

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

April 7, 2015

The minutes of the proceedings of a work session meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, held at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Mayor Crystal Shoji and Councilors Fred Brick, Mark Daily, Jennifer Groth, Stephanie Kramer, Thomas Leahy, and Mike Vaughan. City staff present were City Manager Rodger Craddock, Finance Director Susanne Baker, Police Chief Gary McCullough, Police Captain Chris Chapanar, Fire Chief Mark Anderson, and Battalion Chief Dan Crutchfield.

Discussion of Public Safety Service Levels

A work session was held for the purpose of discussing the public safety service levels. City Manager Rodger Craddock presented information regarding the history of General Fund total revenue, property taxes, and public safety expenses. The service contracts with other districts and entities provided revenue to offset some of the expense of public safety personnel. Public safety personnel were at minimum levels as compared to the League of Oregon Cities report on statewide per capita basis. The City of Coos Bay had a lower per capita of public safety personnel compared to the City of North Bend. Reductions in public safety staff would lead to a revenue loss in service contracts to other districts and entities due to the inability to then provide the services requested. Fire Chief Anderson provided a detailed review of the staffing per shift, equipment and buildings, contract districts, history on the impacts of past budget measures and tax assessment, and certifications. Councilor Vaughan requested a copy of a report regarding the condition of the Empire fire station. Fire Chief Anderson reported there were approximately seven calls per day with the majority being medical. Councilor Leahy asked the cost of following up on business inspections wherein Fire Chief Anderson stated the enforcement of deficiencies were the responsibility of the State Fire Marshall and he was unaware of directly related fires. Councilor Groth asked if fire regionalization had been considered and City Manager Craddock stated it would create a fire district with its own tax base and possible compression issues. Mr. Craddock stated the Eugene and Springfield intergovernmental agreement resulted in combined services with a reduction of one staff member and the quality of services was unknown.

Councilor Daily stated the public safety budget had outgrown the City's ability to fund it and other needs go without and questioned where savings could be achieved. Mr. Craddock stated this was a universal question throughout the state and were based on policies and priorities. Councilor Daily stated if the public did not support bond measures and limits the revenue, it limits the ability of the City to respond. Mayor Shoji reflected state mandates, unions, and arbitration demand more from the budget. Councilor Leahy stated to reduce the costs all of the variables must be considered, prioritized, and the citizens educated. Mr. Craddock provided a report on the results of reducing staff financially, service deliverables, and requirements of remaining staff (cost of unemployment and loss of service contracts). Councilor Daily asked the number of fire volunteers that respond to a fire call wherein Fire Chief Anderson stated between three and ten. Fire Chief Anderson clarified the gap time between when the fire volunteers arrive on the scene added an additional ten minutes. Councilor Groth suggested more communication directly with our legislative representatives and the impacts Measure 5 and 50 had on our community. Councilor Daily suggested meeting several times throughout the year to

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have a work session regarding budget options. Councilor Kramer suggested Police Chief McCullough complete his presentation in another meeting. No decisions were made.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Shoji adjourned to conduct interviews for open positions on the Library Board and then onto the regular Council meeting.

Crystal Shoji, Mayor

Attest: _____
Susanne Baker, City Recorder