

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

October 2, 2012

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 Crystal Shoji and Councilors Jennifer Groth, Jon Hanson, Stephanie Kramer, Gene Melton, John Muenchrath, and Mike Vaughan. City staff present were City Manager Rodger Craddock, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Finance Director Susanne Baker, Deputy Finance Director Amy Kinnaman, Economic Revitalization Administrator Joyce Jansen, Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley, Library Director Sami Pierson, Fire Chief Stan Gibson and Police Chief Gary McCullough.

Flag Salute

Mayor Shoji opened the meeting and asked Carolyn Slyter to lead the Council and assembly in the salute to the flag.

Public Comments

Steve Schneiderman, Coos Bay: recently attended the memorial service for former Fire Chief Andy Anderson; commended and thanked the Fire Department for hosting the event. Katie Prince, Coos Bay: stated she lived within the city limits of Coos Bay and owned one chicken; expressed concern about the \$50 annual license fee.

Consent Calendar

Mayor Shoji reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of 3a: approval of the minutes of September 18, 2012. Councilor Kramer moved to approve the consent calendar approving the minutes of September 18, 2012. Councilor Muenchrath seconded the motion which carried with Mayor Shoji and Councilors Groth, Hanson, Kramer, Melton, Muenchrath, and Vaughan voting aye.

Presentation of the Oregon Days of Culture Proclamation by Robert Sasanoff

Robert Sasanoff of the Coos County Cultural Coalition Planning Committee stated the Oregon Days of Culture proclamation celebrates the vibrancy of Oregon heritage, humanities, and arts. Mr. Sasanoff and Mayor Shoji read the proclamation aloud, declaring the week of October 1 – 8, 2012 as Oregon Days of Culture Week. Councilor Melton moved to approve the Oregon Days of Culture proclamation. Councilor Hanson seconded the motion which carried with Mayor Shoji and Councilors Groth, Hanson, Kramer, Melton, Muenchrath, and Vaughan voting aye.

Update on the Programs and Activities at the Coos Bay Public Library by Director Sami Pierson

Library Director Sami Pierson provided an annual report on the Coos Bay Library. Total library inventory included: 122,654 items in print, 9,683 audio, 7,404 videos, and 50,560 downloadable

City Council Minutes – October 2, 2012

items. During 2011/2012 the library had 183,661 visitors, 209,591 items circulated, 24,184 computer users, and 19,952 reference questions. Ms. Pierson extended a special thanks to the Library Board Members, Library staff, and volunteers. Future goals for the Library included programming, quality materials, social media connections, and combining the traditional library with new approaches to service.

Update on the Wind Energy Conversion Ordinance

Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley provided a brief history on the City's existing ordinance and moratorium on Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS). A draft ordinance was prepared based on the City of Astoria's WECS ordinance with additional considerations based on public input and a technical accuracy review by local engineer Shannon Souza. On Tuesday, September 11, 2012 the Planning Commission held a work session to discuss the draft WECS ordinance; the consensus was that wind turbines should not be sited in an urban area such as the City of Coos Bay. Mr. Hossley advised the Planning Commission would be meeting to consider the WECS ordinance and to make a formal recommendation to the City Council. Council consideration of the draft WECS ordinance was scheduled for the November 6, 2012 City Council meeting. Mayor Shoji inquired why the previous Council placed a moratorium on systems under 30 feet. Mr. Hossley advised the moratorium was placed to allow time for staff to research WECS to gain a better understanding of how the different systems worked and their potential impact. City Manager Rodger Craddock stated the City has not received any applications or requests for WECS.

Jody McCaffree, North Bend: stated she was in favor of WECS and suggested the proposed ordinance was too restrictive and recommended the Council and City should take more public input on the matter. Jonathan Hanson, Coos Bay: suggested there were many different types of wind turbines some of which could be incorporated into a building's architecture; requested a copy of the proposed ordinance. Mayor Shoji suggested placing a copy of the proposed ordinance on the City's website.

Consideration of an Ordinance to Ban Plastic Bags

City Manager Rodger Craddock advised at the September 18, 2012 Council meeting, Councilor Vaughan suggested the City should consider a ban on plastic grocery bags due to their impact on the City's wastewater infrastructure. Staff researched the matter and found there was an effort to ban plastic bags Statewide during the 2011 legislative session, but the effort failed; in October 2011 the City of Portland enacted an ordinance prohibiting plastic shopping bags at check stands of major grocers and certain big-box stores; in July 2012 the City of Corvallis established an ordinance to prohibit the distribution of plastic bags at retail checkout stands; and the cities of Eugene, Newport and Ashland were also considering similar ordinances. Mr. Craddock stated he spoke with OMI staff concerning the impact of plastic bags on the City's wastewater infrastructure as a whole and OMI staff advised that plastic bags were not noticeable or of immediate concern. However, Pump Station #8 did experience occasional downtime due to plastic bags floating to the surface.

Mr. Craddock suggested consideration of an ordinance prohibiting the use of point of purchase plastic bags was not necessary if the purpose was to mitigate adverse effects on the City's wastewater system. If the purpose of the ordinance was a pollution control measure and

City Council Minutes – October 2, 2012

Council wished to proceed, staff recommended holding a council work session to aid in drafting the principal ordinance concepts. In the event the Council requested to move forward with drafting the ordinance, Mr. Craddock requested the Council's direction as to their priority on the following ordinance revisions: Wind Energy Conversion, Empire Design Standards, Vender Carts, Fats Oil & Grease (FOG), Flood Plain, Special Events, Business License, Towing, and Taxi.

Mr. Craddock noted staff received two letters in opposition and one in favor of the ban on plastic bags. David Petrie, Coos Bay: stated he was the founder of Coos Waterkeeper Alliance and was in favor of the plastic bag ban. Steve Schneiderman, Coos Bay: suggested there was a perception that Coos Bay was not business friendly and there was no point for Coos Bay to ban plastic bags if North Bend was going to continue to allow use of plastic bags. Steve Ramberg, Coos Bay: stated he was opposed to the plastic bag ban. Carolyn Slyter, Coos Bay: stated she was opposed to the plastic bag ban noting they were clean and convenient. Jody McCaffree, North Bend: suggested people were not recycling plastic bags and stated there was value in reusable bags. David Petrie, Coos Bay: invited the Council and public to attend a screening of a movie called "Bag It" which detailed the impact of plastics on the environment. Pat Backman, North Bend: stated she was the owner of Coos Bay Grocery Outlet; suggested educating the public about recycling opportunities; and noted cleanliness concerns with use of reusable bags.

Councilor Groth suggested there were a wide variety of uses for plastic bags and was not in support of pursuing the ban. Councilor Vaughan stated plastic bags were a problem for the garbage and wastewater systems and wished to pursue the ban. Councilor Melton stated he spoke with many different citizens over the past few days and was not in favor of a plastic bag ban. Councilor Kramer stated the plastic bag ban was not a Council goal and was not in favor of pursuing the ban. Councilor Muenchrath suggested a ban on plastic bags would not be well received but thought there was a good opportunity to further educate the public on the matter. Councilor Hanson suggested there was value in further researching the matter and providing more community education. Mayor Shoji stated she was not in favor of a ban and also suggested there was a need for more education on the matter. Councilor Vaughan motioned to postpone the matter pending further information from Les' Sanitary Service. Councilor Muenchrath suggested adding the plastic bag ban ordinance to the list of Council goals. Councilor Hanson seconded the motion which failed with Councilors Hanson, Muenchrath, and Vaughan voting aye and Mayor Shoji and Councilors Groth, Kramer, and Melton voting nay.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Nate McClintock attended the League of Oregon Cities conference and found value in the City Attorney meeting sessions. Mr. McClintock provided the Council with an update on the Lockhart building noting an action for foreclosure was filed and he was working to resolve a Coos County tax lien on the property.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Rodger Craddock reminded the Council tour of the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board scheduled for Wednesday, October 3rd at 4:00 p.m.; the Council Rulemaking Subcommittee was scheduled to meet on October 4th at 2:00 p.m.; an open House scheduled at the downtown Fire Station on October 10, 2012 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in celebration of National

City Council Minutes – October 2, 2012

Fire Prevention week (October 7 – 13, 2012); and stated he would be out of the office next week to attend the International City Manager's Association (ICMA) conference.

Council Comments

Mayor Shoji stated a rededication and ribbon cutting ceremony for City Hall was scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. and there would include guided tours of the building, and refreshments; noted she recently attended the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) conference and stated the City was awarded a bronze safety award. City Manager Rodger Craddock advised the City received the award for limited on the job injuries. Councilor Kramer invited the Council and public to attend the Alternative Youth Activities open house on Thursday, October 4th at 6:30 p.m. Councilor Hanson expressed his thanks for the Library staff. Councilor Groth stated a couple of weeks ago she attend the LOC's City Hall week in Florence which provided her an opportunity to learn about upcoming legislation which could potentially impact Oregon communities; she also attended the LOC conference in Portland and attended some session on Urban Renewal. Councilor Vaughan also attended the LOC conference and suggested the City needed to work on the valuation of the City's assets.

Executive Session

An executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (i) for the Purpose of Evaluating the Job Performance of the City Manager. No decisions were made.

Consideration of a Proposed City Manager Employment Contract Amendment

The Council reconvened into regular session. City Manager Rodger Craddock stated his current employment agreement with the City required the Council to consider an increase of the City Manager's compensation at the time of his annual review. Mr. Craddock requested the Council not increase his current salary compensation based upon the current economy, pending PERS increases, and salaries of other city managers in cities of comparable size. However, Mr. Craddock did request the Council consider a \$100 per month increase to his vehicle allowance (currently \$400 per month) and adding an additional month of severance (currently eight months). Councilor Groth moved to approve the amendment to the City Manager Employment Agreement. Councilor Kramer seconded the motion which carried with Mayor Shoji and Councilors Groth, Hanson, Kramer, Melton, Muenchrath, and Vaughan voting aye.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Shoji adjourned the meeting. The next regular Council meeting was scheduled for October 16, 2012 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Attest:


Susanne Baker, City Recorder


Crystal Shoji, Mayor