

## **MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**April 6, 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 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 Cindi Miller. Councilor Kevin Stufflebean was absent. 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, Police Chief Eura Washburn, Library Director Carol Ventgen, and Administrative Assistant Susanne Baker.

### **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 16, 2004 minutes, approval of a proclamation proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, approval of a proclamation proclaiming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, approval of a proclamation proclaiming the first week of April as Arbor Day, and setting a public hearing for vacating a portion of Oakway Court. Councilor Eck moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Department Head Report by Police Chief Eura Washburn**

Chief Washburn reviewed a statistical report for the police department and introduced Gary Francis. Mr. Francis reported the OLCC office recently moved into city hall and he serves as inspector for Coos and Curry Counties. There are 300 licensed premises in the district. Councilor McKeown inquired about the City Council approving OLCC licenses and Mr. Francis explained licensing requires local government approval. Local police departments do a background check before the license is presented to the city council for approval. If the city council does not approve the license, the city must include a letter explaining the reason for the denial, and then OLCC would do further investigation. The final decision is made by the OLCC Commission.

### **Report on the Farmer's Market and the Committee's Recommendation**

City Manager Chuck Knight reported the committee had met several times regarding the location of the Farmer's Market. A survey of downtown businesses was performed and there are advantages and disadvantages to moving the market. Mr. Knight commented the committee did not agree on a day of the week to hold the market and reviewed possibly locating the event

at the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza, the parking lot North of Curtis Avenue, and the 100 and 200 blocks of Central Avenue. Mayor Benetti commented the survey had asked whether to move the market or leave it in current location, and response came back split. Councilor Larson expressed concern that moving the market would not improve the parking problem, and suggested holding the market in the K-Mart parking lot.

Councilor Miller commented the Downtown Association would like to leave the market in its current location because of good visibility north and south, and further noted parking would be affected wherever the market is held in the downtown area. Councilor Miller commented the market is held on Wednesday because many of the vendors have commitments in other areas on Saturday and the event does bring a lot of people into the downtown area. Councilor McKeown commented moving to a new location would also bring problems and suggested leaving the market in the current location in the Chamber parking lot. Councilor Gould commented he does not see 1500 to 2000 people in the downtown area and asked if merchants are happy to have the market held on Wednesdays. Councilor Miller reported many have seen an increase in business, however, there is some concern the market interferes with local customers. Mayor Benetti commented the survey consensus is to use blocks one and two of Central and the pedway behind the Chamber. Councilor Gould recommended moving to the new location on a trial basis. Mayor Benetti requested one person from each group comment on relocation of the market.

Joan Johnson reported in talking with downtown businesses, there is support for moving to blocks one and two and the Chamber pedway. This location would still give good visibility from north and south bound traffic and would open up the parking lot. Wim deVriend suggested leaving the market in the current location and holding the event on Saturday. He expressed concern that using the Chamber pedway would impede traffic and impact parking. Mayor Benetti commented parking would still be a problem if the market was held on Saturday. Mr. deVriend responded the parking lot is not used on Saturday because the employees only use the parking lot during the week. Councilor McKeown commented it would seem the market would create new customers for the downtown businesses. Mr. deVriend stated his regular customers don't come in on Wednesday and he has never done well with coupons. Councilor McKeown asked why he wants his business to be on Hwy 101 and Mr. deVriend stated because of the amount of traffic and because there is a parking lot close by. There was further discussion on support of businesses for relocating the market to blocks one and two.

Councilor Miller moved to relocate the Wednesday Farmer's Market 2004-05 to the Chamber pedway, blocks one and two of Central Avenue, and the parking lot adjacent to Jennie's. Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and Councilors Eck, Gould, McKeown, and Miller voting aye and Councilor Larson voting no.

**Discussion of Adding Parking to the Marshfield Parking District -  
Approval of the Request will Require Adoption of Resolution 04-02**

City Manager Knight reported in 2002 the Marshfield Parking District was established around the high school for residence parking during school hours. A request to extend the district was received from Joseph Smith to include the west side of South 7<sup>th</sup> Street between Hall and Ingersoll. There was a brief discussion regarding parking passes for visitors to the area and Mr. Knight commented the high school supports the request. Mr. Smith explained the purpose of

extending the district is to address the issue of students being in the area during school hours. Councilor Eck moved to adopt Resolution 04-02 amending the parking district which is attached and hereby made a part of the record. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Discussion of Ocean Boulevard Overlay Project**

City Manager Chuck Knight reported a traffic study on two-lane and four-lane options for Ocean Blvd would cost approximately \$25,000 and it is up to the Council to decide which option they want. Len Luttrell, Shorepines Village, commented he had attended discussions on traffic planning and he supports two-lanes with a center turn lane. Mr. Luttrell explained the problem of entering and exiting Shorepines Village, increased traffic from the development of a new subdivision on Prefontaine, and the speed limit on Ocean Blvd. He encouraged the Council to support the two-lanes with a turn lane option. Mayor Benetti questioned whether two lanes would be sufficient to handle the amount of traffic on Ocean Blvd and asked if Shorepines was willing to relinquish some property for a turn lane. Councilor McKeown commented there are some issues on Ocean and he would like to see Shorepines as a partner with the City in resolving the problem. Mr. Luttrell indicated he would speak with the owners of Shorepines. Councilor Gould suggested hiring an engineer for professional advice on resolving the traffic issues. After further discussion, consensus of the Council was to have staff bring a proposal for an RFP for engineering services to the City Council.

### **Authorization to Solicit Bids for the Dechlorination Projects For Wastewater Treatment Plant I and II**

Administrative Assistant Susanne Baker explained the dechlorination process and reported the projects for wastewater treatment plants I and II was approved by DEQ and the city contracted with West Yost for the project. Mayor Benetti commented West Yost has determined what was considered to be a temporary fix for Plant II will now be a permanent fix. Councilor McKeown moved to authorize staff to solicit bids for the dechlorination project for wastewater plants I and II. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Appointments to the Fire Station Committee**

Mayor Benetti reported the Council had discussed at their previous meeting the formation of a committee to study location of a new fire station. Mayor Benetti presented the names of Steve Auer, Stan Gibson, Bob Huggins, Bruce Latta, Randy Miles, Kevin Stufflebean, Mike White and John Whitty to the Council for appointment to the Fire Station Siting Committee. Councilor Gould moved to approve the appointments as presented by Mayor Benetti. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Knight reported the proposed budget is available and the first meeting of the Budget Committee will be held at 7 p.m. April 14<sup>th</sup>. Copies for public review are available at the finance office and at the library, and on the city's web site.

**Public Comments**

Steve Schniederma, Coos Bay, reported there is a gentleman who conducts business on the highway selling burn barrels without a business license, and sells the barrels at a lower price than he can afford to do. Mr. Schniederma commented he has contacted city staff regarding this issue and he is asking the City Council to look into the matter. He also commented the Farmer's Market is a good thing to have in the downtown area and on Wednesdays he has more customers in his business.

**Council Comments**

Councilor Miller presented a certificate of appreciation from RSVP to the City Council and a framed copy of the picture RSVP is using as a fund raiser. Councilor Miller reported attending the annual RSVP appreciation and awards dinner as the city's representative and commented on the service RSVP provides the community. Councilor Eck expressed condolences to the Anna Brands family for the recent loss of John Brands and commented he contributed a lot to the community. Councilor Gould commented on receipt of an anonymous letter and requested citizens to put their names with their letters and calls; the City Council does appreciate hearing from the public.

Councilor Larson also expressed condolences to the Brands family and commented John was a special person and will be missed. Councilor McKeown expressed condolences to Anna Brands and family, and commented he was pleased to see the city moving forward with the fire station committee. Mayor Benetti reported on a letter from Japan and the Volunteer Firefighters banquet will be held Saturday. He commented the fire station committee will be directed to move forward quickly and he anticipates a report the first of May.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to April 20, 2004 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

---

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder