

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

January 16, 2001

The minutes of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning at 6 p.m. with interviews in the Manager's Conference Room and continuing in regular session 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, and Judy Weeks. Councilor Kevin Stufflebean was absent due to illness. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs.

Council Interviews

Interviews were conducted by the City Council/Urban Renewal Agency of applicants for consideration of appointment to the Budget Committee, Parks Commission and Design Review Board. Those interviewed were Jim berg, Paul Anderson, Frosty West, Edward Jenkins, and Roy McCormack.

Council Meeting

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 adoption of Resolution 00-02 appointing a pro tem municipal judge, approval of an amendment to the Coos County Historical Society Museum agreement, initiation of Date Street vacation, initiation of Comprehensive Plan amendment, and a proclamation for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Councilor Larson requested the amendment of the Coos County Historical Society Museum agreement be removed from the consent calendar.

Councilor Weeks moved to approve the consent calendar as amended. Councilor Miller seconded the motion with passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Report from Charter Communications by Linda Kimberly

Linda Kimberly reported cable television service is changing from analog programming to digital and is expected to be completed in February. In order to receive programming, customers who currently have a converter box will need to exchange it for a digital receiver. Ms. Kimberly commented there would not be program changes made to basic or expanded services, there would however, be a price increase for the expanded service. There will be 100 miles of upgrade done in the Coos Bay-North Bend area which will enable cable modem service and expanded band width for more channels. Ms. Kimberly noted Coos Bay is

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the hub for the new district established by Charter which extends to Roseburg and Brookings. Councilor Spangler inquired if letters had gone out to customers and Ms. Kimberly reported direct mail notices were sent and Charter has advertised extensively regarding the upgrade. Councilor Miller asked if a customer does not have basic or HBO would they be required to turn in the box. Ms. Kimberly commented basic service would not be impacted and the box would not have to be turned in.

Approval of an Amendment to the Coos County Historical Society Agreement

Councilor Larson inquired about the dollar amount for the lease and City Attorney Tosh responded it is a nominal annual rent and the lease is for 100 years. Mr. Tosh explained the City would get any and all improvements made to the property if the lease is terminated. Councilor Larson suggested the museum location be changed and the portion of Central between Bayshore and Broadway be opened up for traffic. City Manager Bill Grile commented the Anderson Alternative would make a portion of Anderson two-way traffic and would benefit downtown businesses. Mr. Tosh reported the amendment would increase the square footage for the facility and revises the property description in the agreement. There was discussion regarding the location of the building and Mr. Tosh commented the amendment commits the City to the placing the building in a certain location. Councilor Spangler moved to postpone approval of the amendment until the February 6th Council meeting. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Department Head's Report by Community Services Department Director Shanda Shribbs

Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs reported ODOT has completed the field work on the Shorepines traffic study and will take it before the speed board. The Brownsfield grant is moving along and Level 1 assessments have been received and sent to landowners; no analysis has been completed yet. Ms. Shribbs reported the purchase of the Sportsman building has been completed and staff is putting together costs for demolishing the building and developing the area. Ms. Shribbs reported some brush clearing and gravel will be done to the Ogle property next week. Mingus Lake grass removal will be done using sonar herbicide; the area will be posted and public service announcements given before the project begins. Mrs. Shribbs reported the Newmark Avenue study is expected by the end of March and will be presented to the Council along with funding options. The final set of plans for the 5th Street Plaza is expected to come before the Urban Renewal Agency on February 6th for approval. Ms. Shribbs reported oil is still entering the storm water system and staff is gathering information for a long-term solution to the problem. City Manager Grile commented that rather than rush into anything, staff thought it best to monitor the situation for a time. Mayor Benetti commented replacing the lines is not the issue; the Coast Guard reported the oil could be coming from a buried tank. Ms. Shribbs commented staff will be looking to other agencies who have knowledge and \$15,000 has been estimated to cover the costs for the next three months.

Authorization to Proceed with Purchase of Police Vehicles

City Manager Bill Grile reported \$67,500 has been budgeted for replacement of police patrol vehicles. The department has a vehicle work group that reviews the needs of the department and makes a recommendation on the replacement of vehicles. Councilor Spangler moved to approve the purchase of three 2001 Ford Crown Victoria police package vehicles through the State of Oregon Purchasing Program at a total

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cost of \$64,629. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Consideration of Proposal for Downtown Restrooms

City Manager Bill Grile reported a number of restroom alternatives have been discussion over the past several years. A plan for modifying the existing Chamber of Commerce building and creating a unisex restroom facility has been proposed by Architect Steve Clay. The City currently has a lease with the Chamber and the restroom proposal has been presented to them; while they have no problem with the concept, there is concern regarding the operational impacts.

Councilor Larson supported moving forward with the facility and noted there is a need for downtown restrooms. Councilor Spangler supported the idea of a rest stop, not just restrooms. Mayor Benetti commented the rest stop idea has been discussed and part of the problem would be with the facility being open 24-hours a day. He explained the vandalism and maintenance costs of previous downtown restrooms, and that is also a concern of the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Benetti supported a rest stop at the Chamber building or at the Ogle property. Councilor Weeks suggested signage at the Chamber indicating there are public restrooms available at city hall and stated she would not support funding the changes at the Chamber building because of the plans for constructing the historical museum at that location. Councilor McKeown asked if the museum facility would fit the rest stop idea. Councilor Spangler agreed with Council Weeks on funding and maintenance and suggested exploring other alternatives. Councilor Larson commented plans have been discussed for years and she supports making the changes at the Chamber building.

Ralph Larson, 774 South 7th, Coos Bay, reported several years ago he had collected 500 signatures in support of establishing a rest stop. Mr. Larson requested the Council proceed with a rest stop and open up the last block of Central Avenue to traffic. Councilor Spangler commented even with the restrooms open after hours, perhaps there would not be enough people stopping to be a benefit as most of the downtown businesses are closed after hours. Mayor Benetti reported the Chamber is open six days a week and in the summer seven days a week. Consensus of the Council was to provide better signage for the Chamber restrooms; no other action was taken.

Authorization to Change a Part-time Clerical Position to a Full-time Position

City Manager Bill Grile reported funding a full time clerical position had been discussed during the budget meetings as support for the Finance Department and the City Manager's Office. A part-time position was funded at 20 hours per week, split half and half between the two departments. Mr. Grile explained that there is work that should be done and a full-time position is really needed. Staff is recommending approval of \$5,000 to fund a full-time position. Councilor Spangler moved to convert the clerical assistant to a full-time position effective February 1, 2001. Councilor McKeown seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Appointments to the Budget Committee and Parks Commission

The Council voted by ballot for appointments to the Budget Committee and Parks Commission with the following results: appointed to the Budget Committee were Chris Christoffer receiving five votes, Renee Nelson receiving four votes and Reni Woods receiving four votes. Appointed to the Parks Commission were Beve Saukko and Keith Topits both receiving five votes.

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Public comments

Mark Dailey, representing the Parking Committee, reported 118 people responded to their survey. In summary, people do not want more parking enforcement and they want larger parking signs. The Committee recommends directional signs to the parking lots from Bayshore and Broadway. Councilor Larson commented the new signs are difficult to read. City Manager Bill Grile commented parking issues have been around for a long time and if one area is fixed, then it causes a problem in another. There was further discussion on the size of the signs and the costs related to changing out the signs. Mr. Grile commented when the Sportsman building is removed, it will open up the area and people will see the additional parking. Councilor Weeks reported ODOT has restrictions on the size and number of signs the City is allowed, and noted there doesn't seem to be a need to have a Parking Committee since the current system is working well and there haven't been complaints. Mr. Dailey commented the Committee would like to see the parking around Tower Ford utilized. Mr. Grile noted the rail museum would be in this area. Mayor Benetti thanked Mr. Dailey for the report and recommendations from the Parking Committee.

Karen Kenyon, 555 Hall Street, expressed concern at the enforcement of parking time limits on 7th Street and noted she has lived in the neighborhood for ten years and parking has not been a problem. The increased enforcement is a problem and the neighborhood residents support removing the time limit signs. Councilor Larson agreed with the removal of the signs and commented that due to the construction at the high school, parking has gotten really bad in this area. Mayor Benetti made a motion to remove the parking limit signs on a trial basis. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

George Kenyon, 555 Hall Street, expressed concern about the lack of a stop sign on 6th Street and the lack of enforcement of the speed limit in this area. He noted the problem with parking is that the residents don't have a place to park.

Steve Skinner, 2310 Lombard, North Bend, expressed his interest in community enhancement and tourism, and supported development of the old Bay Club property as a tourist pullout/rest stop. Mr. Skinner reported he had written a letter and gathered signatures supporting the development in 1998. He commented on the historical significance of the property and volunteered his services to help clean up the property.

Mike Graybill, 3571 Fossil Point Lane, Coos Bay, congratulated the Council on the purchase of the old Bay Club property. He noted the view of the bay from this location is stunning and there is a lot that could be done at this site as informational/educational about the area. Mr. Graybill offered his assistance in developing the property both in his capacity at the South Slough Reserve and as a citizen.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported Danielle Shimotakahara will be on Nick News on Sunday at 5:30 p.m., and during Council interviews Ann Keizer had suggested advisory committees come before the City Council and that they also receive Planning Commission agendas. The Meth Task Force meeting sponsored by Rotary will be on January 25th at 7 p.m. and Mr. Grile commended Police Chief Chuck Knight, Greg Stevens at The World, and David Darling with St. Catherines for putting the program together.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Larson thanked Community Services for placing additional garbage receptacles in the downtown area.

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Councilor McKeown complimented Ms. Shribbs on the thoroughness of her department report, and advised that the next South Coast Development Council meeting would be held next Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. The new executive director, Melinda Anderson, will be introduced at the meeting.

Councilor Miller reported the Downtown Association will have the bridal fair on February 10th, the Downtown Association board is active and Jay Noggle is the president, and announced the next Fun Festival meeting will be on January 24th at 5:30 p.m. at the Port office.

Councilor Spangler reported the next Fiber Optics meeting will be held in Roseburg and the State representatives have indicated they will support urban renewal and funding for schools at the legislative level.

Councilor Weeks reported the Parks Commission discussed the use of herbicides to remove the grass from Mingus Lake and replacement of playground equipment. The Commission would like to revisit the Parks Master Plan.

Mayor Benetti reminded everyone of the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet on January 20th, of a Council work session on January 30th to discuss goals, and thanked citizens for applying for committee openings. Mayor Benetti reported DARE graduations will be held on January 30th and 31st and February 1st.

Councilor Weeks moved to suspend the rules and extend the meeting past the 10 o'clock hour. Mayor Benetti seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and Councilors Larson, Miller, Spangler, and Weeks voting aye, and Councilor McKeown voting no.

Executive Session

An executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (d) for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding labor negotiations. The Council reconvened into regular session.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to January 30, 2001 at 7 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder