Waste Connections of Oregon dba
Les' Sanitary Service, Inc.**

Mayor Benetti reported a request from Waste Connections of Oregon to amend the solid waste franchise was recently approved by the City Council and the proposed ordinance would amend the franchise to show Waste Connections of Oregon dba Les' Sanitary Service, Inc. Councilor McKeown moved to enact the ordinance to amend the solid waste franchise. Councilor Larson seconded the motion. Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen read the ordinance by title only and polled the Council. Ordinance No. 347 was enacted by the following vote:

Aye:	Mayor Benetti and Councilors Eck, Gould, Larson, and McKeown
No:	None
Absent:	Councilors Miller and Stufflebean

**Enactment of an Ordinance Calling for an
Election on May 18, 2004 to Consider the
Question of Consolidation of the Cities of
Coos Bay and North Bend**

Mayor Benetti reported ORS 222.260 requires the City Council to adopt an ordinance calling for the election to consider consolidation of the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend. Councilor Gould moved to enact the proposed ordinance calling for the election on May 18, 2004. Councilor Eck seconded the motion. Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen read the ordinance by title only and polled the Council. Ordinance No. 348 was enacted by the following vote:

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Aye: Mayor Benetti and Councilors Eck, Gould, Larson, and McKeown
No: None
Absent: Councilors Miller and Stufflebean

Discussion and Public Input on the Review and Update of the City Goals

Mayor Benetti commented many of the current goals have been completed and many are really tasks that the council and staff perform as responsibilities and duties. He reported a letter had been received from Kenneth Gowan suggesting that police and fire staff include “Don’t be a Litterbug” in their public and school presentations. Councilor McKeown commented intergovernmental cooperation should continue whether consolidation of Coos Bay and North Bend passes or not in May. He further commented the community needs to move towards consolidation of services such as with the 9-1-1 Center and fire departments. Consensus of the Council was to include consolidation of services as a goal. There was a brief discussion on proceeding with the urban growth boundary and Planning Administrator Laura Barron explained the process. The Council reviewed the current goals and by consensus drafted the following list of goals, which is attached and hereby made a part of the record.

City Attorney’s Report

City Attorney Nate McClintock commented after the May 18th election, the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend will need to hold a joint convention to accept the voter abstract, and the Council may wish to come up with tentative dates for the meeting.

City Manager’s Report

City Manager Chuck Knight reported the next phase of wastewater plant upgrades is dechlorination as approved by DEQ and staff will be bringing this to the Council in a few weeks. Mayor Benetti inquired if the requirements for Plant II would change if the under the bay line to the North Spit is developed. Mr. Knight reported the city’s consultant indicated the requirement would not change. There was further discussion regarding the mutual order agreement timelines and Mr. Knight commented staff would address this question in the report to the Council. Mr. Knight reported he has met with Chris Coles and Wim deVriend regarding the Farmer’s Market and he plans to have a recommendation to the Council in April. A questionnaire has been developed and will be sent to downtown businesses for comments on the market.

Public Comments

Jean Wilson, Coos Bay, thanked the Council for approving the street vacation this evening, and thanked staff for their help and efforts.

Council Comments

Councilor Gould congratulated staff on the audit report and the good work they have done. He expressed concern regarding the lack of citizen participation in reviewing and setting goals. Councilor Gould reported the Firefighter Memorial Committee is focusing on construction of the memorial on the plaza in front of city hall in a scaled back design, and ultimately plan to move

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the memorial to a permanent location as part of the new fire hall. He recommended one of the city's goals should be to build a new fire hall and consensus of the Council was to add construction of a new fire hall to the goals. Councilor Gould commented other areas are looking into consolidation of services as citizens have indicated they want government to be more efficient. He encouraged citizens favoring delivery of efficient government services to take a serious look at consolidation.

Councilor Eck expressed condolences to the family of Hal Leedom who served as city engineer and city manager for Coos Bay years ago. He reported the Parks Commission reviewed a proposal for a boat rental service at Empire Lakes Park and the issue will come before the Council at their next meeting. Councilor Eck commented on an ordinance the Tree Board is reviewing. Councilor Larson expressed support for the consolidation of Coos Bay and North Bend and for building a new fire station. She expressed appreciation to RSVP for the time and services they provide the community.

Councilor McKeown commented consolidation of the cities would be an opportunity to have one unified voice for the community and one effort to help the area grow. He expressed appreciation for the work staff is doing. Councilor McKeown reviewed an email he received regarding the city's membership with the South Coast Development Council (SCDC). The comments included the total amount the city has paid to SCDC, the salary and benefits for the executive director, the businesses SCDC has brought to the area, whether it is a conflict of interest to have the executive director also serve on the city's Budget Committee, availability of records, and the audit process of SCDC. Councilor Gould commented that before SCDC was formed, the community did not have a plan and a unified effort for economic development. SCDC has grown and has become successful, and is a proven valuable addition to the community.

Mayor Benetti expressed appreciation for the good audit report and thanked Ms. Howard, City Councilors, department heads, and employees for working together to improve the city's finances. He commented things are going well and the city can look at adding staff during the budget process.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to March 16, 2004, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder

DRAFT COUNCIL GOALS

1. Continue with redevelopment of Front Street
2. Explore further utilization and development of the boardwalk and dock facilities
3. Consider expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary in Bunker Hill and/or Libby
4. Develop a plan for hiring a Downtown/Empire area manager
5. Develop a plan for enhancing the Hwy 101 Corridor
6. Explore implementing a systems development charge
7. Explore implementing a street levy to support the Street Improvement Plan
8. Utilize the Sewer Capital Improvement Plan
9. Develop a plan for a new fire station
10. Continue to improve parking and traffic circulation
11. Explore funding for the DARE program in Coos Bay schools
12. Explore funding for a new skate board park
13. Work with local government entities on consolidation of services

Note: The goals have not been placed in order of priority.