

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

April 16, 2002

The minutes of the proceedings of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay Coos County, Oregon, an executive session held at 6:30 p.m. and a regular meeting 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 Anna Marie Larson, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Library Director Carol Ventgen and Police Chief Chuck Knight.

Executive Session

An executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (d) for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations and (1) (f) to consider records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

The Council convened into regular session.

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 the March 5, 2002 minutes. Councilor Weeks moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Back to School Proclamation

Linda Clem, representing the Coos Bay School District, reported April 29th through May 4th has been proclaimed as Back to School Week, and invited the City Council to attend a special breakfast for employers and mentors on April 1st. Ms. Clem read the proclamation, which is attached and made a part of the record, to the assembly. Councilor Weeks moved to approve the Back to School Week proclamation. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Department Head Report by Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs

Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs reported the new street sweeper will be delivered on Thursday, staff has been working to figure out how to deal with layoffs, construction of pump station 7 has gone out to bid, and design proposals for pump station 3 have been received. The Marshfield street overlay project

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is expected to go to bid in six weeks, with work expected to begin in early summer, and a grant to pay for one-half of the Mingus ballfield lighting project has been received.

Consideration of Library Cost Accounting

Curt Benward, Chair of the Coos Bay Library Board, expressed the concern of the Library Board regarding proposed cost accounting of the library fund. He reviewed the history of the formation of the county-wide library district and the agreement which requires the cities to assume maintenance and operating expenses. Mr. Benward commented libraries are under a lot of pressure to provide more services and the \$26,000 for cost accounting would have a great impact on the library's budget. Karen Olson, Chair of the Coos County Library Board, reported the board's interpretation is that the master plan and service district were approved by the voters and it would be inappropriate to alter the format of the original agreement. Councilor Spangler commented cost accounting is done for all the other funds. Councilor McKeown commented every other department is participating in budget cuts and it would be appropriate to ask the library to also participate.

Ralph Mohr, Coos Bay Library Board member, reported he was involved in establishing the library district and stated the library is affected by the budget cuts because as employees are laid off, they move into some of the library positions. Mr. Mohr suggested the Council look at the \$26,000 as an investment and remember they have \$600,000 they don't have to worry about. Joyce Day, member of the Coos Bay Friends, reported the funds raised by the Friends supports all the children's programs and paid for the furnishing in the Myrtlewood Room. She made an impassioned plea for the Council to stand by their commitment to the agreement. Judith Vanduser, League of Women Voters, expressed opposition to implementing the cost accounting and asked the Council honor their agreement. City Manager Bill Grile commented the issue is not about legalities, but is a policy matter and it is his job to look at all options. Mr. Grile reported he and the finance director had attended a meeting with other city managers and Commissioner Whitty and there were two CPAs who agreed with the cost accounting of the library fund. He noted there is already a south county city using library funds for indirect administration costs.

Councilor Stufflebean expressed support for the Library Board's recommendation. He further commented the city manager is doing what the Council has asked and should not be looked upon in a negative way. Councilor McKeown stated he cannot support changing the library agreement and would not wish to cripple the library's ability to provide services. Councilor Miller commented Mr. Grile is doing the job the Council hired him to do, and she has read the master plan and recommended the Council support the agreement. Councilor Weeks supported tabling the issue and commented she would need more time to think about it before taking action. Mayor Benetti suggested that until all the other cities want to make a change, he supported not changing the agreement, although the Council may wish to consider cost accounting sometime in the future. Councilor Spangler moved to table the library fund cost accounting issue. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Presentation from the Firefighters' Association

Local 2935

Mayor Benetti reported he had met with members of the Firefighters Association and read the minutes to the assembly. He noted Randy Miles had made comments at the March 19th Council meeting and both Councilor Miller and he had offered to meet with Mr. Miles. Councilor McKeown commented Mr. Miles had dropped

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off a packet while he was out of town. Councilor Weeks stated she had met with Mr. Miles on Sunday and Councilor Larson stated she had talked with Mr. Miles on the phone.

Mr. Miles stated implementing the battalion chiefs does cost more money and the association is fighting the re-organization. He commented it is important to perform employee evaluations, grievances are a positive tool, and the job descriptions for captains and battalion chiefs are virtually the same. Mr. Miles expressed concern on the level of public safety services to be offered by the battalion chiefs, and requested the present captains be given the opportunity to succeed. Mike Seldon distributed updated documents to the Council and reported he had spent two hours with the finance director reviewing the cost analysis prepared by the Firefighters Association. Mr. Seldon reported there would be a savings of \$90,058 in the first four years if the re-organization was not done.

Councilor Stufflebean inquired what the financial impact would be if extended past four years. Ms. Howard reported in seven years the savings would be approximately \$10,000 a year. Mr. Seldon commented in the first four years the cost would be \$26,375, and that is money the city doesn't have as extra. He stated the information provided to the Council demonstrates the re-organization is not in the best interest of the city, it would affect the level of service to the public and build a wall between staff and management. The Council briefly discussed whether the captains were offered battalion chief positions and why evaluations were not performed on the captain positions. Bob Miles, firefighter volunteer, stated even though he is not a CPA, he is good with arithmetic, three entry level firefighters at \$2800 per month compared to three battalion chief positions at \$4400 per month shows a savings of \$50,000.

