

# MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

July 21, 1998

The minutes of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

## **Those Present**

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger, Councilors Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. Councilor Joe Benetti was absent. City staff present Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Community Services Director Bill Finney, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Chief Chuck Knight.

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

### **Flag Salute**

Mayor Verger opened the meeting and led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

### **Consent Calendar**

Mayor Verger read the consent calendar which consisted of approval of the minutes of the July 7, 1998 meeting. Councilor Weeks moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Department Head Report — Community Services**

#### **Director Bill Finney**

Mr. Finney distributed copies of the project status report, the report on the new city limit entrance signs, and commented on the recruitment for filling the planning administrator vacancy. Mr. Finney reported the city has two signs of the old design and just received two signs with the new design and he requested direction from the Council on placement of the signs. Currently small signs are located on Virginia at Crocker and on Newmark near the college. Mayor Verger suggested one of the new signs be placed on Newmark and the other at the north city limits. Mr. Finney reported the sign at the south entrance is the Chamber of Commerce sign and the Department of Transportation considers it to be a government sign. Councilor Spangler suggested the south entrance should be a city sign and consensus of the Council is to remove the Chamber sign and replace it with the city sign. Councilor Weeks asked about the small sign near the college and Mayor Verger suggested the sign be mounted on a board to enlarge it. Councilor McKeown commented one of the large 'old' design signs could be used at the college. Mayor Verger suggested the new signs be used at the north and south entrances, and Councilor Miller suggested a large sign be placed at the entrance to Empire coming from Charleston. Mr. Finney briefly reviewed the project status summary report and asked for suggestions on changing the format.

### **Appreciation Award to Connie Williamson and Coquille River Broadcasters**

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Mayor Verger reported the award was in appreciation of the support offered to the city in allowing Councilor Miller to do volunteer work for the City News. Ms. Williamson was not available due to illness and Councilor Miller accepted the award on her behalf. Councilor Miller commented Ms. Williamson encourages community involvement by her employees and frequently allows them time during their work day to perform community service.

### **Census 2000 Proclamation**

Mayor Verger reported the proclamation is to encourage citizens to complete the census questionnaire, and she read the proclamation to the assembly. Mayor Verger moved to accept the proclamation. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Discussion of the Use of the Old Post Office Building as the Coos Art Museum**

City Attorney Randall Tosh explained the art museum facility and collection are owned by the city and managed by the Coos Art Museum. The Coos Art Museum has applied for several grants and the grant agencies are looking for a long term commitment from the city to continue using the facility and collection as an art museum. Mr. Tosh reported either a deed restriction or a ten year agreement with the Coos Art Museum management would satisfy this requirement and he recommended using both. Councilor McKeown asked if there would be a disadvantage in using a resolution for this and Mr. Tosh said the others are more permanent and a resolution would not bind future councils. Mayor Verger commented it is very important to give the museum a feeling of stability and agreed with the city attorney's recommendation. Mr. Tosh explained the city would deed the property back to the Urban Renewal Agency and agency would approve the restrictive covenant and deed it back to the city. Councilor Spangler inquired if the facility was no longer used as a museum, how complicated would it be to dispose of the collection. Mr. Tosh said it could be complicated as some gifts come with restrictions, and noted it would come to the Council if the facility needed to be disposed of.

Councilor Stufflebean moved to have the city attorney prepare the deed and request the Urban Renewal Agency deed the art museum property back to the city with a restricted covenant. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye. Mr. Tosh reported the museum management agreement expires in 11 months and the museum is requesting negotiations begin for a new agreement; he noted there are some areas in the current agreement that need clarification. Councilor Stufflebean moved to begin negotiations on a new agreement with the Coos Art Museum. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Public Comments**

Helen Scully, Art Museum Director, thanked the Council for their support and reported the museum is anxious to move forward with the improvement project. Ms. Scully reported the museum will be designing a curriculum for use in the schools and community. Councilor Spangler asked if the school district would be taking over the art education program and Ms. Scully said they would not due to lack of available funding, but would continue helping to fund the program.

Mayor Verger commented the museum showings have been very well organized and the art education program has been very successful. She noted that people from all over the country have visited the museum

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and the Coos Art Museum has been able to accomplish a lot with a small amount of money.

### **Mayor and Council Comments**

**Councilor Spangler** commented the Maritime exhibit at the Coos Art Museum is very impressive and encouraged everyone to visit the museum.

**Councilor Stufflebean** thanked the Bay Area Sportsman Association for supporting the Safety Town program and police department personnel for making the arrangements. Councilor Stufflebean commented the public access TV board is looking for what the Council would like to see in programming, if they would like a government channel, and funding ideas. Mayor Verger reported it has been suggested the Joint TV committee look at the situation and also meet with the new cable manager. Councilor Stufflebean noted the viewership has been tremendous and if the City goes with just a government channel, they will be limited to showing only government programming. Mayor Verger asked Councilors Miller and Weeks to set up a meeting of the Joint TV Committee.

**Councilor Weeks** reported the Eastside boat ramp dedication was well attended and commended Gary Combs on his hard work and dedication to the project. She also recognized community services staff and Steve Doty for their work and partnership with the State Marine Board.

**Councilor McKeown** encouraged everyone to attend the Oregon Coast Music concerts and congratulated the Coos Art Museum on applying for grants. Councilor McKeown commented the HUD grant had come through for the Boys and Girls Club and thanked everyone who helped with the grant process. He noted the facility will be an asset to the community and will be available to be used for a number of different events.

**Mayor Verger** commented the Eastside boat ramp began as a dream and through the generosity of the Port of Coos Bay donating the land and the dedication of many people, a wonderful facility has been built for the community to enjoy. She explained the second phase will provide surfacing of the parking lot and restrooms. Mayor Verger noted the real significance is that where there is a will there is a way, and six agencies working together made this project happen. Mayor Verger congratulated everyone who worked on the HUD grant for the Boys and Girls Club, congratulated Stephanie Kilmer for keeping the public access channel going, and the many businesses in the community for supporting public access.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to August 4, 1998 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

ATTEST:

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Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder  
Coos County, Oregon

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Joanne Verger  
Mayor of the City of Coos Bay  
Coos County, Oregon