

## **MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**November 5, 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, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Judy Weeks, and Dave Williams. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Finance Director Gail George, Community Services Director Bruce Meithof, Police Chief Marc Adams, Library Director Carol Ventgen, and Deputy Fire Chief Mark Anderson. Members of the media were also present.

### **WORK SESSION**

Mayor Verger reviewed the items of the consent calendar and noted a correction on item 2b to show the date as October 21st rather than 15th. Mayor Verger inquired if there were items on the consent calendar anyone wished to bring down to the action portion of the agenda. Councilor Spangler requested item 2e regarding re-organization of the police department be removed from the consent calendar. Councilor Spangler asked City Manager Grile if current fire employees had been considered for the chief's position and Mr. Grile responded current employees were invited to participate in the hiring process. Councilor Spangler requested item 2d regarding ratification of administrative decisions concerning the Fire Department be removed from the consent calendar. Consensus of the Council was to hold the executive session prior to the regular council meeting. Councilor Miller moved to convene in executive session and Councilor Weeks seconded the motion.

### **Executive Session**

The Council went into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1)(h) which allows the Council to meet in executive session to discuss labor negotiations. Representatives of the news media and designated staff were allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience were asked to leave the room and media representatives were directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. The Council convened in regular session at 7:30 p.m.

### **COUNCIL MEETING**

#### **Flag Salute**

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

#### **Consent Calendar**

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

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- a) Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 15, 1996
- b) Approval of the minutes of the special meetings of October 8 & 21, 1996
- c) Resolution 96-29 transferring funds from wastewater contingency
- f) Approval of funding for mobile data terminals for the Police Department

Item d Ratification of administrative decisions concerning the Fire Department and item e Approval of re-organization of the Police Department were moved to the action portion of the agenda as items 3a and 3b. Councilor Miller moved to approve the consent calendar as amended. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Appreciation Awards for Outgoing Councilors Gary Combs and Dave Williams**

Mayor Verger presented outgoing Councilors Gary Combs and Dave Williams with appreciation awards and thanked them for their service to the citizens of Coos Bay. Mayor Verger remarked on their individual strengths and talents, and encouraged them to continue in volunteer service to the community.

### **Approval of Re-organization of the Police Department**

Mayor Verger asked Councilor Spangler to open the discussion on the re-organization of the Police Department. Councilor Spangler apologized for not studying the subject before the meeting, but he had been out of town, and suggested the item be tabled to the next Council meeting. Police Chief Marc Adams addressed the Council and reported the reason for bringing this matter to the Council was to obtain approval for the changes in salary. Chief Adams further explained the re-organization would create a lieutenant's position, and eliminate one sergeant and one part time position. The change in salary would be a two percent increase for the lieutenant; the savings is because the position is not subject to overtime compensation. City Manager Grile commented on the need to have the position outside of the union. Councilor Spangler said it was not his intent to micro-manage the Police Department, however, he was concerned about the salary aspect of the re-organization, and that an officer was being pulled from street duty. Chief Adams responded the lieutenant position would replace the day watch supervisor if he/she is off and would be supervising ten personnel, all of whom work the street. Chief Adams emphasized the heart of providing public safety is patrol, and to function properly, patrol must have support staff as well. He summarized by commenting the department is trying to be more effective with less money. Councilor Combs said the re-organization encourages healthy promotion within the department, is an efficient use of the current staffing level, and is cost effective. He commended the chief for finding a way to do more with less. Councilor Combs moved to approve the re-organization as recommended by Chief Adams. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Ratification of Administrative Decisions Concerning the Fire Department**

Mayor Verger asked Councilor Spangler to begin the discussion on administrative decisions regarding the Fire Department. Councilor Spangler suggested the search for a replacement be done

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at home first and if a qualified person is not found, then extend the search to outside the area. City Manager Grile reported that using a consultant for the hiring process will ensure the very best qualified person will be found for the position, and the process is open to local people as well. Mr. Grile noted the hiring of department heads is at the discretion of the city manager and it is his recommendation to hire a company to handle the search and assessment center for a new chief. Mr. Grile pointed out that further discussion of hiring, firing and discipline of employees would need to be done in executive session, and explained the purpose of bringing this matter to the Council was for approval of the salary for Acting Chief Mark Anderson. Councilor Miller moved to approve the salary for Acting Chief Anderson at \$4517 per month and ratify the City Manager's administrative decisions on hiring a new chief for the fire department. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

### **Public Comments**

Ken Harlan, Coos Bay, thanked outgoing Councilors for their service to the community, and expressed gratitude to Councilor Combs for the work on developing the Eastside boat ramp.

Geno Landrum, Coos County, also thanked Gary and David for working with him on items he had brought to the Council, and offered his services to the new council.

### **City Attorney's Report**

City Attorney Randall Tosh reported he had reviewed the uniform codes ordinance and it was currently being reviewed by staff. He expects to present changes in the sewer and nuisance ordinances to the Council in December.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Bill Grile reported receiving a letter from Joe Slack regarding concerns about the design review board, and noted he will open the matter for discussion and report to the Council. Mr. Grile commented a letter had been mailed to Mr. Melville requesting payment to Mrs. Farrer. He further noted that of the 28 delinquent assessment accounts, only four are remaining. Councilor Weeks inquired if the Council could talk to them before foreclosure begins and Mr. Grile advised against personal contact by members of the Council. The city attorney will contact the delinquent accounts by letter. Mr. Grile suggested scheduling the December 3rd work session for 6:30 p.m. to provide time for the city attorney to discuss legal issues with the Council. He noted an orientation with department heads for new Councilors would be scheduled later in December.

### **Mayor and Council Comments**

Councilor Spangler commented on attending the OCZMA meeting and said he would give a report at the Council meeting of the 19th.

Councilor Weeks stated for the record that at an earlier Council meeting she had expressed concern about the \$8,000 shortfall the Music Association was experiencing. She noted that a member of the Council had stated she suggested the Council give the Association \$8,000.

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**Councilor Combs** commented he had enjoyed serving on the Parks Commission for the past eight years and expressed interest in continuing to serve if a position should come open. Councilor Combs reported on the previous Parks Commission meeting noting the need for additional baseball field, and improvements at Empire Lakes and 10th Streets parks. Councilor Combs reflected on his years of service to the community as a City Councilor and said it had been rewarding to see the many accomplishments during the past eight years.

**Councilor Williams** reported his time on the City Council had been a pleasure and a privilege. He pointed out that Councilors for the City of Coos Bay represent the entire community and not districts or neighborhoods. Councilor Williams noted that many successful partnerships have been developed in Coos Bay between the Council and citizens. He commented on projects the city had completed, noting the renovation of Central Avenue has paid big dividends, including receiving the Governor's Livability Award.

**Councilor Miller** commented it had been a pleasure to serve with Gary Combs and David Williams and thanked them for their service. Councilor Miller expressed a desire for the Council to move forward in a positive and friendly manner.

**Councilor Benetti** commended Gary Combs and Dave Williams on their terms with the City Council and said it had been a pleasure to work with them both.

**Mayor Verger** distributed a prepared statement to members of the Council and Council candidates in the audience, as attached hereto and made a part thereby. Mayor Verger then read her statement to the assembly.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to November 19, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

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

ATTEST:

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