

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

July 18, 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, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, and Kevin Stufflebean. Councilors Roger Gould and John Muenchrath were absent. City staff present were City Manager Scott McClure, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Library Director Carol Ventgen, Police Sgt. Robert Lounsbury, and Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley.

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 of OLCC license renewals for Backstreet Saloon, Puerto Vallarta Restaurant, and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and approval of the May 9, May 16, and May 23, 2006 minutes. Councilor Stufflebean moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Report on the Fire Hydrant Painting

Jennifer Groth, Coos Bay, reported instructions have been prepared for the hydrant painting project and the Fire Department has offered to help prepare the hydrants. Volunteers are needed for the project and painting will begin the end of August and go through September. She thanked the City Council for their support and invited Councilors to participate in the project.

Consideration of the Preliminary Report on Minnesota Avenue Local Improvement District – Approval will Require Adoption of Resolution 06-26

Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley reported the City Council approved the Minnesota LID application in May. The citizens paid the \$1,000 application fee and an engineering firm was contracted to do the cost estimate. The project would construct a 20' wide street with curb and was estimated at \$112,000. Adoption of the resolution would approve the local improvement district and the next step would be to notify the property owners of the action. Councilor Stufflebean inquired if there was a provision to require the one property owner not participating in the LID pay their fair share. Mr. Hossley commented the largest property owner did not want to participate in the LID and the other property owners agreed to take on his share in order to get the LID done.

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Councilor Stufflebean suggested the City implement the LID and require the one property owner to pay since they are the largest property owner and have the most to gain from the street improvement. Councilor McKeown declared a conflict of interest. Councilor Miller moved to adopt Resolution 06-26, which is attached and hereby made a part of the record, approving the formation of the Minnesota Avenue Local Improvement District. Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and Councilors Eck, Miller, and Stufflebean voting aye. Councilor McKeown abstained from the vote. Councilors Gould and Muenchrath were absent.

Consideration of an Amendment to the Professional Services Contract with Dyer Partnership for the Design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant 1 Outfall Storm Water Separation Project

Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley reported staff discovered damage to the outfall at Plant I. The estimate for repairs is \$360,000 and was prepared by Dyer Partnership. Mr. Hossley reported DEQ has required a mixing zone be included with the repairs and explained how the mixing zone functions. Mayor Benetti inquired if OMI had been consulted and Mr. Hossley reported OMI has been involved with the project. After a brief discussion, consensus of the Council was to have staff look into other alternatives.

Review of the Schedule of Permit Fees to be Collected by the Public Works and Development Department

Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley explained the process of reviewing permit fees and explained the new fees will not cover 100% of the cost of providing the services. Previously the City did not collect fees for engineering cost and these have been included in the proposed fee schedule. Mr. Hossley noted no changes were made to the building code fees. Councilor McKeown moved to adopt Resolution 06-25 adopting the permit fee schedule, which is attached and hereby made a part of the record. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and all Councilors present voting aye.

Discussion of New Personnel Positions in the Public Works and Development Department Approved by the Budget Committee

Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley reported the Budget Committee recommended the Public Works and Development Department add one and a half positions; one full time building codes and a half time codes enforcement. Mr. Hossley reported staff has recommended codes enforcement duties be performed by an existing person with experience in code enforcement, and a part time position hired to work on business license permits and administrative duties. Mr. Hossley requested approval to try this on a trial basis. Councilor McKeown commended staff on creative thinking.

Councilor McKeown commented the Budget Committee also approved an additional position in the Police Department and he recommended moving forward with filling the position. City Manager McClure reported staff was considering proceeding in January.

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Linda Mitchell reported the hiring process takes approximately three months and the department would prefer to hire a certified officer. Mr. McClure commented it is still unknown what PERS will do and what the property tax revenue will be. Councilor McKeown stated the community is improving and recommended moving forward with hiring the position. Mayor Benetti commented the Budget Committee felt there were sufficient funds to hire the position. Councilor Eck suggested a conservative stance and wait until PERS and property tax figures are received. Councilor McKeown commented there was an extra \$300,000 not spent in the general fund and the economy is improving. Councilor Stufflebean expressed support with moving forward with hiring the position. Mr. McClure commented there is uncertainty on the income side and the savings were a one time savings. Councilor McKeown commented the City has come in under budget the last three years and the increase in franchise fees, and improvements in the community to be taken into account. Councilor Stufflebean commented property values are going up and with new development coming in, the City's revenues will increase. Mayor Benetti commented the cost for each a police and fire position is \$70,000.

Councilor McKeown moved to approve proceeding with hiring the police officer position and Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion regarding hiring a firefighter. Councilor McKeown amended his motion to include hiring a firefighter. Councilor Stufflebean amended his second and the motion passed with Mayor Benetti and Councilors McKeown and Stufflebean voting aye. Councilors Eck and Miller voted no. Councilor Eck supported hiring the position in January. Councilor Miller expressed support for adding public safety positions in January.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Nate McClintock reported November 8th has been set for bargaining with the Police Officer Association.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Scott McClure briefly reviewed the project list. A report on the fire station project will be given at the next Council meeting; the downtown WiFi temporary antenna is up; the formal signing of the Egyptian Theatre agreement will take place on Friday; and the Coast Guard is willing to relocate their facility located near the Empire boat ramp. Councilor Stufflebean inquired if staff had talked with the school district about property for tennis courts and Mr. McClure reported a meeting has not yet been set. Councilor McKeown asked if the Park Avenue site has been looked at and Mr. McClure indicated it was being considered.

Public Comments

Ray Lee, 1010 N Henry, Coquille, commented he owns property on Minnesota and is ready to build on the lot. He stated the main reason for attending the council meeting was to thank the Council for proceeding with the LID. Cal Mitts, Police Department, thanked the City Council for moving forward on filling officer position. He commented on the difficulty in finding the right employee to fit with our organization and noted the number of applicants have dwindled in the past few years. Gary Rifkin, Coos bay, thanked the City Council for supporting the replacement of Choshi bridge. Mayor Benetti thanked Mr. Rifkin for taking on project and raising funds for the project.

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Council Comments

Councilor Stufflebean participated in the North Bend July Jubilee and thanked the event organizers. He reported he will be out of town for work related items and will not be able to attend the August Council meetings. Councilor Miller commented the July Jubilee was a great event and noted Coos Bay won the Coos Bay-North Bend softball game. She expressed concern about adequate funding for the new positions, but is looking forward to having additional public safety officers on board. Councilor Miller thanked Carol Dawson for helping with the July 4th event.

Councilor McKeown thanked staff for fixing the sidewalk on 4th Street and noted the elevator was not working at the Coos Art Museum. Councilor Stufflebean reported a swim meet would be held the second weekend in August which will bring approximately 1200 people to the community. Mayor Benetti reminded everyone of the open house at the Historical Society, the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association open house will be held on Friday at 3 p.m., and the open house for the South Coast Gospel Mission will be held July 29th. Mayor Benetti thanked Patrick Stark for purchasing new plaques for the organ at the Egyptian Theatre. He reminded the Council to contact the city manager's office if they are interested in attending the League of Oregon Cities Conference in September.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to August 1, 2006 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

Attest:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder