

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

January 20, 2004

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 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 Jon Eck, Roger Gould, Anna Marie Larson, Jeff McKeown Cindi Miller and Kevin Stufflebean. City Staff present were City Manager Chuck Knight, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Nathan McClintock, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Library Director Carol Ventgen, and Police Chief Eura Washburn.

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 authorizing expenditure from the major capitol reserve fund. Councilor Stufflebean moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Miller seconded the motion, which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Approval of a Proclamation Proclaiming the Third Week in January 2004 as Fine Arts Week

Arnie Roblan, Principal of Marshfield High School, thanked the City Council for providing a School Resource Officer to work in the schools and for all that the city does in support of the school district. Mr. Roblan read the Fine Arts Week Proclamation to the assembly, which is attached and hereby made a part of the record. Mr. Roblan briefly reviewed the activities at the high school for Fine Arts Week and invited all interested parties to attend.

Public Service Award Presented to James Armstrong

Officer Scott Rogers reported Chief Petty Officer James Armstrong was first on the scene of a tragic automobile accident on Ocean Boulevard and his services greatly aided police and fire officers in performing emergency care. Mayor Benetti presented Mr. Armstrong with the city's Public Service Award and thanked him for assisting officers at the scene.

Appointments to the Historic Design Review Committee

Councilor Stufflebean moved to appoint Steve Miller, Kathryn Netter, and Cori Stark to the Historic Design Review Committee as recommended by the Planning Commission. Councilor Eck seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Benetti and all Councilors present voting aye. The appointments were for three-year terms.

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Request for Direction Regarding City Grants to Non-Profit Organizations

City Manager Chuck Knight reported January is typically when the city gives notification to non-profit organizations to apply for city grants. It had been requested during last year's budget review that staff receive Council direction regarding city grants before next year's budget process. Councilor Stufflebean commented he had made this request and his recommendation is to not fund city grants next year due to major cuts and cuts in personnel that have been made in the budget. Mayor Benetti commented he did not wish to see the grants cut totally, but agreed in part with Councilor Stufflebean's comments and suggested staff provide the Budget Committee with input on the grant requests.

Councilor McKeown expressed support for giving non-profit organizations an opportunity to present their application during the budget process. Councilor Eck commented city services in police, fire, and community services have been cut and he would like to see the funding go for replacing staff. Mayor Benetti commented grant applicants need to justify their service to the city and department heads should justify the funding of the grant. Councilor Miller asked if the applications should be restricted to those organizations whose efforts save the city money.

Councilor Gould commented the Council's job is to help make the lives of those living in the city better. In addition to providing public safety services and a working sewer system, the city should support other social services that enhance the quality of living in Coos Bay. He further commented the city spends too low on these services and should continue the grant application process. Councilor Larson stated she agreed with Councilor Gould's comments. Mayor Benetti commented some of the organizations no longer participate in the grant process because they have entered into a service agreement with the city so they now have permanent funding. Councilor Stufflebean stated due to low staffing levels, he supported not continuing with the grants at least for next year. Consensus of the Council was to direct the city manager's office to proceed with accepting grant applications for consideration in the next budget year.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Chuck Knight reported the formal dedication of the boardwalk for Steve Clay is being planned for February, and Steve Doty is coordinating the event with Mike Crowe. Mr. Knight requested the Council review the city's goals and submit recommendations for changes to his office for presentation to the council. Mayor Benetti asked the Council if they would like to hold a separate meeting to review the goals and Councilor Gould suggested placing the item on the February 3rd council agenda.

Mr. Knight reported six applications have been received for the Budget Committee openings and he inquired if the Council wished to close the process and hold interviews since no applications have been received for the past few weeks. After a brief discussion, consensus of the Council was to continue to accept applications through January 30th. Councilor Stufflebean suggested only interviewing the applicants unknown to the Council. Mr. Knight reported Representative Joanne Verger will be attending the February 17th council meeting.

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Public Comments

Joseph Shukoff, Coos Bay, commented he is a veteran of both the United States and Canada and asked the Council to consider supporting establishing a new national cemetery on the Oregon coast. Mr. Shukoff reported he has contacted Senators Smith and Wyden with the idea and was told they would pursue if there was ample community support shown for the project. He further commented federal funds are available for the cemetery and asked the City Council and citizens to contact their congressmen in support of the cemetery.

Council Comments

Councilor Miller reported the first meeting of the Fun Festival 2004 Committee will be held next Wednesday and invited all interested parties to attend. Councilor Larson reported the second annual Alzheimer's walk will be held in September, and she appreciated the veteran's memorial on the boardwalk. Councilor Stufflebean reported he will be out of town and not able to attend the February 3rd meeting. He asked the Council to support sending a letter to the State representatives expressing the City's opposition to the shellfish and clamming fee and request the fee be reconsidered. Councilor Stufflebean commented the fee is a hardship for low income families and would affect tourism as well. Consensus of the Council was to proceed with the letter. Councilor Stufflebean commended police and fire personnel for their work on the youth New Year's Eve party at the Boys and Girls Club.

Councilor McKeown commented it is nice the City has a well-funded reserve fund to take care of our equipment. He reported Governor Kulongoski will be in Coos Bay on Friday to swear in the members of the Port Commission and he is pleased the governor is taking time to come to our area. Mayor Benetti asked if a council member would be available to attend the Fine Arts program on Saturday and Councilor Gould volunteered to attend the event. He reminded Council that information regarding the replacement of Choshi Bridge still needs to be given to Gary Rifkin. Mayor Benetti reported the CEDCO Community Fund Board recently allocated over \$200,000 in grants to the community.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to February 3, 2004, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder