

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 2, 1996

The minutes of the proceedings of the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning in the Council Chambers at 8:00 a.m.

Those Present

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger, Councilors Joe Benetti, Gary Combs, Cindi Miller, and Don Spangler. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, City Clerk Joyce Jansen, Finance Director Gail George, Assistant Library Director Michele Caldwell, Community Services Director Bruce Meithof, Fire Chief Cliff Vaniman, and Police Chief Marc Adams. Facilitator for the meeting, Steve Bryant.

Goal Setting

Steve Bryant led the discussion of the City's 1995 accomplishments which consisted of the following: waterfront development, Mingus Park/Choshi Gardens, mall rehabilitation, Empire boat ramp, new fire apparatus, skateboard park, school resource officer, increase tourism, library expansion, art education program, established as Tree City USA, city hall renovation, new sidewalks, increased citizen involvement, City News paper, public access TV, Citizen's Police Academy, Empire Lakes Park, community policing, Empire urban renewal, increased attendance at library children's programs, improved fire department response, parks master plan, consolidated public works and community development departments, Eastside boat ramp, hired new city manager, chamber of commerce expansion, WEB page, established police department training, and Coos Stop Crime expanded program.

Department heads presented a status report of the operation of their departments. Mr. Bryant noted from the reports areas of special interest were: a need for street maintenance, upgrading of the sewer system, turn over problem in the police department, library use was good, strategic planning by the fire department was very good, more communication from the city manager's office, and adoption records retention plan from the clerk's office.

Public Input

Chris Guernsey, library board member, commented that the library director and library staff do a great job for the community.

Mike Freeman, Empire district property and business owner, commented that Coos County has high crime rate and a serious drug problem due to poverty and unemployment. He would like to see the City take a leadership role in bringing industry to the area.

Tom Williscroft, library board and budget committee member, commented on the need to coordinate sewer/wastewater improvements.

Earl Ericksen, Eastside district citizen, expressed concern that the City Council also sits as the Urban Renewal Agency board, and felt the public should have the opportunity to vote on the use of urban renewal funds.

Council Minutes - March 2, 1996

Gary Rifkin, downtown business owner, commented the City needed to market the community and the waterfront development, and that funds should be put in the canopy/awning program. He also expressed a need for more citizen involvement.

Mary Schiflebein, representing the Friends of the Library, reported that more signatures had been collected in support of the library expansion project and distributed copies of the document.

Kevin Stufflebean, president of the Empire Association, commented the Empire urban renewal plan would concentrate on improvements in the core area of Empire.

Sargent Webster, North Bend, stated he had a problem with the Bay Area Rescue Mission's location in Empire.

Carl Siminow, Coos Bay, commented the City should continue development of the waterfront and address the parking needs.

After further discussion the following goals were established:

Economic Development

- Complete a Bay Area Strategic Development Plan
- Complete the Library expansion project
- Commence redevelopment of Front Street, by first putting together a conceptual development plan
- Explore creation of new partnerships for economic development and explore funding mechanisms
- Renew the Enterprise Zone
- Improve utilization of the Boardwalk and Saturday Market
- Develop priorities for the Empire Urban Renewal District, Waterfront plan, signs, etc.
- Continue the Downtown Awning Program
- Develop strategy and time frame for building a parking structure in the downtown area
- Consider and prioritize elements of the Bay Area Transportation Plan
- Develop new ball fields
- Assist SWOYA Boys and Girls Club in developing youth programs

Infrastructure

- Develop Capital Improvement Plan for sewer line replacement/funding mechanism
- Develop Capital Improvement Plan for street maintenance projects, ie., overlays, replacement
- Pursue Hwy 101 Beautification projects/gateways/Bunkerhill
- Expand Empire boat ramp and develop Eastside boat ramp
- Support maintenance of city-owned buildings and property, including the Coos Art Museum, Empire Lakes Community Building, the Scout Cabin, fire stations and other buildings
- Support expansion of the Chamber of Commerce building

Council Minutes - March 2, 1996

Public Safety

- Pursue development of a holding facility or satellite jail in the Bay Area
- Pursue measures/ordinance to address/combat drug related crimes
- Maintain 9-1-1/Police, Fire dispatch levels in the Bay Area to the City's satisfaction
- Explore creation of "paraprofessional" staff to assist police officers
- Develop strategic plan for fire station funding
- Continue apparatus replacement program

Public Involvement

- Provide urban renewal education
- Develop interactive and public access TV
- Continue to develop and implement Coos Bay's WEB page
- Continue publication of the City newsletter
- Exercise proactive media involvement
- Maintain Mayor's hours at City Hall for public visits

Budget

- Balance 96/97 Budget while maintaining or increasing cash carry-over (10 percent of total budget)
- Adhere to budget policy regarding outside agency funding
- Provide better orientation/involvement of Budget Committee members

Intergovernmental Cooperation

- Be open to and initiate more cooperative efforts with outside parties
- Initiate training cooperative between departments and Bay Area government agencies
- Support Coastal Mayor's Forum
- Continue to improve relationships/activities with Coos Bay Schools
- Support a safety training cooperative

Comments from Community Leaders

Flora Lee Lockhart, president of the Coos Bay Downtown Association, commented there should be an emphasis on repairs to sidewalks, parking lots, and streets; funding for the awning program, and low interest loans for improving building facades. She said the City should take care of streets and sewers and expand the library later; and focus on improving the downtown area.

Crystal Shoji, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, emphasized intergovernmental cooperation and asked that the chamber building expansion be kept as a goal.

Bev Owen, Coos County Commissioner, addressed public safety and the need for a cooperative agreement between the city and the county regarding transportation to the holding facility in Coquille.

Steve Kridelbaugh, president of SWOCC, expressed desire for intergovernmental cooperation in the development of a ballfield and performing arts center.

Council Minutes - March 2, 1996

Helen Scully, director of the Coos Art Museum, commented on having a good working relationship with the city, school district, college, and SWOYA.

Adjournment

City Manager Grile thanked everyone for participating in setting the City's goals and said staff would be mailing a draft of the goals within the week. There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to March 5, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

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

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen
City Clerk of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon