

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

December 17, 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 Council interviews at 6:30 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room, proceeding to the work session at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers and to the regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

COUNCIL INTERVIEWS

Those present for the interviews were Mayor Joanne, Councilors Joe Benetti, Jeff McKeown, Don Spangler, and Kevin Stufflebean. The Council interviewed Patricia Williams for a position on the Tourism and Promotion Committee and Sharon Teyler for a position on Parks Commission.

WORK SESSION

Those Present

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger, Councilors Joe Benetti, Jeff McKeown, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Randall Tosh, Community Services Director Bruce Meithof, Police Chief Marc Adams, Interim Fire Chief Mark Anderson, and Library Director Carol Ventgen. Members of the media were also present.

Work Session

Mayor Verger reviewed the items of the consent calendar and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Councilor Weeks noted a correction in the address for International Cafe to 255 Broadway. Mayor Verger reported Keith Topits and Sharon Teyler have requested to be reappointed to the Parks Commission, and the Downtown Association has recommended reappointing Doug Fletcher to the Design Review Board. Gary Combs and Patricia Williams have both applied for appointment to the Tourism and Promotion Committee. Gary Combs was not able to attend the interview due to family illness.

City Manager Bill Grile reviewed the proposal for improving public safety and traffic circulation for Front and Ingersoll streets using urban renewal money. Mr. Grile reported the estimated cost for the project was \$211,000. Councilor Spangler inquired where the funding would come from and Mr. Grile it would be from the library dedicated funds. Councilor McKeown asked if the businesses causing the congestion would help pay for the project. Mr. Grile commented the property owners currently pay into urban renewal and may not feel they should pay for the improvements. Mayor Verger and Councilor Weeks both noted that citizens have brought safety and traffic concerns to them. Councilor Spangler explained if it was a new business developing the property, the City would expect them to contribute to the improvements. Councilor Benetti inquired if the street would be improved for heavy truck traffic and suggested the city manager contact

Council Minutes - December 17, 1996

Safeway about contributing for that improvement. Councilor Benetti asked about the railroad crossing and the cost involved. Community Services Director Meithof reported recent street improvements involving a railroad crossing had been paid by the railroad. Mr. Meithof cautioned Council the \$211,000 is an estimate only and could be subject to change.

Mr. Grile reported on the ODOT proposal to study downtown parking, signage, and traffic circulation and noted \$15,000 had been budgeted for a parking study. Mr. Grile commented on a meeting with ODOT some months ago in Coos Bay and at that time ODOT officials observed the traffic congestion on Anderson turning onto Broadway continuing south to Johnson. Concerns for pedestrian safety were also noted in crosswalk areas where there are no stoplights and poor visibility. Councilor Benetti commented that better signage was needed and possibly a historic downtown designation could be considered. Councilor McKeown requested clarification of what Council was being asked to approve. Mr. Grile responded support of the project and authorization for matching funds if needed. He noted ODOT views this as a partnership with the City and it is their desire to have the Council involved in the project.

Mr. Grile reported the awning program has been very successful and he is requesting Council approval for a supplemental budget to continue the program. Mayor Verger commented the program has done wonders for downtown, and questioned if the additional funds for the program can be justified if the City is looking at budget cuts. Mr. Grile noted the funding for the program would be from urban renewal money.

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:

- a) Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 3, 1996
- b) Acceptance of State Department of Transportation funds for F Street improvements
- c) Approval of the lease with the Chamber of Commerce
- d) OLCC license for the International Cafe

A correction was noted in the address for the International Cafe to read 255 Broadway. Councilor Weeks moved to approve the consent calendar as presented with the correction of the address for item d. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Report from Tourism and Promotions Committee by Kay Heikkela

Council Minutes - December 17, 1996

Kay Heikkela reported new advertisements of the bay area have had a good response and the number of tour buses to the area has increased. She reported the convention manual has been completed and distributed. Mrs. Heikkela noted the Governor's conference on tourism has been scheduled for Coos Bay contingent upon approval of all the sites, and the municipal recorders conference and tour motorcycles conference will be held in Coos Bay. Councilor Spangler questioned why a motorbike club was selected and opinioned local businesses were adversely affected by this type of group. Mrs. Heikkela responded the bikers are not the Harley Davidson type and are usually couples and very civilized. Councilor Spangler said the group came last year and it was very disruptive and he does not want tourism promotion dollars spent to bring motorbike groups to Coos Bay. Councilor McKeown noted this group represents an affluent group. Councilor Spangler inquired about the effectiveness of billboard advertising and Mrs. Heikkela said she would report back to the Council. City Manager Bill Grile thanked Mrs. Heikkela and the committee for working with the City to attract some tall ships to the area. Councilor Stufflebean asked if the City had approached the local Navy League to have a permanent tall ship in Coos Bay and Mayor Verger responded the cost for staff, maintenance and insurance was prohibitive. Mayor Verger noted the Tourism Promotion Committee is funded by a two percent room tax, and the committee is made up of five members with representatives from the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend and the Chamber of Commerce.

Appointments to the Parks Commission and Design Review Board

Councilor Miller moved to reappoint Keith Topits and Sharon Teyler to the Parks Commission, and Doug Fletcher to the Design Review Board. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Appointment to the Tourism and Promotion Committee

The Bay Area Motel Owner's Association submitted a letter supporting the appointment of Gary Combs, and a letter of interest had been received from Patricia Williams for the vacancy on the Tourism and Promotion Committee due to Tom Cottrell's resignation. The Council voted by ballot and Gary Combs was appointed by a majority vote with Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti, McKeown, Miller, and Weeks voting for Gary Combs, and Councilors Spangler and Stufflebean voting for Patricia Williams.

Presentation on Front and Ingersoll Improvement Project

City Manager Bill Grile explained the improvement of Front and Ingersoll Streets would provide better egress and ingress to Safeway, Fred Meyer, and other businesses in the area. Mr. Grile noted the improvements would be made with urban renewal monies. Councilor McKeown inquired if the local businesses would share in the cost of the improvements and Mr. Grile said the businesses would need to be approached about forming a local improvement district. Mr. Grile further noted that businesses may feel they should not pay for the improvements since they already pay urban renewal taxes. Mayor Verger suggested businesses share in the cost for upgrading the

Council Minutes - December 17, 1996

street to truck grade. Councilor McKeown suggested Safeway pay for the improvements as they are the cause of the traffic problem. Mr. Grile pointed out that the City may not select one business to pay for street improvements; it is a public project and the public would benefit. Councilor Weeks noted the estimate for the project was \$210,602 and asked if the monies would come from the library fund. Mr. Grile answered in the affirmative. Mayor Verger moved to authorize staff to proceed with the improvement project and approach adjacent property owners about sharing in the cost for upgrading the street to truck grade. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which carried with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Approval of Oregon State Department of Transportation Circulation Study for Downtown Coos Bay

City Manager Bill Grile reviewed the proposal for the traffic circulation study of the downtown area and explained the study would cover traffic, pedestrian, parking, and signage concerns. Councilor Spangler moved to proceed with the study, not to exceed the budgeted \$15,000. Councilor Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Verger expressed concern that the study not exceed \$15,000 and noted that City staff would not be available for other work while they are providing the soft match for the study. Councilor Spangler commented parking has long been a problem and having the study performed by an impartial third party would be worthwhile in the longrun. Councilor McKeown expressed concern about the budget and asked if it was possible to obtain a firm commitment from ODOT on the cost. Community Services Director Bruce Meithof reported contact with Don Galligan of ODOT, and he is in the process of negotiating the cost with Kittleson. He cautioned that waiting too long on proceeding with the study would put the project outside of the State's current fiscal year. Mr. Grile said he would like to talk with Mr. Galligan again and try to get the study done without cost to the City. The motion to accept the proposal with Kittleson and Associates as the consultant died for lack of majority vote. Doug Fletcher, downtown property owner, expressed support for a parking study and commented on traffic problems in the downtown area. Mr. Fletcher commended Mr. Grile on the proposal and on getting the State interested in participating with the study. Councilor Stufflebean moved to defer the matter to the January 7, 1997 meeting when an actual cost for the study would be known. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti, McKeown, Miller, Stufflebean, and Weeks voting aye; Councilor Spangler voting nay.

Request for Additional Funding for the Awning Program

City Manager Bill Grile reported the City's awning program has been very successful and staff is requesting additional funding for the program. Mr. Grile explained the funds would come from unbudgeted urban renewal monies and would require a supplemental budget to appropriate the funds. Councilor Stufflebean inquired why the request did not require an urban renewal meeting and City Attorney Randall Tosh responded the agency has a contract with the City. Mr. Tosh noted the supplemental budget would go to the urban renewal agency for approval. Councilor McKeown asked for clarification on appropriating funds from the awning program. Mr. Grile reported the Design Review Board oversees the program and will be meeting in the near future to discuss policy

Council Minutes - December 17, 1996

questions and give a report to the Council. Councilor Weeks inquired if a representative from the Council served on the Board and Mayor Verger responded a Council representative had not been written into the ordinance. Councilor Miller moved to authorize staff to prepare a supplemental budget for \$80,000 for the awning program. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Verger and Councilors Benetti, Miller, Stufflebean, Spangler, and Weeks voting aye; Councilor McKeown voting nay.

Public Comments

Gene Melton, Coos Bay, congratulated the newly elected members of the Council. He expressed concern the Christmas boat light parade did not come to Eastside and many residents missed the show. Mayor Verger commented the event was sponsored by the Yacht Club.

Joe Howard, manager of the Coos Bay Wal-Mart Store, presented Mayor Verger with the Hometown Leadership Award and a check for \$1,000.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Randall Tosh reported the judgement on the urban renewal lawsuit against Coos County regarding taxes assessed against the art museum is expected to be entered sometime next week.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile reported a meeting had been held regarding the splash boards in Empire Lakes and noted the State has concerns about the spillways. A civil engineer will be hired by the City to evaluate the design capacity in the lower dam. Mr. Grile commented Mr. John Topits had presented a concept for a canal gate to regulate lake levels. Mr. Grile reported effective January 1st the Friday Update and Council agenda and minutes would be provided by e-mail or by post for the cost of copying and postage. He noted the material is available at city hall and the library. Councilor Benetti asked that Council review the cost for copying and postage before implementing the change. Mr. Grile commented the Bay Area Rescue Mission factfinding report had been distributed to the Council and would be on the January 21, 1997 agenda.

Mayor and Council Comments

Jeff McKeown commented that he voted against the additional funding for the awning program because he did not have an understanding of the program and its function.

Councilor Weeks commented the Oregon Economic Development Department will have a regional forum on January 29th and 30th. She expressed concern about spending all the money set aside for the library and noted the library still needs some expansion.

Councilor Miller reported the Chamber of Commerce meeting on economic development was informative. She commented a good number of people were at the boardwalk during the boat

Council Minutes - December 17, 1996

light parade and noted the flags on the boardwalk were in need of replacement.

Councilor Spangler asked the city manager explain his approach to implementing Ballot Measure 47. Mr. Grile suggested Council discuss the matter at the January work session and give him direction on how he should proceed. Mr. Grile commented staff needs to know the Council's priorities before beginning the budget process. Councilor Spangler requested a list of employees and their salaries. He noted some of the Christmas lights were out along Newmark Avenue.

Kevin Stufflebean extended the appreciation of the Empire community to the City for mentioning the tree lighting ceremony in The Friday Update.

Councilor Benetti apologized for missing part of the meeting this evening due to business matters.

Mayor Verger requested a date for a Council work session to discuss Ballot Measure 47 be set in January. Consensus of the Council was to meet at 6 p.m. on January 9th. Mayor Verger complimented Councilor Stufflebean and the Empire Association for a good job on their tree lighting event.

Executive Session

On motion by Mayor Verger the Council went into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (h) which allows the City Council to meet in executive session to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to January 7, 1997 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
Deputy Recorder of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon