

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 16, 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, Jeff McKeown, and Kevin Stufflebean. Councilor Cindi Miller was absent. City Staff present were City Manager Chuck Knight, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Nathan McClintock, Finance Director Janell Howard, Library Director Carol Ventgen, Fire Chief Stan Gibson and Police Chief Eura Washburn.

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 March 2, 2004 minutes. Councilor McKeown moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Eck seconded the motion, which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye. Mayor Benetti requested Mike White, President of the Firefighters Volunteer Association be added to the agenda.

Report by Steve Doty on the Newmark Avenue Project

Steve Doty, Engineering Services Coordinator, reported the Newmark Avenue project is substantially complete although there are a few minor finishing touches to be done such as smoothing ragged joints in the pavement. Mr. Doty explained usually pavement seams are done inline with striping, however, on Newmark some of the seams are in the traffic area. There is a ten-year extended warranty on the pavement and since Newmark has a good sub-base the city does not anticipate any problems with the street surface. Mike Erichson from Dyer Associates reported the reason the seams were not lined up with the stripes was to keep traffic moving during the paving project, otherwise, the street would have been closed to all traffic until the paving was completed.

Mayor Benetti commented the next project would be to overlay Ocean Blvd. Mr. Doty reported the project is in the transportation plan and the plan recommends returning the street to two-lane traffic with a turn lane in the middle. It would be up to the Council to determine if Ocean Blvd should remain four lanes or redone to two lanes. Councilor McKeown asked that the stop sign at Ocean and Central be removed to allow traffic to flow smoothly. Mr. Doty noted there are safety concerns to be considered before the sign is removed. Finance Director Janell Howard reported on funding options for the Ocean Blvd overlay including use of jurisdictional exchange funds, urban renewal funds, and STP funds, and the possibility of using a bond or a loan for the project. After a brief discussion, the Council directed staff to move forward with the Ocean Blvd overlay project with consideration of the natural gas pipeline project being completed and with Dyer Partnership updating the previous project estimate.

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Report from Mike White President of the Volunteer Firefighters Association

Mr. White thanked the City Council for their support and extended an invitation to the Council and city manager to the Volunteer Firefighters Association annual awards banquet on April 10th.

Request for Authorization to Provide Boat Rental Service at Empire Lakes Park

Steve Doty reported Dan Frazier has approached the city regarding a boat rental business at Empire Lakes. The request was submitted to the Parks Commission for review and it is the commission's recommendation that the business not be approved. The Council expressed support of the business and suggested Mr. Frazier be given an opportunity to try the service on a trial basis. Mr. Frazier distributed pictures of the equipment he would provide and a copy of the hold harmless rental agreement he would use. He also reported the business would be run on weekends and the boats would not be stored at the park. The consensus of the Council was to authorize the service on a trial basis with the city attorney drafting the necessary documents.

Request to Delete the Remaining Task, Urban Growth Boundary Expansion, and Complete the Periodic Review Process

City Manager Chuck Knight reported dropping the urban growth boundary expansion task would allow the city to complete the periodic review process. The city could take up the expansion in the future if they desired. Councilor Gould moved to approve terminating periodic review and eliminating the work task to expand the urban growth boundary. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Discussion and Adoption of City Council Goals and Discussion of Building a New Fire Station

City Manager Chuck Knight reported the list was developed based on Council's discussion at the previous meeting, and not on the list are items that have been completed and items that are duties and responsibilities. Councilor Gould commented the goals have not been prioritized and are areas the city can focus on. Mayor Benetti commented the city has accomplished many of the goals and it is important to understand that the Council may add more goals such as building a new fire station. Mayor Benetti reported a task force had looked at building a new station in 1992 and he asked if the Council would be interested in appointing a committee to consider a new fire station. Councilor Gould commented studies have been done regarding location and need, and now it is time to focus on funding.

There was further discussion and consensus of the Council was to appoint a committee and look at the possibility of a bond measure in November. Chief Gibson gave a brief summary of the 1992 study. He recommended the new committee review the report and include information regarding emergency planning, earthquake and flood plain considerations, and the possibility of locating the dispatch center in the new facility. Councilor Gould inquired about funding and Chief Gibson reported in 1992 the estimate for constructing the facility was \$1.4 million. Finance Director Janell Howard commented a short-term bond for \$1 million would be approximately 70 cents per thousand for three years.

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Councilor McKeown asked about including a holding facility in the new structure due to the problem of transporting people to the Coquille jail. Councilor Stufflebean suggested consolidating services with North Bend for transportation to Coquille, otherwise, a new holding facility would require additional expense and employees. Councilor Larson recommended involving the community with the decision of locating the fire station and asked Chief Gibson where he would locate the facility. Chief Gibson suggested a location on Ocean Blvd because of ready access to the downtown and Empire areas, being out of the flood plain, and away from downtown traffic congestion. He noted many of the calls are to Empire and locating the station on the south end of town would run fire apparatus through the downtown area as well as add time responding to the calls. Councilor Gould asked about responding to Eastside calls and Chief Gibson reported it would add one minute to the response time.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Chuck Knight reported preparation of the budget is on schedule and the first meeting will be held Wednesday, April 14th.

Public Comments

John Buchanan, Coos Bay, stated he is the chief petitioner for measure 6-103 and requested the Council add back the goal of working with Coos Bay School District. He also expressed support for building a new fire station. Councilor McKeown commented the city is not ignoring old goals and has been working with the school district for some time. Mayor Benetti commented the city participates in several joint programs with the school district.

Carol Ventgen, Board Member of Zonta, thanked members of the City Council and the Fire and Police Chiefs for being celebrity servers at the fundraiser. She reported Zonta cleared over \$1,400 from the event and the funds are used for providing school supplies for students.

Council Comments

Councilor Stufflebean reported he attended the annual RSVP appreciation dinner and noted RSVP provides many hours of service in the community. Councilor Larson expressed appreciation to city staff for their work and commented on the improvements to the buildings in downtown North Bend. Councilor Gould reported the Firefighters Memorial Committee is focusing attention on the location in front of city hall in the plaza for the memorial. It would be temporary in nature, but still have the statue of the firefighters and the flags. Councilor Gould commented the cost of the memorial will be significant and citizens will be given an opportunity to participate.

Councilor Gould reported research by Shuta Kokawato of Choshi, Japan confirms that concrete bridge construction is acceptable for replacement of Choshi Bridge. Councilor Gould reported on the international fair in Choshi and noted it is time to begin talking about an exchange between Coos Bay and Choshi. Councilor McKeown reported on the purpose of the Ford Foundation grant for SCDC and noted the grants have been used in many other communities to help develop team building and leadership. He further commented that the grant somehow got mixed up with consolidation and was misrepresented with the North Bend Council.

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Mayor Benetti commented there is a water problem in the stage area in Mingus Park and some of the lights had been vandalized. He also inquired if the gravel path would be paved and City Manager Knight stated staff would look into the matter. Mayor Benetti reported the Council had been invited to the christening of a new tug at Sause Bros.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to April 6, 2004, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder