

**CITY OF COOS BAY**  
**JOINT CITY COUNCIL / URA WORK SESSION**  
**Agenda Staff Report**

<b>MEETING DATE</b> March 28, 2017	<b>AGENDA ITEM NUMBER</b>
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TO: Mayor Benetti and City Councilors

FROM: Rodger Craddock, City Manager

ISSUE: Council Goals

**SUMMARY:**

On February 18, 2017, the Council held a work session to discuss priorities for the next two years. The work session was facilitated by consultants from Solid Ground Consulting. Based on a consensus of the Council, priorities were categorized into five areas: (1) Wastewater; (2) Street Maintenance; (3) Library facility; (4) Economic Development; and (5) City Charter.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Please review the attached list of priorities to ensure they represent the desires of the Council

**BACKGROUND:**

On January 30, 2018, consultants Joe Hertzberg and Amy Stork from Solid Ground Consulting met individually with all of the members of the Council, and they discussed their thoughts as to what they saw as the needs of the City and the goals that would be needed to address those needs. On February 18, 2017, the Council held a work session to discuss priorities for the next two years. The work session was also facilitated by Joe Hertzberg and Amy Stork.

Based on a consensus of the Council, the priorities discussed were categorized into the following five areas:

- Wastewater
- Street Maintenance
- Library facility
- Economic Development
- City Charter

The Council listed specific goals within each of the above five categories which they desire to achieve over the next two years. Those goals are listed in the attachment.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

None at this time.



# City of Coos Bay

## **City of Coos Bay Mission Statement**

The Mission of the City of Coos Bay is to work as a stable, progressive municipality to enhance the quality of life for all citizens through a government that is accessible to everyone and dedicated to the development of a diversified economy, sound fiscal planning; and preservation and enhancement of the cultural, historical, and natural beauty of our area.

## **City Council's 25 Year Vision**

- Coos Bay is a vital, thriving, and beautiful city serving both local residents and visitors.
- Our community is a safe place.
- We are thoughtful and intentional in our approach to growth in all nodes of the City – Downtown, Empire, and Eastside.
- We have a diverse and bustling economy. Coos Bay is welcoming and supportive for businesses small and large.
- City infrastructure and facilities are well-maintained and fully meet the needs of the community.
- Our waterfront, greenspaces, sidewalks, and trails offer healthy recreation opportunities for all to enjoy.
- We work closely with our partners in North Bend, Coos County, and the region to achieve our mutual goals.

## **City Council's Leadership Approach for 2017-2019**

- The Council serves the whole City.
- The City is a good steward, good partner, good communicator, and collaborative leader.
- The Mayor and Councilors are leaders in articulating a vision for our City and demonstrating how we can achieve that vision.
- The City builds credibility through tangible actions, large and small, that benefit the people of Coos Bay.
- The City effectively informs and engages the community.



# City of Coos Bay

## 2017-2019 Council Priorities

### 1. The Coos Bay City Council has identified ongoing maintenance and improvement of the City's Wastewater System as a priority.

The City is in year five of an adopted twenty-year Wastewater System Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). It's the Council's desire to focus on the upcoming five years of the Capital Improvement Plan with emphasis on the following:

- The creation and adoption of five-year Financial Plan to address planned capital improvements and ongoing operational and maintenance needs.
- A Communications Plan aimed at educating the public on the health of the infrastructure to include deficiencies, the adopted CIP intended at addressing major system deficiencies along with the cost to operate and maintain this vital community utility.
- Evaluate current and potential policies aimed at improving and maintaining privately-owned business and residential sewer laterals which connect to the wastewater utility. Policies to be evaluated could include but are not limited to: (1) the requirement of sewer lateral inspections and the completion of necessary repairs prior to the sale of the property; (2) City considering financially partnering with private property owners who's laterals beneath the City's streets need to be replaced; and (3) an ordinance requiring commercial business to limit fats, oils, and grease from entering in the City's collection system.

### 2. The Coos Bay City Council has identified maintenance and repair of the City's Transportation and Parking Infrastructure as a priority.

The health of the City's roads and parking lots are in fair to poor condition due to deferred maintenance from a lack of sufficient resources. In 2013, the Council established a Streets Task Force which provided recommendations on the management and financing of transportation infrastructure. Two of the recommendations and been completed and a third pursued: (1) updating the City's Street Conditions Assessment report (updated in 2014 and adopted in 2015); (2) increasing the Pacific Power and Light franchise fee 2% to cover streetlight and traffic signal expenses paid out the limited City's share of state's gas tax which limited resources for street maintenance (franchise was renegotiated and adopted in 2015); implementing a local fuel tax (a gas tax ballot measure failed in 2016).

It's the Council's desire to focus on improving the health of the City's transportation and parking infrastructure through the following:

- The adoption of an ordinance aimed at preserving the health of the infrastructure through the establishment of requirements for utility companies who disturbed the road surface and/or road beds to maintain or install utilities.
- Consideration of increasing needed revenue through a local gas tax, Urban Renewal special levy, a street utility fee, parking district assessment and/or General Obligation bonds.



# City of Coos Bay

## 2017-2019 Council Priorities

### 3. The Coos Bay City Council has identified the building of a new Library facility outside of the tsunami inundation zone as a priority.

The foundation pilings supporting the Library have failed and resulted in foundation settlement. The cost to mitigate and stabilize the foundation far exceeds the value of the 60-year-old facility which is located within the tsunami inundation zone. While the foundation continues to sink, it is still considered safe to occupy; but there will come a time when it will no longer be useable. In 2014, the Council established a Library Facility Steering Committee who have undertaken a strategic planning process (Council adopted the Strategic Plan in 2015) and completed a library needs assessment in late 2016. It is currently being evaluated.

It's the Council's desire to focus on the following:

- Locate a site for the new library facility outside the tsunami inundation zone; and if possible, within the downtown URA district.
- Consider co-locating community resources to meet unmet community needs and generate funding options.
- Create a capital building project budget and a fundraising plan to fund the project.

### 4. The Coos Bay City Council has identified economic development as a priority.

There is little doubt that tourism is an important sector of the economy in our city and the greater community. **The City's role in support of tourism promotions** has been through its longstanding partnership in the Coos Bay North Bend Visitor Convention Bureau (VCB). The City of Coos Bay has a long history of supporting tourism attractions such as the Coos Art Museum, Marshfield Sun Museum, Egyptian Theatre, Dolphin Theatre, Coos Bay Boat Building Center, Coos History Museum, annual Tall Ship visits, Fun Festival, Blackberry Arts Festival, and Empire Clamboree, just to name a few organizations and events.

**Through the City's two Urban Renewal Districts**, a vast number of economic development projects have been undertaken over the years in an effort to eliminate blight which adversely affect how our city looks and the economic health of our community. While much has been done, the existing Downtown Urban Renewal District and the Empire Renewal District plans are in need of updating.

It's the Council's desire to focus on the following:

- Stabilize the VCB through an updated agreement.
- Consider increasing the transient occupancy tax with the goal of providing additional funds to the VCB.



# City of Coos Bay

## 2017-2019 Council Priorities

- Update the Downtown URA Plan.
- Update the Empire URA Plan.
- Complete the Jordan Cove Community Enhancement Plan and encourage adoption of the Plan by our Enterprise Zone partners.
- Pursue development of the Hollering Place property.
- Update the Front Street Plan.
- Update and reinstate System Development Charges to defray the costs of creating additional capacity in transportation, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure for future development within the City.
- Create and adopt a 20-year infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan to identify and plan for future infrastructure needs.

5. The Coos Bay City Council has identified updating the City Charter as a priority.

The Coos Bay City Charter is the most important legal document of the City. The Coos Bay City Charter defines the powers, functions, and essential procedures of city government. The City Charter has been amended from time to time to meet the needs of the City and the desires of the voters. One of the prior amendments (public safety staffing levels) was determined after the amendment to be unconstitutional and invalid. The wording of another amendment (bonding) contradicts another section and is overly broad and limits the City from taking timely advantage a financing option. Part of the original City Charter language (meeting requirements of the Council) could be amended to provide greater flexibility for the Council to meet as needed.

**It's the Council's desire to** evaluate possible changes to the City Charter to include, but not limited to the following:

- Section 4.1 Meetings of the Council
- Section 9.11 Funds for Police Officers and Firefighters
- Section 9.12 Sales of Bonds and Warrants