

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 12, 1997

The minutes of the proceedings of special meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, in the Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m.

Those Present

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger, Councilors Joe Benetti, Jeff McKeown, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. Councilor Cindi Miller was absent due to illness. 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, and Police Chief Marc Adams.

Initiation of the Process to Place an Initiative Before the Voters Regarding Increasing Building Permit Fee

City Manager Grile reported at the March 4th meeting Council had directed staff to prepare language for a ballot measure to increase building permit fees for the May election. Mr. Grile commended the city attorney on preparation of the measure which would amend the city charter and enable the Council to establish a building program supported by the permit fees. Mr. Grile reported the election would cost between \$6,000 and \$12,000 depending on the number of jurisdictions that have measures on the ballot. Mr. Grile commented on contacting a contractor about the possibility of the Homebuilders Association underwriting the cost of the election, but had not yet received a response. Councilor Spangler inquired if it was legal for the Homebuilders to pay for the election and City Attorney Tosh responded it would be done as a donation to the City.

Councilor Benetti commented the charter amendment would allow permit fee changes as long they represent the actual cost of the service. Councilor Stufflebean expressed concern on the accuracy of the actual cost of the building program due to the City's way of accounting for expenditures. Community Services Director Meithof reported there is an accounting of funds and what he may be confused about is the five percent fee sent to the State. Mr. Meithof explained the City does not charge themselves for building permits on City projects, but does pay the five percent surcharge to the State.

Mayor Verger reported it was the consensus of the Council to place on the May ballot a measure asking for an increase in building permit fees to cover the cost of the building program. She explained the city attorney had prepared language to amend the city charter for Council review, and Council also needed to discuss the cost of election. There was further discussion and review regarding the cost of the program and services. Councilor Spangler commended the city attorney on coming up with a charter amendment to establish the building program. Councilor Weeks said it did not seem fair to ask the Homebuilders to pay for the cost of the election without discussing it with them. Mr. Tosh commented they would have to register and comply with election laws. Councilor Spangler suggested looking at the budget for funds to pay for the election. Mr. Grile said there would be less in the carryover. Councilor McKeown commented the election cost is a one-

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time expense and the City would spend \$12,000 to make up \$80,000. Councilor Spangler supported letting the electors vote on the issue. Councilor McKeown felt this would be going against what supporters of Measure 47 desired. Councilor Spangler disagreed and said what voters want is to be able to vote on fee and tax increases. Mayor Verger noted the election could cost less depending on how many other jurisdictions have items on the ballot. Councilor McKeown suggested the cost of the election come from the building fund. Mr. Meithof reported there would be three months of salary and benefits not expended due to the senior building inspector vacancy, which is approximately \$4200 a month.

Councilor Stufflebean moved to have the City finance the proposed charter amendment for the May ballot. Councilor Weeks seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Councilor Benetti moved to refer the measure amending the city charter to fund the building codes program exclusively through user fees to the voters for the May election. Councilor Spangler seconded the motion which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to March 18, 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