

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

July 6, 1995

The minutes of the proceedings of a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, at 6:00 o'clock P.M. at the Empire Lakes Community Building at 250 Hull Street, Coos Bay.

Those Present

Those present were Councilors, Joe Benetti, Gary Combs, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler and Judy Weeks. Also present were Community Development Director Bruce Meithof, City Clerk Joyce Jansen, Al Benkendorf of The Benkendorf Associates, and Architect Rich Turi.

The planning and process meeting for the Empire Urban Renewal study was opened by Community Development Director Bruce Meithof. After welcome and introduction of Al Benkendorf and Rich Turi, a brief overview of previous meetings was given. The audience was apprised of the goals that have been established from townhall and council meetings which are to improve tourism, improve the community and develop area history.

Al Benkendorf spoke on the council goal of revitalizing the Empire District as setting the framework for the program and then invited the audience to make comments. Several comments regarding establishing a theme for the project were made and this was determined to be the first priority. Strong emphasis was made for concentrating on the history of Empire, including a museum, Indian culture, and development of a walking tour. It was pointed out that the Empire area should not try to compete with the Coos Bay area, but they should compliment each other. Development of the waterfront with shops and restaurants to attract tourists was discussed

Beautification of the area was stressed, including cleanup of streets and buildings, development of more parks, develop businesses that will attract tourists, and working with current businesses to make improvements. It was noted Empire Lakes Park needs more signage to let residents and tourists know about the facility. It was suggested that low interest loans be made a part of the program to help with improvements.

There was considerable discussion on establishing the boundary of the district. Concern was expressed that starting too small would hinder the improvements to the area. It was stated the boundary will be decided after all information and comments have been studied and the public is invited to comment on the urban renewal plan and project at the City Council meetings. The audience was informed there will be additional public hearings at which the public may comment.

A schedule was developed as follows: establish the boundary in the next two weeks, finalize projects by mid-July, hold a public hearing to review the plan, hold the Planning Commission hearing, and adoption by the City Council at the end of August

Council Minutes - July 6, 1995

Al Benkendorf asked the audience to prioritize the projects that were suggested this evening. For the downtown improvement, development of the theme was voted as the most important and for the waterfront development, building a boardwalk and shops was voted most important.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned to 7:00 o'clock P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall on July 11, 1995.

Joanne Verger
Mayor of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen
City Clerk of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon