

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 4, 2008

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 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Mayor Jeff McKeown and Councilors Michele Burnette, Mark Daily, Jon Eck, Stephanie Kramer, Gene Melton, and John Muenchrath.

City staff present were City Manager Chuck Freeman, City Attorney Nate McClintock, City Clerk Vicki English, Finance Director Janell Howard, Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley, Assistant City Manager Joyce Jansen, Library Director Carol Ventgen, Police Chief Eura Washburn and Battalion Chief Howard Owens.

Interviews of Committee Applicants

The City Council interviewed Chris McClung, Randy Hoffine, Scott Frasier and Steve Schneiderman for the opening on the Budget Committee. Jon Mishra withdrew his application.

Flag Salute

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

Consent Calendar

Mayor McKeown reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of approval of the minutes of February 19, 2008.

Councilor Eck moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Burnette seconded the motion which carried with Mayor McKeown and Councilors Burnette, Daily, Eck, Kramer, Melton and Muenchrath voting aye.

Public Hearing on an Amendment to the Land Development Ordinance Creation of a Parking District in the Empire Area

Mayor McKeown reported that it was suggested by staff that we continue this public hearing until the March 18, 2008 Council Meeting due to the complexities of the issues. Councilor Kramer asked if it could be continued on the April 1, 2008 Council Meeting. She stated she would like to be in attendance for this public hearing and she will be absent from the March 18th Council Meeting. Councilor Kramer moved to continue the public hearing until the April 1, 2008 Council Meeting. Councilor Muenchrath seconded the motion which carried with Mayor McKeown and Councilors Burnette, Daily, Eck, Kramer, Melton and Muenchrath voting aye.

Presentation of Life Saving Awards by the Police Department

Chief of Police Eura Washburn presented the Life Saving Awards. After Chief Washburn gave a summary of the Officers life saving efforts she awarded Officers Steve Myers, Mark Ereth, Officer Sean Merritt, Reserve Officer Josh Scarberry, and K-9 Vico Life Saving Awards. Officer Sean Merritt received two Life Saving Awards. The City Council joined the Coos Bay Police Department in recognizing and honoring these officers.

Appointment to the Budget Committee

The City Council interviewed applicants for appointment to the Budget Committee. There is one opening on the Committee to fulfill Gene Melton's term ending December 31, 2010. Applications were received from Chris McClung, Randy Hoffine, Scott Frasier, Jon Mishra, and Steve Schneiderman. Jon Mishra withdrew his application. The Council appointed Scott Frasier to the Budget Committee by Council ballot.

Award of Contract for the Risk Management Advisor

Finance Director Janell Howard reported that we have been in the process of getting a risk management advisor and that the City Council authorized the City Manager to proceed with a Request for Proposals (RFP). Ms. Howard stated that two proposals were received and staff's recommendation was that the Risk Management Advisor (RMA) be awarded to Abel Insurance Agency. Ms. Howard commented that Abel Insurance ranked higher overall because of their level of experience, specifically with the public sector. Ms. Howard reported that CIS said there would be no direct cost savings. Although, by having a RMA, they believe we would benefit from their expertise by implementing practices to minimize risk and hopefully provide cost savings in future premiums. Ms. Howard stated that she foresees a primary benefit of a RMA in reducing staff time necessary to process claims and administer risk management. Councilor Eck moved to award the contract for RMA to Abel Insurance. Councilor Kramer seconded the motion which carried with Mayor McKeown and Councilors Burnette, Daily, Eck, Kramer, Melton and Muenchrath voting aye.

Discussion of Council Committee Appointments

Mayor McKeown reported that Councilor Melton was appointed to fill the vacancies left by Roger Gould. Mayor McKeown also stated that Councilor Daily and Councilor Kramer have requested changing their positions on the Oregon Coast Zone Management Association and the Coos Bay – North Bend Visitors and Convention Bureau. It was the consensus of the Council to appoint Councilor Kramer to the Oregon Coast Zone Management Association and Councilor Daily to the Coos Bay-North Bend Visitors and Convention Bureau and Councilor Melton to the committees previously filled by Roger Gould.

Public Comments

Brian Hudgins of Coos Bay discussed his disappointment in the Council for not including the LNG project on the list of items that could have a community-wide impact. Mr. Hudgins stated his position on the effects that the LNG project would bring to the community. He said he felt it was the responsibility of the Council to stand up and say no to the LNG project. Jody McCaffree

of North Bend requested that the Council support the Governor by writing a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), requesting a Problematic Environmental Impact Statement. Ms. McCaffree stated that the outcome of the study will indicate whether there is a need for the LNG project and address other concerns.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney, Nate McClintock had nothing to report at this time.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Chuck Freeman reported that a joint Council meeting with the City of North Bend is tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2008 at 4:00 pm in the Manager's Conference Room.

Council Comments

Councilor Daily thanked Chief Washburn for all her years of service to the City and her dedication. Councilor Melton commented on how impressed he was with the awards luncheon that the Coquille Tribe had at the Mill Casino, the program, and the amount of money that they give back to Coos County. He said that he would like to see more publicity and information on how The Mill Casino is helping the Community. Councilor Melton also mentioned that he saw the playground equipment at the Ed Lund Park and commented on what a difference it made to the park. He also congratulated Chief Washburn on her retirement. Councilor Kramer mentioned how impressed she was with the Coquille Tribe luncheon and congratulated Chief Washburn on her retirement. Councilor Muenchrath thanked both public speakers for speaking on such an important issue as LNG. He supported their concerns and requested that the LNG project be a future agenda item. Councilor Eck thanked the police officers for the excellent job that they do for the City of Coos Bay and further extended his thanks to all the employees of the City of Coos Bay. He also wished Chief Washburn the best in her retirement.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor McKeown adjourned the meeting to March 18, 2008 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Jeff McKeown, Mayor

Attest:

Janell K. Howard, City Recorder