

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

September 3, 1996

The minutes of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, beginning with a work session in the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. and proceeding to a regular session in the Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m.

Those Present

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger, Councilors Joe Benetti, Gary Combs, Don Spangler, Judy Weeks. Councilor Miller was absent due to illness. Councilor Combs was also absent. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Finance Director Gail George, Planning Administrator Kevin Cupples, Library Director Carol Ventgen, Assistant Library Director Michele Caldwell, and Police Chief Marc Adams. Members of the media were also present.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Verger reviewed the consent calendar, the proclamation for the Friends of the Library, and reported it was time to appoint a representative to OCZMA. Mayor Verger reported contacting Councilor Spangler about the appointment and he has indicated he would be willing to accept the appointment. City Manager Bill Grile reported reviewing the proposed 20th Street local improvement district with the Community Services Director and the Operations Director. Mr. Grile commented the improvements would be of benefit to the Oberstaller's as their front entrance is off 20th Street, and the retaining wall was necessary to stabilize the bank. He further reported the cost of the project could be reduced by putting in a 20' street instead of 24', and noted an engineering report would provide more information. Councilor Weeks asked if the paving reduction would be strip paving and Mr. Grile said it would not because storm drains, curbs, and gutters would be included. Councilor Spangler asked what percentage of property owners were against the project and Finance Director Gail George said 14 percent had filed remonstrances. Mr. Grile reviewed the Library Board's short-term recommendation for re-arranging staff and patron areas at the library. Councilor Spangler asked for clarification on funding for the changes and if urban renewal funds could be used. City Manager Grile said it was difficult to draw the line on renovation and a short-term fix. Finance Director George said the Community Services Director administers the urban renewal plan and it was his opinion the short-term project would not be eligible for urban renewal funds. City Manager Grile explained the amendment to the skateboard ordinance was language previously approved by the Council, and said there has been a noticeable change in attitude in the downtown area due to enforcement of the ordinance. Mayor Verger requested a presentation from Bay Area Enterprises be added to the agenda, and reminded citizens to sign the roster if they intend to speak to the Council.

COUNCIL MEETING

Flag Salute

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

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Consent Calendar

Mayor Verger read the consent calendar which consisted of the following:

- a) Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of August 20, 1996

Councilor Weeks moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Benetti seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Presentation from Bay Area Enterprises

Dwayne Allen, Director of Bay Area Enterprises, presented an award to the City of Coos Bay in appreciation for its partnership with Bay Area Enterprises. The partnership provides job training and employment for people with limited abilities.

Friends of the Library 20th Anniversary Proclamation

Mayor Verger commented the Friends of the Library formed their organization 20 years ago to help the library and community. She then read the proclamation pronouncing September 19th as Friends of the Coos Bay Public Library Recognition Day.

Council Appointment of Representative to OCZMA

Mayor Verger reported it was time to appoint a council representative to the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association. Mayor Verger nominated Councilor Spangler for appointment as the City's representative to OCZMA. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Continuation of Discussion of the 20th Street Local Improvement District

City Manager Grile reported meeting with the Community Services Director and Operations Director on the site of the 20th Street improvement. Mr. Grile said a 20' street would be adequate rather than the expense of a 24' street. He further noted it was evident the retaining wall would be necessary to stabilize the bank. Wanda Oberstaller, 1731 North 20th Street, asked about the requirement for concrete pads for the driveways. City Manager Grile responded Community Services staff would check on the matter and let her know. Mayor Verger inquired when the Council would convene as the board of equalization and City Attorney Tosh said it would be after the project has been completed. Councilor Spangler commented that with 14 percent remonstrance, it appears that a large majority of the people desire to have the improvement district. Councilor Weeks moved to approve the 20th Street Local Improvement District and proceed with the project, recognizing the estimated cost of the project will be lower with a reduction in roadway width (20 feet in lieu of 24 feet). Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

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Approval of Library Board Recommended Short-term Building Renovations

City Manager Grile reported on the overcrowding problem at the library and said the Library Board has recommended short-term building renovations to help relieve some of the problem. Library Director Carol Ventgen commented the public may not be aware of the many changes made in the past 30 years to accommodate the needs of the library. Ms. Ventgen explained the renovation would create more space for workers, volunteers, books, and computers by converting the Gallery Room for the children's department, and a portion of the auditorium lobby and kitchen facility to office space. The board is recommending the record collection be sold and moving the adult magazine and newspaper section to free up space for books. The book sale, children's program, senior citizen's program, and meetings will continue to be held in the auditorium. Mayor Verger asked how many groups use the Gallery Room and Ms. Ventgen said currently there are 18 groups using it on a monthly basis and various other groups use it occasionally. Mayor Verger commented the expenses will not be lost and would be included in the expansion later. Councilor Weeks commended staff and the Library Board on the proposal, and said she has seen first hand the cramped conditions at the library. Councilor Weeks moved to ratify the Library Board's plan. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Adoption of Ordinance No. 233 - Amending Skateboard Ordinance

City Manager Grile explained the ordinance enacts language previously approved by the Council to amend Ordinance No. 228 to allow rollerblades to be used in some areas where they have previously been prohibited. Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen read the Ordinance by title only and the Council was polled with the following results:

Voting Aye: Mayor Verger, Councilors Benetti, Spangler, and Weeks

Voting No. None

Absent: Councilors Combs, Miller, and Williams

Public Comments

Flora Lee Lockhart, representing the Downtown Association, reported that some time ago the association had asked the City Council for funding. Mrs. Lockhart said the City Council at that time suggested the Downtown Association learn to fund their own organization. She said it was good advice and the association has done very well. Mrs. Lockhart reported a very successful Black Berry Arts Festival and thanked the City Manager and City Council for attending the festival. Councilor Benetti said he heard several good comments and suggested she contact the tourism promotion committee about doing advertising for the festival.

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City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Tosh reported a revision of the codes ordinance is being prepared and noted the city ordinances will soon be entered into the city's computer system. Mr. Tosh said the brief on the art museum tax situation is due in tax court next Friday and we can expect a decision in November.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reminded the Council of the executive session next Tuesday. He reported discussing the 5th Street proposed parking project with Anna Brands, and has received her consent to move ahead with project. Mr. Grile noted the libraries in the county will be closed Thursday for in-service training, and staff has started thinking about how to deliver city services if the Sizemore measure passes in November.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Spangler reported meeting with the residents on North Empire Boulevard and it appears they have reached an agreement to build a community fence.

Councilor Weeks commented she will be leaving Ticor Title for a job with Coos Curry Douglas Development in North Bend.

Mayor Verger reminded Council of the executive session scheduled for next Tuesday.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to an executive session on September 10, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room at City Hall.

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

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen
Deputy Recorder of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon