

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

January 7, 1997

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 in the Manager's Conference Room at 6 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, 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, Finance Director Gail George, Community Services Director Bruce Meithof, Police Chief Marc Adams, and Library Director Carol Ventgen. Members of the media were also present.

INTERVIEWS

The City Council conducted interviews with Frances Cooley, Bob Renner, Dave Williams, Dana Stout, and Rondi Potter, for appointment to the Budget Committee. The appointments to fill two vacancies on the committee is scheduled for the January 21, 1997 Council meeting.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Verger commented that part of Councilor Spangler's comment regarding development costs not being shared by existing businesses was not included in the minutes. She cautioned that minutes should not be too brief. Mayor Verger noted the ODOT parking study was carried over from the previous meeting due to concerns about the cost of the study. Councilor Stufflebean inquired if a public hearing had been held to ask the public if they wanted a study done. Mayor Verger noted the time for comment would have been during the budget process.

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 17, 1996
- b) OLCC license for Wild West Burger Company, Inc.

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

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Approval of the Oregon Department of Transportation to Perform a Downtown Parking, Signage, and Circulation Study

City Manager Bill Grile reported the study had been before the Council at their previous meeting, and at that time the City Council had expressed concern about funding the study. Mr. Grile noted the cost to Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the study would be \$49,445 and commended Community Services Director Bruce Meithof for negotiating with ODOT to perform the study at no cost to the City. Mayor Verger moved to approve the study to be done by the Oregon Department of Transportation at no cost to the City. Councilor Miller seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Public Comments

Rondi Potter, president of the Downtown Association, presented a letter of support for proceeding with the parking study. Ms. Potter commented the study would help the City continue with improvements to the downtown area.

Keith Topits, 650 Lund, presented a report on the history of the Empire Lakes. He noted the lakes served as a reservoir for the City of Empire beginning in 1880 and the middle lake dike had been constructed in 1920 and rebuilt some years later. Mr. Topits commented his family began working on development of the park in 1972 with donated materials and equipment, and improvements have continued over the years through the efforts of many volunteers. He said his father, John Topits, has been the main volunteer and he has worked to secure grants for park improvements and has been instrumental in designing the facility. Mr. Keith Topits further reported his major concern was for the low water level of the lakes and the outflow problem. He said the Topits family would not continue to take care of the park until the spillway problem is solved. City Manager Grile commented City staff recognize and appreciate the efforts and contributions the Topits family make to the Empire Lakes Park. Mr. Grile noted the City has engineering concerns and has hired Greg Solarz to review the engineering calculations requested by the State. He said the City expects a report by the first of February. City Attorney Randall Tosh pointed out that matters of water control are handled by the State and the City must listen to the State's recommendations.

John Rowley, Coos Bay, expressed concern about handicap accessibility crossing the street to Farr's Hardware Store. He commented the parking restrictions in the downtown area drive people away from shopping downtown. Mr. Rowley was concerned about empty buildings such as the old Safeway store in the downtown area, and expressed concern about the lack of veteran services in the bay area.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Grile commended Dispatch Supervisor Tia Akers on receiving the Telecommunications Supervisor of the Year award. Mr. Grile reported the U.S. Forest Service has accepted the Front Street grant project and will consider funding assistance for putting together the master plan for the project. He thanked Nikki Whitty and Judy Weeks for their work on the project. Mr. Grile reported OMI has made some remarkable improvements to the operation of wastewater plant II and is saving over \$800 a month in propane costs. He noted the facilities report recommends

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not proceedings with the facility plan for plant II until next year. Mr. Grile reported he and the Mayor attended a meeting in Salem regarding Ballot Measure 47. He reminded Council of the meeting on Thursday at 6 p.m. to discuss budget philosophy and give direction to staff for preparation of next year's budget. The meeting will be held in the council chambers rather than the conference room due to small size of the conference room.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Stufflebean wished everyone a happy new year.

Jeff McKeown commended staff for negotiating with ODOT to fund the parking, signage and circulation study.

Councilor Weeks reported attending her first Parks Commission and noted the meetings on the skateboard issue are moving ahead well. She also commended Mr. Meithof on negotiating with ODOT to pay for the parking study.

Councilor Miller commended Mr. Meithof on handling the parking study with ODOT and wished everyone a happy new year.

Mayor Verger complimented Mr. Meithof on negotiating a no soft match with ODOT for the parking study. She reminded everyone that Senator Ron Wyden would be in Coos Bay on January 15th and would be holding a town hall meeting in the library auditorium at 7 p.m. sponsored by the City. Mayor Verger reported the Government Policy Advisory Committee has developed a bill to take to the legislature on how to implement Ballot Measure 47, and noted that some cities have joined with the League of Oregon Cities to challenge the legality of the ballot measure. She reported the citizens of Coos Bay passed the measure and Coos Bay would not be joining with the League on the challenge.

Mayor Verger reported the work session on January 9th will offer an opportunity for the Council to look at the affect of Ballot Measure 47 on the City and offer direction to the City Manager. She asked Councilors to be thinking of the direction they would like the budget to go. Mayor Verger commented the City is faced with very serious decisions and will need team work to get through this budget session. Mayor Verger noted it is important to be sensitive to the electorate and to the dedicated employees who have served well and long. The Mayor encouraged the Councilors to bring their ideas for discussion, and noted the Legislature would be convening next week although it may be some time before the City knows anything.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to January 9, 1997 at 6:00 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room at City Hall.

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

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ATTEST:

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