

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

**January 11, 2005**

The minutes of the proceedings of a Work Session of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon held at 7:00 p.m. at the Downtown Fire Station, 150 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Coos Bay, Oregon.

### **Those Attending**

Those attending were Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Jon Eck, Roger Gould, Jeff McKeown, and John Muenchrath. Staff attending were City Manager Scott McClure, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Battalion Chiefs Dean Martin and Mark Anderson, Finance Director Janell Howard, and Fire Department staff.

### **Purpose of the Meeting and Overview of the 2004 Study**

Mayor Benetti commented progress has been made on the task of building a new fire station and the purpose of the work session is to move the process forward. City Manager Scott McClure suggested staff review the 2004 committee recommendation before beginning the discussion on the new station. Chief Gibson reported the City is continuing a dialog with Southwestern College regarding a training station on campus, and considering the feasibility of expanding the Empire station.

### **Service Level Discussion**

Chief Gibson and fire staff reviewed the percentage of calls in the Empire, Downtown, and Eastside Districts. Fire staff is on-site within four minutes for 90 percent of the calls. Chief Gibson reviewed the committee's recommendation and using a map of the City, staff demonstrated service levels for different locations of the fire station. Mayor Benetti inquired if one station could serve the city's needs. Chief Gibson reported due to the size of the city, one station would not be sufficient to answer all calls within four minutes. Battalion Chief Mark Anderson reviewed a report comparing service levels for one station and for two stations. With one station there would be a problem when simultaneous calls were received and an increase in response time to many calls. Consensus of fire staff is that two stations would better serve the emergency needs of the community.

### **Location and Design Considerations**

Chief Gibson reviewed the site locations from the committee's report, and reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of updating the current downtown station. The sites included the parking lot between 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets and Anderson and Curtis, the old McAuley hospital, the State Police properties on the east side of 4<sup>th</sup> Street, the GTE parking lot and property to the south on the west side of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between Curtis and Elrod, the area on the east side of the Bi-Mart property, and the old State office building on Elrod and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Chief Gibson noted that none of the sites really fit the needs of the fire station. City Manager McClure commented the City is a developed area so it is more difficult to find an appropriate site. There was further discussion of the sites as to stability and flood plain location.

**Funding Options**

Finance Director Janell Howard reviewed funding options for constructing a new fire station which included the use of urban renewal funds, general obligation bonds, and grants. Ms. Howard reviewed estimates on the cost to citizens for the bonds depending on the number of years of the bond, and the possibility of combining funding by using both urban renewal funds and a bond.

**The Bond Election**

City Manager McClure commented on the importance of marketing the project to the public and explained how this would be done. He also reviewed the amount of time needed to pull everything together before placing the funding request on the ballot. Mr. McClure commented on the 50 percent majority vote required in an off general election year and recommended the Council wait a year before going to the voters.

**Council Direction**

City Manager Scott McClure commented the goal is to get one or two good fire stations in place; however, to accomplish this the City needs to do a professional job of presenting the project to the community. Councilor McKeown suggested drawings of the proposed station be developed and a location be selected. Councilor Muenchrath recommended the Council decide on the reasons for replacing the station so that everyone is saying the same thing. There was further discussion on the reasons for replacing the facility and what the City would do with the current facility after the new station was built.

Consensus of the Council was the city manager would give regular updates to the Council and the public would be brought into the process. The Council discussed possible sites and selected the BiMart property, the State Police facility, the McAuley hospital, and the trailer park at 4<sup>th</sup> and Kruse for further review.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to January 18, 2005, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

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Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder