

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 21, 2006

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 Nate McClintock, Community Services Director Jim Hossley, 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 added a proclamation to the agenda to recognize Vera Richter and Councilor Mckeown read the proclamation to the assembly. Mayor Benetti reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of approval of ratification of the nomination of Shirley Liberante to fill North Bend's in-city representative on the Coos Library Board, adoption of resolution 06-08 authorizing refinancing of a loan for the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board, and approval of the February 14, 2006 minutes. Councilor Miller moved to approve the consent calendar as amended. Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Report by District Attorney Paul Burgett on the New Coos County Mental Health Court

District Attorney Burgett reported on the recent formation of the mental health court for the purpose getting help for people with mental illness. The court has worked well in other states and counties. Steve Plinski commented the mental health court system works with law enforcement agencies and has helped many people improve their lives. Dr. Reagan reported 50% of schizophrenics never see a doctor and 30 to 40% of the homeless have schizophrenia. Without the mental health court, people end up in the legal system; jails cannot afford to care for them and hospitals are not able to care for them, so they are turned back out onto the street. The program is unique in that it involves Coos County Mental Health, the District Attorney's Office, and area law enforcement agencies.

Report by Jon Souder Regarding the Ford Leadership Institute Community Project

John Souder reported the purpose of the Ford Leadership program is to train people in rural communities to be able to work together to build community institutions and enable groups to access Ford Family Foundation funds. The Bay Area group is the largest group and the first of

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a five-year cycle of groups with a long-term commitment from Ford Family Foundation. Jennifer Groth reported the group has been meeting for three months and have been looking for a community project, something they could do with limited funds and that would demonstrate to the community that people can work together. Ms. Groth explained they came up with painting the fire hydrants and are currently working on design and prep standards. The intention is to get members of the community to do the work and it is anticipated the project would be completed in a year.

Presentation from Energy Trust of Oregon by Steve Bohachek Offering Free Home Energy Reviews to the Public

Steve Bohachek, representative of Energy Trust of Oregon, reported they travel around the state and perform free energy audits to create awareness of the program and encourage energy conservation. They are targeting Coos Bay and North Bend during the month of April and are looking for homes built before 1980. Mr. Bohachek briefly described the process and encouraged citizens to call for an appointment. Mayor Benetti commented there is a different program for businesses and suggested going to the web site for the information.

Presentation of the Notice of Intent to Implement a System Development Charge Methodology and Adopt a Wastewater Treatment System Development Charge

Community Services Director Jim Hossley presented the City's notice of intent to consider implementation of a system development charge for wastewater treatment. The proposed resolution would make the documents available to the public. Mr. Hossley reported the public hearing would be held on June 6th. Councilor McKeown moved to adopt Resolution 06-07 making the documents public record. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and all Councilors present voting aye.

Consideration of the Parks Commission's Recommendation for Development of the Skateboard Park in Mingus Park

Community Services Director Jim Hossley reported C-BAY previously came before the Council to request expansion of the skateboard park with removal of the tennis and basketball courts, and the horseshoe pit. The Parks Commission met with C-BAY, reviewed their request, and reviewed other possible locations. The Commission has recommended the skateboard park be extended and the courts removed.

Mayor Benetti asked for public comments. Paula Massie, 364 North 8th, Marshfield girls tennis coach, supported developing a larger skateboard park, but didn't want to see the tennis courts removed. She encouraged the City to consider another location for the skateboard park. Dan Neal, 883 North 8th, expressed concern for the amount of noise and congestion from the park and asked the Council to consider looking for another location. Mike Maullin, Coos Bay, stated he was glad to see the City is considering a new park and the current location is best. Mike Ball expressed appreciation that the City is considering a new skateboard park and commented the current location is better than other areas. Cindy Soule, 2096 Sheridan, commented her son is a skateboarder and it is dangerous for skateboarders to be on the road. She encouraged support for developing the park as soon as possible. Kevin Solarz, high school tennis coach, commented there are only four tennis courts in Coos Bay, and suggested building additional

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courts and finding another location for the skateboard park. John Griffith, 1108 North 3rd, expressed support for both skateboarding and tennis program and commented the community will need to raise money to build the facilities. Tim Connick, high school tennis coach, commented the skate park is inadequate and there is a need for additional courts. Troy MacVicar, 2759 Sheridan, commented there isn't a place for BMX bikers to ride and suggested the new park accommodate bikers as well. Brian Menten commented the skate park would favorably impact the economy and the new surface would generate less noise.

Brandon Davis, 1029 Sanford, commented the park would bring more business downtown and the current location is the best place for the park. Clark Anderson, 1027 Timberline Drive, commented kids are our future and we owe it to them to keep them safe. David Kramer, Isthmus Slough Road, reported a smoother concrete surface would decrease the noise and injuries. Jody McCaffree, North Bend, encouraged the City to build additional tennis courts in upper Mingus and build the new park in the current location. Joseph Biggs, Flanagan Avenue, commented if the skate board park is built, the skaters will help build the additional tennis court. Daniel Rhodes, North Bend, commented he skated in a competition in Florence and a lot of people showed up to watch. He encouraged the Council to approve building the park in its current location. Jamie Moriarty, Coos Bay, asked the Council to consider building additional tennis courts in upper Mingus. There being no further comments, Mayor Benetti closed the public comments.

Mayor Benetti commented Councilor Miller has been trying for a skateboard park for a number of years and he commended the kids and adults for working to make it happen. He endorsed adding tennis courts and building the skate park in its current location. Councilor McKeown commented the skateboard park is not in the urban renewal district and perhaps we should look at a minor plan amendment. He suggested staff research and come back with a recommendation. Councilor McKeown commented the park should be a quality product and the City should improve the tennis courts as well. Councilor Gould suggested before eliminating the tennis courts, the City first explore potential location and cost of building additional courts. He recommended more consideration be given to the current location for size, parking, and space for audience. Councilor Muenchrath commented the current location is a good one and he would like to see the new skate board park built in this area. He recommended the City commit to relocating the tennis court to facilitate the group's fund raising ability.

Cathi Thompson reported C-BAY needs the location in order to apply for grants. Ms. Thompson commented C-BAY is involved in organizing other activities for children and not just skate boarding. The group has begun work on grant writing and fund raising, but before they can proceed, they need funds for design development, and before submitting grant applications, they need a commitment for the property. It is anticipated the design will cost between \$3,000 and \$6,000. Ms. Thompson reported they have looked at alternative locations such as private property, the school district, and college, however, nothing is available.

Mayor Benetti suggested the Council commit to developing the skate board park with the understanding no construction will be done until the tennis courts are built. There is the cost of relocating the tennis courts to be considered. Councilor Muenchrath stated he was in favor of moving the tennis courts and the skate board park needs to be located in a central place. Councilor McKeown commented it shouldn't be one or the other, but a commitment to develop the skateboard park with construction to begin when there is a plan to relocate the tennis courts. Councilor Stufflebean recommended discussing a partnership with the school district on

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relocating the tennis courts since they utilize the courts. Councilor Muenchrath commented the work to relocate the tennis courts should be done by the city. Councilor McKeown stated that was the intent.

Councilor Miller moved to commit to the non-profit group the use of property located in lower Mingus Park, including moving the tennis court and basketball court, and removing the horseshoe pit. Councilor Eck seconded the motion. Councilor McKeown suggested the Council have an approval process on the design of the skateboard park. Councilor Miller amended her motion to include a design approval process and the city would oversee relocating the tennis court. Councilor Eck amended his second to the motion. The amended motion passed with Mayor Benetti and all Councilors present voting aye.

City Manager's Report

Community Services Director Jim Hossley reported development of a sink hole at the intersection of Koosbay Blvd and 10th Street. The project engineer discovered the soil erosion was caused by deterioration of the culvert and because the condition under Koosbay Blvd is unknown, it was recommended the street be closed. The engineer and the contractor have recommended using a directional drill to drill down and intersect the concrete pipe. At this time, the City has a project ramming a pipe in the area and could begin the new project in two or three days. Mr. Hossley reported the anticipated minimum price is \$20,000.

City Manager Scott McClure reviewed the status of the project list and reported the vehicle schedule will be in the budget; the street SDC will be at the April 18th meeting; the Empire Concerned Citizens are interested in fund raising; the wastewater SDC will be in June; and the skate board park and relocating the tennis courts will be added to the list.

Public Comments

Chief Washburn, Chair of the Commission on Children and Families, reported the annual youth summit will be held at the college tomorrow, and invited the Council to drop by.

Council Comments

Councilor Stufflebean reported he missed the last council meeting because he was representing the City at the RSVP annual appreciation banquet. Melody Gillard-Juarez is retiring and the event was her last function. Councilor McKeown wish Vera Richter a happy birthday and commented she is a great member of the community.

Mayor Benetti reported Gus Langley's name will be added to the Mayor's Appreciation Plaque and reported Gus served on the Public Safety Committee from 1985 through 1992, on the Planning Commission from 1988 through 1997, and on the Parks Commission from 1990 through 1997. Among Gus Langley's accomplishments were his years as a dedicated teacher and coach at the high school, and his hours of volunteer service in community. Gus reluctantly resigned from the Planning Commission and Parks Commission in February 1997 due to health reasons, and passed away on October 2, 2004 at the age of 83. Councilor McKeown commented Mr. Langley was a great man and a positive coach and teacher. Councilor Miller commented Mr. Langley contributed a lot to the community.

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Executive Session

Councilor Miller moved to go into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (d) for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

The Council reconvened into regular session.

Councilor Gould moved to ratify the AFSCME contract. Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and all Councilors present voting aye.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to April 4, 2006 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

Attest:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder