

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

October 28, 1997

The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held in the Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m.

Those Present

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger, Councilors Joe Benetti, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, Kevin Stufflebean, and Judy Weeks. Councilor Jeff McKeown was absent. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, and Community Services Director Bruce Meithof.

COUNCIL MEETING

Mingus Park — Removal of Brush and Trees

City Manager Grile requested two items be added to the agenda; a brush cutting matter in Mingus Park and an executive session. The additional items were approved and Mayor Verger asked Mr. Grile to report on the Mingus Park matter. Mr. Grile reported David Petrie had requested permission to remove certain brush and trees in Mingus Park near the fire pit area due to transients using the area. Opening up the area is consistent with the City's tree ordinance and permission was given to remove the vegetation after Mr. Petrie would discuss the procedure with the Parks Supervisor Phil Christiana. Several of the neighbors called city hall and various Councilors to express concern about the removal of the trees. Council voiced concern that action was taken on the request of two people, Mr. Petrie and Mr. Anderson, without input from the other members of the neighborhood. Councilor Benetti suggested a petition be used when such a request is made so the neighbors are aware of the situation. Mr. Grile said he would be looking into the matter in the morning and would make a report to the Council.

Review of the Parking and Traffic Study

Mr. Grile reported the Parking/Traffic Study addressed the areas of vehicular circulation, directional signage, parking, and pedestrian and bicycle movement. Most of the study was about parking and vehicular circulation, and includes descriptions of existing conditions, interviews with downtown businesses, a summary of Anderson Avenue options, parking supply, demand and management., signage, pedestrian flow, and bicycle traffic. Mr. Grile explained the focus of the study

was to look at ways to reduce traffic congestion and improve access to the downtown area. He advised Council to consider the study and later decide whether to move forward with public hearings or shelve the study.

Mr. Meithof reviewed the Anderson - Elrod reroute alternatives. Mr. Grile stressed the Council could select portions of the suggested alternatives and leave the Anderson - 4th Street intersection as it is at present.

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Improvements and a management plan for the parking area were discussed as well as the possible removal of the old Sportsman building for additional parking. Mr. Grile commented the Urban Renewal Agency could decide to use money saved on the South Town Stormwater Project for improving the parking areas. Mr. Meithof reviewed Kittelson's suggestions for signage and noted the demand for parking should not exceed 85 percent of the supply. Mr. Meithof reported enforcement of the parking plan is important and previously Mr. Worth of Kittelson and Associates said enforcement could be handled with the half-time employee the City currently has.

Mr. Meithof reviewed the alternatives for Broadway and consensus of the Council was to leave Broadway as it is now configured. Both alternatives included removal of all or a portion of the on-street parking.

Mr. Grile recommended the Council give the study further thought and consideration before scheduling the public hearings. Mayor Verger suggested the choices be limited for the public hearings, rather than reviewing the whole study again. Mr. Grile commented on the importance of public input because any changes in the traffic/parking/pedestrian flow will affect the whole community. Mayor Verger suggested Mr. Grile and Mr. Meithof also make a presentation to the Downtown Association.

Executive Session

Mayor Verger moved to go into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1) (h) for the purpose of discussing potential litigation between the City and Terrance and Michelle Graves. Councilor Benetti seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote.

The Council reconvened in regular session.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to November 4, 1997 at 7 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