Chief Gibson reported the difference between the two job descriptions is the job functions and this was an issue in the impact bargaining. Response to the battalion chief openings has been nationwide and applicants match the EMS level of current staff. The implementation is in the best interest of the public and looking long range, the city will save money as well as improve service. Council discussed certification levels in the department, whether battalion chiefs will help fight fires, and the level of response to alarms. Council also discussed the cost of three-hour callback pay and noted battalion chiefs would not receive callback pay. Chief Gibson explained the re-organization began in January 1998 as a way of improving the department. An unfair labor practices was filed in August 1998, the matter went to the Employee Relations Board in April 2000, and impact bargaining went from January 2001 to a settlement in January 2002. The current captains were offered battalion chief positions on a six month trial basis and one captain accepted the offer. The job was opened for applications in April with job offers anticipated in June. Chief Gibson noted with losing the office manager position, battalion chiefs will be expected to take on more administrative duties. Mayor Benetti thanked everyone for participating in the discussion. No Council action was taken.

Discussion of Funding Options for the Newmark Improvement Project

Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs presented a power point presentation on several funding options for improving Newmark Avenue. Segment I would improve from Wal-Mart to LaClair with transition from five lanes to three, include a signal at LaClair, and provide sidewalks on both sides of the street, if the college participates in the cost of the project. Segment II would improve from LaClair to the Y intersection, provide for sidewalks on one side if there are three lanes and on both sides if there are five lanes, and overlaying Ocean Boulevard. Ms. Shribbs reported seven options were considered and staff's recommendation is to pay cash and do Segment I and II and Ocean Boulevard. The advantages to this option

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would be a savings by doing the project over one season and the overlay would require fewer digouts, and it would improve safety and foster commercial development. Disadvantages would be decreasing the jurisdictional exchange funds, construction on both Ocean Boulevard and Newmark would be going on at the same time, and future widening on Newmark would be more expensive. Options for funding the projects were discussed using urban renewal funds, jurisdictional exchange funds, and contributions from Wal-Mart and the college. Mayor Benetti commented using the jurisdictional exchange fund principle would require going to the voters. Councilor Weeks moved to extend the meeting past the ten o'clock rule and Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Councilor Larson supported using urban renewal money for the project. Councilor McKeown also agreed with using urban renewal funds and supported doing five lanes rather than three. Councilor Spangler also supported doing five lanes and using jurisdictional exchange funds for both projects. Councilor Stufflebean supported the projects, but not using urban renewal funds and not breaking into the jurisdictional exchange principle. Councilor McKeown commented the money could be borrowed as interest rates are low. Mayor Benetti commented if the voters do not approve invading the jurisdictional exchange fund, the Newmark/LaClair project could be done with a loan. Ms. Shribbs noted Segment I and Segment II with three lanes is estimated to cost \$2.1 to \$1.7 million. A loan would leave the exchange fund in tact as well as leaving \$5000 to \$30,000 for other street improvements. The disadvantage would be delaying overlaying Ocean Boulevard which would increase the cost of the project. It may be possible to get a 4% loan, however, the city is only earning 2.5% on investments.

The Council discussed whether the exchange fund earnings would be enough to make the loan payment, if there would be an advantage to moving forward with doing only Segment I, and later going to the voters to use exchange funds for Segment II. Mayor Benetti supported going to the voters and doing the whole project. Andy Nasburg commented he has worked for four years on this development and has lost ten prospects. He cannot move forward without a commitment from the city. Councilor Weeks moved to go ahead with Segment I, provide Mr. Nasburg with a letter of commitment, and go out to the voters in November. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which failed for lack of a majority vote. Mr. Grile recommended looking more at using the Urban Renewal Agency for a loan. Mr. Tosh commented before the city could consider any loans, they would need an opinion from bond counsel. Councilor Spangler moved to go to the voters as soon as practical for using \$2.8 million from jurisdictional exchange funds and the motion died for lack of a second. Mayor Benetti moved to complete the final design and prepare a ballot title for the November 5th election to use \$2.8 million from jurisdictional exchange funds. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion and the motion failed for lack of a majority vote. Councilor Stufflebean moved to go forward with the project using loans and urban renewal funds, based upon approval of bond counsel. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilor McKeown moved to complete the final design of the project, prepare a ballot title for the general election for the use of \$2.8 million from jurisdictional exchange funds, and direct the city attorney obtain an opinion from bond counsel. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Public Comments

Matt Fare, Coos Bay Fire Department, invited the City Council to the annual Fire Department awards banquet on Saturday, April 20th.

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City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile asked when the Council would like to interview the two respondents for public-education-government access proposals and consensus of the Council to schedule interviews for 6 p.m. May 21st. Mr. Grile reported the proposed budget is now available on the city's web site.

Council Comments

Councilor Weeks commented the budget situation is just as tough for the Council as it is for the employees. Councilor Spangler commented the ad in the newspaper for Lithia Motors that uses the words "City Council" is not representing the Coos Bay City Council. Councilor Miller commented on a letter to the editor regarding poor signage for the hospital and suggested staff look into providing better signage. Councilor Larson reported attending the vigil for child abuse awareness and urged citizens to get involved. Councilor Stufflebean reported he will be in Salem Thursday and may be late for the budget committee meeting. Councilor McKeown commented this is a difficult time for staff and council and we need to keep positive attitudes during the budget process. Mayor Benetti reminded Councilors of their invitation to attend Eastside School's back to school week program, thanked Councilor Weeks for filling in for him by giving the welcome at the STEP conference, and the first budget committee meeting will be held April 22nd.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to May 7, 2002 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder