

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

February 20, 2001

The minutes of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held on February 20, 2001 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Present

Those present were Council President Jeff McKeown and Councilors Anna Marie Larson, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. Mayor Benetti was out of town and unable to attend. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs.

Flag Salute

President McKeown opened the meeting and led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

Consent Calendar

President McKeown reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of approval of the minutes of November 21, 2000 and December 5, 2000 meetings and approval of the final order for appeal for a variance for TNT Market. Councilor Miller moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with President McKeown and Councilors Larson, Miller, Stufflebean and Weeks voting aye; Councilor Spangler abstaining on approving the November 21st minutes.

Department Head Report by Police Chief Chuck Knight

Chief Knight reported the City was a major player with the Meth Task Force; Officer Darrell King, while off duty, recently performed the Heimlich maneuver at a North Bend restaurant; and Sgt. Robson is in the process of developing a family academy for family members of police department staff. Chief Knight commented Randy Sparks had previously left the department for another agency and is now back with the City of Coos Bay. The department is very pleased to have him back. The year 2000 statistics and show the department recorded 4,837 case numbers and the North Coos 911 dispatch center logged 34,928 calls for service. The dispatch calls include police, fire and medical calls.

Consideration of Home Occupation Permit Fee Elimination and Adoption of Resolution 00-07

City Manager Bill Grile reported a review of the permit fees revealed the City charges \$50 for a land use permit for home occupations relating to computer businesses in a residence. It is staff's recommendation to eliminate this fee if a business located in a residence cannot be seen. The home occupation would still pay a \$10 business license. Councilor Weeks moved to adopt Resolution 00-07 establishing a schedule of permit fees to be collected by the City of Coos Bay. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with all Councilors present voting aye.

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Consideration of Public Safety Special Option Tax

City Manager Bill Grile reported the City of Coos Bay is on the horns of a dilemma. ORS 243 provides for binding arbitration as a way to settle contract negotiations a resolution cannot be reached. Additionally, Section 9.11 of the City Charter provides the city council shall appropriate the funds necessary to provide at least 1.85 sworn police officers per 1,000 population, and 1.2 firefighters per 1,000 population. Even though police and fire are not supported by a dedicated fund, it could be theorized that all property taxes paid in Coos Bay go to support public safety. Mr. Grile explained the taxes collected annually are less than the amount needed to fund the police and fire departments. The proposed salary adjustments are in the 12% to 22% range and the City does not have the ability to meet an increase of this amount. Inflation is at 3.5% and property taxes increase are at 3%. Mr. Grile commented the Council awarded a salary catch up of 5% for management personnel two weeks ago costing less than \$25,000 this fiscal year. If police and fire increases were 8%, it would cost the City \$1.6 million over the next three years.

Mr. Grile reported ORS 280.050 provides for special operating levies when authorized by a vote of the people. After the charter amendment was approved by the voters in 1988, the voters were asked if they would repeal the amendment or approve a serial to support the amendment; both were denied. Mr. Grile commented if the Council would like to present a public safety levy to the voters in May, a decision would need to be made at tonight's meeting. Public safety funding has always been important to the Council and retaining qualified and experienced personnel is important. He noted should arbitration be necessary to conclude contract bargaining, and should the award be 12% to 22%, devastating cuts in the budget would be necessary. Mr. Grile recommended the Council adopt Resolution 01-08 authorizing the submission of a measure levying a public safety local option tax upon all taxable property within the City of Coos Bay. Mr. Grile reported the tax on a \$100,000 home would be \$138 annually.

Councilor Spangler suggested further negotiations with the unions before considering a levy. He commented the area is economically depressed and now is not a time to ask people to increase their property taxes. Councilor Stufflebean supported putting the levy on the ballot. Councilor Weeks asked about the increase in medical benefits and Mr. Grile reported the increase is at least 20% and is included in the figures. Councilor McKeown commented the City is facing a difficult financial situation and he supported taking the measure to the voters. Councilor Spangler asked how many employees are in police and fire and what an 8% pay increase would be for each employee. Ms. Howard stated there are 60 employees total and the average increase, including benefits would be \$4,100 annually. Councilor Miller moved to adopt Resolution 01-08. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion. The vote failed for lack of a majority with President McKeown and Councilor Stufflebean voting aye and Councilors Larson, Miller, Spangler and Weeks voting no. Mayor Benetti was absent.

Public Comments

Lance Bjornerud, Coos Bay, stated the Coos Bay Police Officers Association is eager to work with the City to resolve contract issues.

Randy Miles, Coos Bay, reported the Firefighters Association appreciates the Council not going out for a special operating levy and they are not opposed to partnering with the City on salary negotiations.

Sargent Webster, North Bend, commented the Council volunteers their time, police and fire personnel put their lives on the line every day and they deserve the increase. If the City lacks the money, there must be a better way than taxing the public, such as not giving raises to management.

Tom Hubbert, North Bend, stated as a school counselor at Madison School he would invite the Council to encourage citizens to become involved in the community and he would like to see a children's day in August.

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City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Tosh reported oral arguments on the Coos County-City of Coos Bay tax appeal on the Coos Art Museum will be heard Thursday morning.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported the review process with department heads on the budget has begun, and the Water Board has asked to come to the March 6th meeting with a request to reduce the charge for treatment of alum sludge. He welcomed North Bend public schools and the Port of Coos Bay to the government access channel.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Weeks reported the first meeting of the year was held for the County Urban Renewal Agency; Todd Georgen is the chair, Mike Stebbins is the attorney of record and Allan Rumbaugh was elected as the budget officer.

Councilor Spangler reported negotiations are proceeding with PCI for fiber optics services and negotiations should be complete within a week. PCI will be responsible for lighting the fiber and when an agreement with BPA for linking along the coast is in place, we will be ready for business.

Councilor Miller wished Ms. Jansen a happy birthday and reported the Downtown Association is proceeding with plans for downtown promotions for the year. Anyone interested in helping with the Fun Festival may attend meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Port office.

Councilor Stufflebean reported he will be in Salem March 3rd through 9th.

Councilor Larson reported attending the Downtown Association meetings and positive things are beginning to happen in downtown. The Parking Committee has recommended adding an outside door to the restrooms at the Chamber offices, opening up Central Avenue between Broadway and Bayshore, and providing signs directing traffic to the parking lots on Third Street. Councilor Larson read a letter into the record which is attached and thereby made a part of the record.

President McKeown wished Joyce Jansen a happy birthday and welcomed Randy Sparks back to the police department. He reminded the Council and public of the additional public hearing on the Empire Design Standards scheduled for March 6th, a work session on the taxi ordinance has been scheduled for March 22nd and the Chamber of Commerce Forum will be held on February 21st at Pony Village Motor Lodge. President McKeown reported the South Coast Development Council director Melinda Anderson will be preparing goals for six months and one year, and will be holding public meetings for input on the types of jobs the Council will be going after.

Executive Session- Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (d) for the Purpose of Discussing Labor Negotiations

Councilor Miller moved to go into an executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (d) for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Councilors Larson, McKeown, Miller, Stufflebean and Weeks voting aye; Councilor Spangler voting no.

The Council reconvened into regular session.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, President McKeown adjourned the

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meeting to March 6, 2001 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Jeff McKeown
Council President of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen
Deputy Recorder of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon