

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

November 7, 2017

The minutes of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Lucinda DiNovo, Drew Farmer, Jennifer Groth, Stephanie Kilmer, Stephanie Kramer, and Phil Marler. City staff present were City Manager Rodger Craddock, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Finance Director Susanne Baker, Deputy Finance Director Amy Kinnaman, Library Director Sami Pierson, Public Works and Community Development Director Jim Hossley, Fire Chief Mark Anderson, and Police Chief Gary McCullough.

Council Interviews

At 6:20 pm prior to the start of the regularly scheduled Council meeting, the Council interviewed applicants for the Planning Commission. No decisions were made.

Flag Salute

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

Public Comments

Jay Brown, Coos Bay: stated she moved to the area four months ago and worked at 7-Eleven in Empire; expressed concern about crime in Empire; noting the 7-Eleven store was robbed yesterday. Stated she had counseling experience and was going out everyday using her own money offering assistance and resources to the homeless. Wanted know what the City was doing to address the homeless problem. Mayor Benetti stated the City was putting together a committee to help address the problem and would be meeting in the next few weeks. Ms. Brown requested permission to make citizen arrest for public intoxication with the guarantee the police department would follow through with the arrest. Ms. Brown suggested the lack of resources to help homeless was the real problem. Councilor Kilmer suggested the taskforce would benefit from Ms. Browns experience and recommended she provide her contact information to the City Manager.

Suzanne Sundet, Coos Bay: stated her home was recently robbed, some of her stolen goods were sitting in the yard of 1006 Flanagan; noted squatters were living at 1006 Flanagan. Police Chief Gary McCullough encouraged Ms. Sundet to report suspicious activity; noted police had to follow the law. Ms. Sundet asked what citizen's could do as a community to help address and prevent crime, noting some of her elderly neighbors were

too scared to leave their homes. Asked what could community do so more police officers could be hired or more funding for the jail. Mayor Benetti recommended Ms. Sundet and her neighbors work with Coos Bay Police Department to coordinate a neighborhood watchgroup.

John Browning, Coos Bay: stated he contacted the bank seven months ago regarding squatters living at 1006 Flanagan; stated he had been threatened by the squatters and questioned how long he had to put up with them before he was forced to defend himself. Mr. Browning stated he provided one month's worth of video footage to Coos Bay Police Department detailing activity at 1006 Flanagan. City Manager Rodger Craddock stated squatting was civil issue, not criminal and was a long involved legal process; squatting was not an arrestable offense; law enforcement needed probable cause to make an arrest. Mr. Browning stated something needed to be done quick because the situation was coming to a loggerhead and noted it was better to be judged by 12 than carried by six.

Stacey Johnson, Coos Bay: stated there were homeless-drug addicts-thieves living/squatting at 1006 Flanagan; noted house was owned by JP Morgan and Chase. Ms. Johnson stated while she was out picketing the house, a homeless man approached her and asked to purchase meth; she told the man she did not have meth but suggested he might find what he was looking for at 1006 Flanagan. Mayor Benetti explained police could only intervene if there was confirmed criminal activity. Ms. Johnson stated she did contact Oregon State Police regarding the issue; unless or until the bank filed as victim with the Sheriff's Office, the Sheriff's Office had no authority to act. Ms. Johnson suggested the house was full of stolen goods; stated the situation was out of control and something needed to be done; she was tired of nothing being done; asked what City was doing to address the issue. Suggested by the time police responded to reported criminal activity there was nothing for them to see or do other than file police reports and paperwork. Mayor Benetti stated City must follow the law, the City's hands were tied; encouraged Ms. Johnson to continue to report criminal activity to help the Police build a case and follow due process. Police Chief McCullough also encouraged Ms. Johnson to report criminal activity or threats; document and report. Councilor Marler noted the Council set policy for the City but were not law enforcement officers.

Discussion ensued regarding abatement of squatters and the home foreclosure process.

Stacy Bear, Coos Bay: stated she was the Chair of Eastside Watchgroup and invited the citizens of Empire to meet with her lobby of City Hall to further discuss their concerns.

Consent Calendar

Mayor Benetti reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of:

3a: Approval of the minutes of October 10, 2017

3b: Approval of the minutes of October 17, 2017

3c: Approval of the minutes of October 24, 2017

Councilor DiNovo moved to approve consent calendar as presented. Councilor Kramer

seconded the motion which carried. Ayes: Benetti, DiNovo, Farmer, Groth, Kilmer, Kramer, Marler.

Report by Marshfield High School Key Club Members

Marshfield High School (MHS) Key Club representatives Sofi Baho-Munoz and Maria Arellano summarized upcoming Key Club activities, shared achievements by various MHS clubs and athletic teams. Noted the Key Club received a donation of concrete for the basketball court from Knife River and dog waste station from Hanson-Meekins for the 10th Street park.

Presentation of a Forget Me Not Proclamation

Mayor Benetti stated Kevin Owens made his presentation at the October 24, 2017 City Council work session. City Manager Rodger Craddock stated the Disabled American Veterans adopted the Forget Me Not as their memorial flower to pay honor to the injured who have served this great nation. The Forget Me Not was a memorial flower to support injured and ill veterans, and was a tradition which begun in the years following the First World War. Adoption of the Forget Me Not proclamation declared November 11th and 12th as "Forget Me Not Days".

Councilor DiNovo moved to approve the Forget Me Not proclamation. Councilor Farmer seconded the motion which carried. Ayes: Benetti, DiNovo, Farmer, Groth, Kilmer, Kramer, Marler.

Consideration of a Planning Commission Appointment

The City of Coos Bay sought volunteers to fill an unexpired term on the Planning Commission. The opening was created by the resignation of Katherine Flores. The deadline for submitting applications for the opening was October 27th; applications were received from Sebastian Balogh, Bill Davis, and Christine Vincent. By action of Council ballot the Council appointed Bill Davis to the Planning Commission to fill Katherine Flores' unexpired term ending December 31, 2018.

Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Hazardous Materials Team

Fire Chief Mark Anderson presented a biennial intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the State of Oregon for the Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team for Council consideration. Fire Chief Anderson provided the Council with a brief overview of the program noting the City of Coos Bay had been the primary agency for hazardous materials response on the south coast since formation of the program in 1993. Coos Bay's response area ranged from Florence to the California boarder, east to Scottsburg on Highway 38, and to Bridge on Highway 42. Per the agreement, the State provided equipment, training, and employee physical with reimbursement of up to \$37,500 annually. Maintaining a hazmat team on the south coast would ensure prompt response and access to equipment and resources that the City would otherwise not be able to purchase or maintain. The proposed agreement was reviewed by City staff and the City Attorney and other than minor language and formatting changes, the proposed agreement was similar to the last agreed upon IGA.

Councilor Groth moved to approve the biennial intergovernmental agreement with the State of Oregon for the Regional Hazardous Material Response Team. Councilor Kilmer seconded the motion which carried. Ayes: Benetti, DiNovo, Farmer, Groth, Kilmer, Kramer, Marler.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Rodger Craddock stated press logs for police calls were now available on City's website on the police department page and also available on the Police Department's Facebook page. Police Chief Gary McCullough was working to coordinate a monthly meeting with the various neighborhood watchgroup's. Councilor DiNovo suggested using the Friday Update as a means to communicate information about community watch efforts. City Manager Craddock stated staff was working on an ordinance to address derelict properties. City Attorney Nate McClintock provided the Council with a brief overview of the abatement and property foreclosure process. Councilor Groth expressed concern that the Council's discussion was speculative and suggested staff look into the issues brought forth during public comments.

City Manager Craddock reported the Mingus Park Pool project was soon to be completed; anticipated would re-open next Tuesday. Pump Station 1 in downtown was also near completion; City entrances and various street improvement projects were also underway.

Council Comments

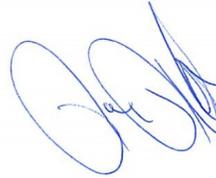
Councilor Kilmer: expressed thanks to Fire Department for their participation in Trunk or Treat event; Coos Bay Downtown Association would be conducting interviews for the Executive Director position; this coming weekend kicked off holiday events with open houses in downtown and Shop Small Saturday, and; reminded Council of the annual Bus Jam Toy and Food Drive challenge. Councilor Marler: stated he noticed children climbing on Knife River equipment at the Golden Avenue job site this past weekend; stated in his experience banks were not eager to finalize the foreclosure process because once they owned the property they assumed liability for the property; noted foreclosure laws in the State of Oregon were very lenient and were more in favor of the property owner. Councilor DiNovo: congratulated Timm Slater, the Executive Director for the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) noting he was recently voted Chamber Member of the Year by the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce. Councilor Groth: noted the Southwest Oregon Regional Airport was in the process of applying for a grant in an attempt to restore Portland air service; requested Council approval for Mayor to sign a letter of support of the effort; Council consensus was provided. Councilor Kramer: noted the other cities had motto's on their welcome signs such as "Friendliest City" and questioned if Coos Bay had a motto that could be placed on welcome signs.

Executive Session

An executive session was held pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 192.660 (2) (d) for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations, (e) for the purpose of discussion real property transactions, and (h) for consultation with legal counsel concerning legal rights and duties regarding current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. No decisions were made.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting. The next regular Council meeting was scheduled for November 21, 2017 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.



Joe Benetti, Mayor

Attest: 

Susanne Baker, City Recorder