

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

May 4, 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, and Kevin Stufflebean. Councilors Jeff McKeown and Cindi Miller absent. City staff present were 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.

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 a recommendation to approve OLCC license renewals for McKay's Market, Smith's Bayway Market, Bi-Mart, Lighthouse Grocery and Deli, Benetti's Italian Restaurant, Fred Meyer, Gussies' Restaurant and Lounge, Kleoni's Blue Moon Café, Timber Inn, Rite Aid, Silver Dollar Tavern, Sumin's Restaurant, Red Lion Inn, and Wanda's; approval of the Foster Care Month proclamation; and approval of the April 20, 2004 minutes. Mayor Benetti declared a conflict of interest as the owner of Benetti's Restaurant. Councilor Stufflebean moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with all Councilors present voting aye.

Department Head Report by Fire Chief Stan Gibson

Chief Stan Gibson displayed a drawing of the proposed firefighter memorial designed by Dutch Mostert. The memorial is designed to either be placed at the Fifth Street Plaza location or at the new fire station. Chief Gibson explained the statue is of three firefighters and the 11 trees represent the children of the fallen firefighters. One of the fundraisers will be "selling a brick" which ties in with the brick pathways in the design. Chief Gibson reported the Fire Station Siting Committee is meeting again tomorrow evening and they hope to report to the Council in June on a location and possible funding for the new station.

Consideration of a Letter Opposing the Closure of Beaches Proposed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Mayor Benetti explained the City of Florence sent a letter requesting Coos Bay join in submitting a letter opposing the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's proposed closure of the beaches as a method of protecting the Snowy Plover. Councilor Larson commented the beaches are not within the city's jurisdiction and she would not support sending a letter. Councilor Gould commented closure of the beaches could potentially have a big impact on Coos Bay and neighboring cities, and could limit the ability to develop the North Spit which is a

location for industrial development. Mayor Benetti commented the closure affects the whole coast and he supports sending the letter. Councilor Eck and Stuffbean also expressed support for the letter. Councilor Eck moved to have a letter prepared for the mayor's signature in opposition to the beach closures proposed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Councilor Gould seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and Councilors Eck, Gould and Stuffbean voting aye. Councilor Larson voted no.

City Attorney's Report

No report.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Chuck Knight reported the annual release of Chinook salmon in Blossom Creek will be held on Friday, the Division of State Lands has advised the City that we have completed all the periodic review tasks, and arrangement for the 4th of July in the Park celebration are well underway. Mr. Knight reported a memo from the deputy recorder has been distributed to the Council regarding possible dates for the Joint Convention. The convention is required under ORS 222 and possible dates are June 9th and 16th. The mayor and council accepted both dates which will be forwarded to Mayor Wetherall and North Bend Councilors for consideration.

Public Comments

June Pundt, Coos Bay, thanked the members of the City Council for their service on the council, and briefly reviewed the businesses and property purchases she and her husband have pursued. She explained the Concerned Citizens of Empire group is requesting an update on the Empire Urban Renewal projects, fund expenditures and fund balance. There was a brief discussion regarding the property currently leased to the Mission and Councilor Stuffbean reported staff will be talking with the mission in the Fall about the lease and moving from the facility.

Mayor Benetti expressed disappointment that the Empire group had not invited council representatives to their meetings, and briefly reviewed the completed projects and the status of other projects in the Empire district. Councilor Stuffbean further explained the monuments and façade projects were on hold because the businesses could not agree on the monuments and did not want to participate in the façade project. Ms. Pundt invited Mayor Benetti and Councilor Stuffbean to attend the next meeting on May 11th. Mayor Benetti stated he would be happy to attend the meeting and Councilor Stuffbean reported he had a prior commitment but would make every effort to attend future meetings. Councilor Gould commented information the group is seeking is readily available, information was also available and discussed at the budget meetings. He expressed appreciation for citizen involvement and encouraged Ms. Pundt to stay involved.

Council Comments

Councilor Larson commented the urban renewal agency has spent a lot of money in Empire and the area is looking much better than it did years ago. She further stated it is the responsibility of property owners to maintain their buildings, such as Ms. Pundt has done, and she would like to

see the city sell the buildings in Empire. Councilor Larson wished Cindi Miller a speedy recovery. Councilor Stufflebean reported the first meeting of the Fire Station Siting Committee was held last week and the committee will meet again tomorrow evening. Councilor Eck also wished Cindi Miller a speedy recovery and encouraged citizens to vote in the May 18th election.

Councilor Gould thanked the deputy recorder for the election time line and joint convention meeting information. He explained if the consolidation vote is favorable, the earliest the election for the mayor and city councilors could be held is September 21st. The new city would come into effect on the tenth day after the election. Councilor Gould expressed concern about comments that there would be confusion and chaos if consolidation takes place. He explained under Oregon law, both cities would stay in effect and the new council would enforce the existing ordinances of both cities until the council reworked the ordinances. Councilor Gould commented consolidation would be a very smooth process and it would have a positive affect on the community and encouraged citizens to vote.

Mayor Benetti also encouraged everyone to vote and reminded everyone to attend the salmon release. Councilor Gould commented the next council meeting is on May 18th, election day.

Executive Session

An executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660(1)(d) for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations.

The council reconvened in regular session. Councilor Gould moved to authorize the city manager to negotiate changes in the Firefighter's Association contract as presented for Articles 4, 6, 7, and 9 and add new articles for posting of approved training and educational incentive. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

City Attorney Nate McClintock reported the information the council may have received from Mike Martin is in regards to a pending harassment claim. He explained that further discussion could not be held because he is still investigating the claim.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to May 18, 2004 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder