

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

October 18, 2005

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, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, John Muenchrath, and Kevin Stufflebean. City staff present were City Manager Scott McClure, 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 approval the October 4, 2005 minutes. Councilor Eck moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Introduction of New Employees

Jim Hossley and Lisa Crawford were introduced as new employees to the Department of Community Services. Ms. Crawford was hired as a Planning/Codes Specialist and Mr. Hossley was hired as the Director.

Annual Report from Operations Management International (OMI) by Steve Simpson

Steve Simpson introduced Gary Young as the Regional Director and Vice-president Gary Wood. Mr. Simpson presented the Council with OMI's annual report and briefly reviewed the past year's projects and accomplishments. Mr. Simpson presented Mayor Benetti with a rebate check in the amount of \$12,939.16. Mayor Benetti expressed appreciation for OMI's good work. Mr. Simpson commented OMI is beginning their 10th year with Coos Bay and tomorrow is OMI's 25th anniversary as a company.

Consideration of a Request from the Confederated Tribes for a Continuance of the Public Hearing on the Variance to Place a Communication for Tower for Edge Wireless

Planning Administrator Laura Barron reported the City Council approved a request to continue the appeal hearing on the variance for the tower to October 18, 2005 on September 6th. The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw have requested a second

continuance to December 20, 2005 in order to give both parties sufficient time to complete all technical and legal issues related to a proposed resolution on the location for the tower. Councilor Gould moved to continue the hearing to December 20, 2005 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Empire Waterfront Concept Plan Committee

City Manager Scott McClure reported the original concept plan was reviewed by the Council last week and it was decided to form a committee to fine tune the plan. The proposed structure of the committee would include two City Councilors, one Planning Commissioner, Planning Administrator Laura Barron, Operations Director Steve Doty, and four community members of which two would be from the Concerned Citizens of Empire. There was a brief discussion on recruitment of community members and Council directed Mr. McClure to contact citizens about serving on the committee. Appointments would be made at the next Council meeting.

Department Reports

There were no department head reports.

City Attorney's Report

The City Attorney did not have a report.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Scott McClure reported an employee insurance committee is being formed to research ways to save money on insurance. After a brief discussion, consensus of the Council was to receive a report at the end of the process. Mr. McClure reviewed the status report on City projects. Mayor Benetti recommended a change be made to historic design standards to leave out word historic. The Planning Commission will review the standards and submit a recommendation to the Council.

Public Comments

John Pundt, 715 South Main, thanked Council for proceeding with the waterfront project. He commented on recent vandalism to his property, and asked if the Police Department could spend more time in the Empire area. Chief Washburn reported officers are assigned to the Empire District, however, they are sometimes out of district due to court or transporting someone to jail. Many calls are in-progress calls and the department's call load is heavy. Councilor Gould commented there has been a spike upward in crime and the City does not have enough officers. He further commented that special bonds for public safety have been presented to the citizens and voted down. There was further discussion regarding the staffing level in the Police Department and consensus of the Council was to schedule a work session for further review.

Gene Melton, 137 E Street, suggested the City Council hold meetings in the community to help get people involved, and work to increase police and fire volunteers.

Mark McPeek, 985 Newmark, stated the Council has let him down over the past few months and he thought there had been substantial support for his business expansion. Mr. McPeek commented he owns the entire block and should not be affected by the design standards. He further stated a significant effort was not made by the Council to put pressure on the Planning Department to allow a waiver of the guidelines. Mr. McClintock commented Mr. McPeek has the right to appeal the Planning Commission's decision and recommended the Council not make comments at this time as the appeal would come to them.

Steve Fager, 1331 Central Avenue, commented nothing has been done about the excessive speed on Central Avenue since his request last month. Mr. Fager commented he had contacted ODOT and was told the city sets the speed limit. Mayor Benetti reported the State administers the speed limit and the Council has no concern about the current speed. Councilor McKeown commented the Police Department volunteers recently did a survey and the average speed was 31 mph. After further discussion, the Council asked the city manager to look into different designs for the speed signs. Lona Morgenegg, 1260 Central Avenue, also expressed concern about the speed of traffic and the amount of traffic on Central. She inquired if anything could be done to lessen the amount of traffic. Mayor Benetti commented the City had looked at ways to divert the traffic but it was not cost effective. Councilor McKeown commented improving Newmark relieved some of the traffic from Central Avenue. Glen Swanson, 1353 Central Avenue, reported there is a problem with hearing comments at the Council meetings. Staff will look into the sound system.

Council Comments

Councilor Gould reported the youth tennis program at the Boys and Girls Club has been very successful. They won state and regional events and placed third in the nationals. The Boys and Girls Club will also submit entries for the State agriculture calendar. Councilor Eck commented the Fire Department gets out to various areas of the community and a lot of interest has been expressed in the department. He also supported holding city meetings in other locations in the community. Councilor Miller reported the Farmer's Market will host a Giant Pumpkin Festival for their last day of the season. Councilor McKeown also supported holding community meetings and would like to have a work session on police funding. SCDC held an executive meeting last week and there is a lot of interest in the bay area from outside the area. Mayor Benetti welcomed the new employees and congratulated OMI for doing a great job for the City. He commented citizen involvement is important to the Council and to the City, and encouraged citizens to get involved.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to November 1, 2005 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder