

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

August 2, 2005

The minutes of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning with interviews for the Library Board at 6 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room and proceeding with the regular meeting 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, Jeff McKeown, and John Muenchrath. Councilors Roger Gould, Cindi Miller and Kevin Stufflebean were absent. City staff present were City Manager Scott McClure, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Battalion Chief Dean Martin, Finance Director Janell Howard, Library Director Carol Ventgen, and Police Chief Eura Washburn.

Council Interviews for the Library Board

The City Council interviewed Marie Benton, Jon Littlefield, Jeanette Owens, and Larry Plews for consideration of appointment to the Library Board. Bob More was interviewed on July 19th.

Flag Salute

Mayor Benetti opened the meeting and led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

Report from Ron Opitz, Executive Director of South Coast Development Council

Ron Opitz presented a DVD about the Bay Area to the assembly and reported SCDC produced the DVD for use in recruiting business. He commented terrific things are happening in the area and a number of businesses are looking at relocating here. Mr. Opitz commented on the process takes approximately two years from first contact to conclusion and affordable housing is an important component for business decisions. Mayor Benetti commented SCDC has been in existence for four years and they need funding to help the community move forward. He suggested the Budget Committee look at increasing the City's funding to SCDC.

Public Hearing on a Request for a Rezone and Plan Amendment for Property Located at 1052 Southwest Blvd

City Attorney Nate McClintock read the public hearings disclosure to the assembly and explained the Planning Commission has reviewed and approved the rezone of the property located at 1052 SW Blvd. The applicant is Scott McNutt of North Bend. Mayor Benetti opened the public hearing. Scott McNutt, 93320 Hillcrest Lane, North Bend, reported he is remodeling the building for use as a law office and briefly explained the zoning around the subject property. There were no other comments given and Mayor Benetti closed the hearing. Mayor Benetti disclosed prior contact with Mr. McNutt regarding the rezone request. Councilor McKeown moved to adopt the findings of the Planning Commission as the City Council's findings, and

enact the ordinance to rezone the property. Councilor Muenchrath seconded the motion and Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen read the ordinance by title only and polled the Council. Ordinance No. 370 changing the zoning designation for certain real property from “single-family and duplex residential” to “general commercial” was enacted by the following vote:

Yes: Mayor Benetti and Councilors Jon Eck, Jeff McKeown, and John Muenchrath
No: None
Absent: Councilors Roger Gould, Cindi Miller, and Kevin Stufflebean

Councilor McKeown moved to adopt the findings of the Planning Commission as the City Council’s findings, and enact the ordinance to amend the Comp Plan Map. Councilor Muenchrath seconded the motion and Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen read the ordinance by title only and polled the Council. Ordinance No. 371 changing the comprehensive plan map designation for certain real property from “residential low-density” to “commercial” was enacted by the following vote:

Yes: Mayor Benetti and Councilors Jon Eck, Jeff McKeown, and John Muenchrath
No: None
Absent: Councilors Roger Gould, Cindi Miller, and Kevin Stufflebean

Public Hearing on a Request for a Street Vacation for a Portion of 12th Court Located Between G and H Streets

City Attorney Nate McClintock read the public hearing disclosure to the assembly and reviewed the requested street vacation located on a portion of 12th court. The applicants are William and Heidi Pettit. The street is located in a steep area, staff has determined it would not be used as a street, and the Planning Commission has recommended approving the vacation. Mayor Benetti opened the public hearing. There were no comments given and Mayor Benetti closed the hearing. Councilor McKeown moved to adopt the findings of the Planning Commission as the City Council’s findings, and enact the ordinance to vacate the street. Councilor Eck seconded the motion and Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen read the ordinance by title only and polled the Council. Ordinance No. 372 providing for the vacation of a portion of 12th Court located in the plat of Eastside, Section 36AC, Township 25 South, Range 14 West of the Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon was enacted by the following vote:

Yes: Mayor Benetti and Councilors Jon Eck, Jeff McKeown, and John Muenchrath
No: None
Absent: Councilors Roger Gould, Cindi Miller, and Kevin Stufflebean

Appointments to the Library Board

The City Council made appointments to the Library Board by ballot and Jon Littlefield was reappointed and Jeannette Owens was appointed to the Library Board. Mayor Benetti expressed appreciation to all the applicants for their interest in serving on the Board.

Discussion on City Charter Revisions

City Manager Scott McClure briefly reviewed Section 9.12 of the city charter which requires the City to go to a vote for bonding. The issue came up with the Ocean Blvd project and although this project has its own funding, future projects will require funding. Mayor Benetti commented reviewing the full charter would take time and he suggested addressing Section 9.12 at this time, not to change the intent, but to ask for a clarification. Councilor McKeown stated the Council needs to be really clear what they are asking of the voters, and the ballot summary presented is not real clear. He commented the language should clarify that if no additional debt is incurred and the City has a revenue stream, the City should be able to do the project. The Council further discussed clarifying the charter regarding funding of projects, public improvements, and mandated improvements. Mayor Benetti suggested doing a full review of the charter and consensus of the Council was to proceed with the review and place the charter on the May 2006 ballot.

Department Reports

Finance Director Janell Howard reported there have been changes to the 2005/06 budget since its adoption. She explained the budget was balanced using \$245,000 carryover; however, the current expenses exceed the revenues. The budget increased cable franchise revenue by \$50,000, however, the City cannot proceed with the increase because of federal law. The health insurance increase came in less, by \$60,000, than anticipated; and workers comp insurance increased by \$30,000 due to the major fire incident in 2002, leaving a deficit of \$265,000. Ms. Howard reported there is a potential increase in revenue from Pacific Power if the City increases the franchise fee to 7%. The change would increase revenues by approximately \$220,000 which would bring the deficit to \$45,000. After a brief discussion, Mayor Benetti suggested the Council agree to transfer \$150,000 from Reserves. Consensus of the Council was to approve the transfer from Reserves and authorize staff to look into increasing the Pacific Power franchise fee.

Chief Eura Washburn reported the Police Department partnered with the North Bend Police Department on the National Night Out event which is held annually on August 2nd. The intent of the program is to heighten awareness in anticrime with activities for children so they can get to know the police officers. This year's event was held at Ferry Road Park in North Bend.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Nate McClintock reported an arbitrator has been selected for the arbitration with the firefighters and it is anticipated a meeting will be held in December-January. In response to a request from the Red Lion, the city attorney reviewed the transient occupancy tax ordinance and it appears that revising the ordinance would result in a zero affect on City revenue. Mr. McClintock reported Horizon was renting three room and paid every day of the year whether used or not. Mayor Benetti recommended amending the ordinance to match North Bend's ordinance and the Council agreed with the recommendation. Mayor Benetti suggested a letter of intent be sent to the Red Lion if needed.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Scott McClure updated the Council on progress of the project list. Mr. McClure reported telephone interviews with Community Service Director applicants will be held in the morning and interviews will be held on the 26th. He explained residents on Woodland have requested a speed study.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Council Comments

Councilor Eck commended the Police Department for partnering with the North Bend Police Department for National Night Out. Councilor McKeown reported SCDC's DVD is available for interested parties, and expressed appreciation to the people applying for City boards and commissions.

Mayor Benetti reported the Optimists Club is holding their convention on the 11th at the 10th Street Park; information on a mentoring program will be coming to the Council soon; and he will be out of town for the Bay Area Fun Festival in September. He asked if a member of the Council was available to be in the parade, to contact the City Manager's Office.

Executive Session

The City Council did not meet in the executive session pursuant to ORS 190.660 (2) (d) for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations as advertised.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to August 11, 2005 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder