

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 15, 2011

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 Crystal Shoji and Councilors Jon Eck, Jennifer Groth, Joanie Johnson, Stephanie Kramer, Gene Melton, and John Muenchrath. City staff present were City Manager Rodger Craddock, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Deputy Finance Director Susanne Baker, Planning Administrator Laura Barron, Operations Administrator Randy Dixon, Economic Revitalization Administrator Joyce Jansen, Library Director Carol Ventgen, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Chief Gary McCullough, and Police Captain Cal Mitts.

Flag Salute

Mayor Crystal Shoji opened the meeting and asked Eric Farm to lead the Council and assembly in the salute to the flag.

Public Comments

Mike Hosie, Coos Bay: Reported our Sister City Choshi, Japan citizens are well after the recent earthquake and tsunami.

Consent Calendar

Mayor Shoji reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of 3a: approval of the minutes of the March 1, 2011 Council Meeting; 3b: acceptance of the February 2011 accounts payable and payroll check registers; and 3c: acceptance of the February 2011 combined cash report. Councilor Eck moved to approve the consent calendar approving the minutes of the March 1, 2011 Council Meeting, accepting the February 2011 accounts payable and payroll check registers, and accepting the February combined cash report. Councilor Muenchrath seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Shoji and Councilors Eck, Groth, Johnson, Kramer, Melton, and Muenchrath voting aye.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Report on the Isthmus Slough Bridge

Dan Latham, ODOT representative, stated the Isthmus Slough Bridge Project was a couple of months behind and the bridge closure would commence approximately April 1st for three weeks, weather dependent, to allow the concrete time to cure. The closure will also allow the contractor to remove the east approach to the bridge and install the deck.

Continued Discussion Regarding Marine Reserves

Mayor Shoji declared a conflict of interest and stepped down for this agenda item and Council President Jon Eck presided. City Manager Rodger Craddock stated since the March 1st Council meeting where this topic was an agenda item, several Councilors have received additional input from the public; additional information clarifying the process has been received; and letters from

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the Coastal Conservation Association and the Charleston Merchants Association Board of Directors President Tom Kramer have been received. Elise Hamner, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, provided information on the upcoming Marine Reserve Committee vote and stated the committee would not accept any public input at the March 17th meeting.

Jim Pex Sr., Chairman of the Marine Reserves Advisory Committee, stated early in the process the committee established a focus to preserve salmon fishing and crabbing in the ocean; to develop reasonable proposals; receive public input for consideration; and to limit the area from three miles out between Bandon and Reedsport. Mr. Pex stated an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) adaptive management proposal legislative bill was moving forward in Salem with language that was being contested and negotiated at that level. Mr. Pex was concerned the committee would vote on a decision before the legislative process was concluded and preferred to let the bill run through the legislative process before a decision was made. Mr. Pex stated there were risks in the proposals in that the marine reserves may not be large enough, no direct species have been selected, and the legislative bill could override local decisions. Councilor Muenchrath asked the possible outcomes of the Council's vote on the proposals. Mr. Pex stated there were four proposals with three potential outcomes. If there was a vote for no marine reserves, there would not be the opportunity for a second vote at the Council level. If one of the other three proposals comes to the top, the committee could refine it further before it goes to the Port and then there would be the opportunity for a second vote at the Council level.

Councilor President Eck opened the meeting for public input. Cameron Hinman, Coos Bay: Suggested the ocean could support the marine reserves as well as the fishing industry. Chuck Willer, Corvallis: Supported Proposal A and would like to see the process continued to a community solution. Linda Anderson, Charleston: Would like to see family wage jobs and supported Proposals A and C. Bob Reis, Tillamook: Stated the Cascade Head reserve process provided an understanding of the economic and ecological impact to the local community and supported developing the research to lead to an informed decision. Dina Swanson, Coos Bay: Reported the results of The World's poll of 1,494 responses with 52% in favor, 42% against, and 8% undecided. Dana Gabb, Bridge: Supported more research and stated fishing and a marine reserve could coexist. Nicole Jackson, Coos Bay: Supported marine reserves and viewed the reserve as a "bank account" for our future. Robin Hartman, Roseburg: Supported the marine reserve and provided a copy of scientific work completed at Cape Perpetua. Dave Lacey, Gold Beach: Stated the Council made the correct choice seeking more information at the March 1st meeting and stated both positions could be supported. Susan Allan, Klamath Falls: Supported a decision made by a coalition of scientists and fisherman.

Council President Eck adjourned the meeting for a five minute break. Council President Eck reopened the public meeting for input. Mike Hosie, Coos Bay: Supported Proposal H and stated the process did not include any biological data. Gino Landrum, Coos Bay: Supported Proposal H and did not believe any more information would be developed. Daniel Varigan, North Bend: Stated the process was a sham, the same group after Art Robinson's children who attend Oregon State University were the same as those behind this project, and it was a right to be able to fish. Don Peabody, Coos Bay: Stated he was not opposed to marine reserves but was opposed to what was proposed for our area, found it interesting that five of those speaking tonight in favor were paid to be here and speak, stated a vote for marine reserves would harm this community, and the Council must support "No Marine Reserves". Jim Pex Jr., Coos Bay:

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Stated the local fishing tournament he manages, which brings \$250,000 - \$300,000 to our local economy in the three day event, would go elsewhere if marine reserves were created. Rick Hoffine, North Bend: Stated he supported Proposal H. Joe Cook, Coos Bay: Stated he has fishing clients from around the world and urged support of Proposal H. Sy Lancaster, Coos Bay: Stated the economic impact to our area would be \$100 million to our businesses and it would eliminate jobs. Jack Kirk, Coos Bay: Stated he was a local crab fisherman and his wife was a waitress and the impact to our local families would be devastating if fishing was eliminated through development of marine reserves. Mark Fleck, Coos Bay: Stated he supported Proposal H. Ben Messner, Coos Bay: Stated he supported Proposal H and the impact to his business would be devastating. John Watson, North Bend: Stated radical environmentalists do not stop once they get a foothold, suggested they did a good job killing the timber industry, the State would not be able to fund a marine reserve program, the State should not mandate local issues, and supported Proposal H. Marjorie Whittmer, Coos Bay: Stated on behalf of the Charleston Merchants and fishermen, they support Proposal H.

Councilor Muenchrath stated the Council vote two weeks ago was not a vote for marine reserves but a vote for more information and tonight was an excellent exercise in the public process. Councilor Kramer stated there were passionate feelings on both sides of the issue. Councilor Johnson stated she was on the Visitor Convention Bureau Board and they promote Coos Bay as the 12 months of fishing. Councilor Eck stated all of the information was not available at the last meeting and that was the reason he voted no for marine reserves; and he made phone calls to Port Orford where the marine reserve issue forced the local fisherman into a decision of the lesser of two evils. Councilor Melton stated he felt duped by not having all of the information, conducted internet research, spoke with many people in the community, and felt there was not information available for the two reserves already in existence. Councilor Groth stated she appreciated the public input and there may be a perception problem. Councilor Muenchrath stated the State may override a local decision on marine reserves and stated the local area should be able to decide the impact, advocated leaving open the opportunity to receive information regarding the other proposals, and leave Proposal H on the table.

Consensus vote of the Council for Proposal A: Councilor Muenchrath voting yes and Councilors Eck, Groth, Johnson, Kramer, and Melton voting no. Proposal C: Councilor Muenchrath voting yes and Councilors Eck, Groth, Johnson, Kramer, and Melton voting no. Proposal G: Councilor Muenchrath voting yes and Councilors Eck, Groth, Johnson, Kramer, and Melton voting no. Proposal H: Councilors Eck, Groth, Johnson, Kramer, and Melton voting yes and Councilor Muenchrath voting no.

Report on Coos County Weed Advisory Board by Mike Vaughan

Mike Vaughan, Coos Bay Noxious Weed Advisory Board representative, stated he had discussions with the Weed Advisory Board on the use of biological rather than chemical agents to eradicate noxious weeds. Mr. Vaughan suggested creating a block by block analysis of noxious weeds, educating the citizens on the suppression and eradication of noxious weeds with planning and mapping undertaking the first year's efforts.

City Attorney's Report

No comments were given.

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City Manager's Report

City Manager Rodger Craddock stated the recent tsunami warning and subsequent actions resulted in no damage and the exercise was successful. Mr. Craddock thanked the Fire Chief Gibson, department heads, and front line staff and stated a critical analysis would be undertaken of the event. The recent structural assessment for the Egyptian Theatre was presented and provided a report revealing significant safety issues to remedy.

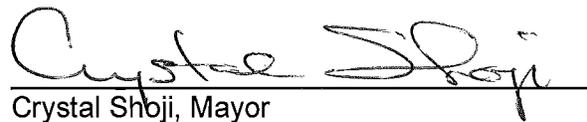
Council Comments

Councilor Groth stated the Coos Waterfront Walkway Partnership would hold public meetings soliciting input to develop a master plan on March 30th and 31st. Councilor Johnson expressed sympathy and sadness with the events in Japan and was impressed with staff and their response to the tsunami. Councilor Melton expressed his sympathy and sadness with the events in Japan. Councilor Muenchrath expressed his sympathy and sadness with the events in Japan. Councilor Kramer thanked City Manager Rodger Craddock and staff for being kept informed and would not be attending the next Council meeting. Councilor Eck expressed his sympathy and sadness with the events in Japan, appreciated the phone call from City Manager Rodger Craddock and expressed confidence in staff. Mayor Shoji stated research on our Sister City Choshi, Japan revealed that the recall referendum process was also a part of their political process; and a message was received from the Mayor of Choshi providing a status report after the earthquake and she encouraged donations for Japan.

Tom Leahy: Stated the schools would be a good point of donation after determining what was needed in Choshi.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Shoji adjourned the meeting. The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2011 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.


Crystal Shoji, Mayor

Attest: 

Rae Lea Cousens, City Recorder