

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

October 21, 2003

The minutes of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Jon Eck, Roger Gould, Jeff McKeown, and Kevin Stufflebean. Councilors Larson and Miller were absent. City Staff present were Interim City Manager Chuck Knight, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, City Attorney Nathan McClintock, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Library Director Carol Ventgen, and Police Chief Eura Washburn.

Flag Salute

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

Consent Calendar

Mayor Benetti reviewed the consent calendar, which consisted of approval of the August 19th, September 2nd and September 16th minutes, approval of a letter of support for a grant application to the Coquille Tribal Community Fund, "Title Wave: Oregon's Bay Area Reads" submitted by The Friends of the Coos Bay Public Library. Councilor Eck moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilor Stufflebean seconded the motion, which passed with the Mayor and all Councilors present voting aye.

Discussion of Replacement of Choshi Bridge in Mingus Park – Report from Gary Rifkin

Mr. Gary Rifkin expressed his interest in working with the city to replace the Choshi Bridge and commented the bridge is significant to the sister city relationship between Coos Bay and Choshi, Japan. Mr. Rifkin reviewed various design and material concepts for the bridge, and requested the City Council advise of their choice in design and materials. There was discussion of ADA requirements, security, and maintenance issues. Councilor Gould commented on the history and construction of the bridge, and recommended the same design be used for the replacement bridge. He also suggested the Sister City Association be included in the discussion. Consensus of the Council was to replace the bridge with consideration to materials and design that would reflect Japanese bridge construction as well as last a long time. Councilor Gould commented he would obtain information from Choshi about decorative bridges and whether concrete is used in their construction. Mr. Rifkin inquired if bike path funds could be used to replace the bridge, and suggested if the bridge is constructed with wood, that the city put aside funding annually for repair and replacement of the bridge.

Report by the Exchange Team Representing the City at the International City/County Management Association Conference in Jakarta, vIndonesia and Exchange Visit to Kota Bitung, Sulawesi Utara in July 2003

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Martin Callery, Port of Coos Bay, distributed copies of the report on the final trip to Bitung, Indonesia and reported the team participated in the international conference. The purpose of the program is to teach Indonesians about local government practices and the Coos Bay team presented a workshop on various topics. Mr. Martin commented the exchanges have been a good learning experience for Coos Bay citizens as well and the participants appreciated the opportunity to represent the City of Coos Bay. Jon Richards, Suzy Callery, and Pat Davis were members of the team and expressed appreciation for the opportunity and experience. Mr. Richards commented many people in Bitung have a positive attitude of the United States and Coos Bay and he enjoyed being a part of the exchange. Ms. Davis and Mrs. Callery expressed appreciation for the city's willingness to participate and support the program. Mayor Benetti thanked the team members for being involved in the program.

Report from Ron Opitz on South Coast Development Council

Ron Opitz, Executive Director of SCDC, reported the purpose of SCDC is to improve the economy by recruiting businesses, and creating jobs and opportunities for people. He commented SCDC is making progress and he expressed appreciations for the city's commitment to SCDC. Mr. Opitz explained the procedure for following up on leads and reviewed some the leads SCDC has received and followed up on. He reported the white paper on transportation was funded by Bandon Dunes and will be available in a month. Councilor McKeown commented the purpose of SCDC is to promote the whole area, not just Coos Bay, and it is working. Economic improvement takes time, after years of talking about the poor economy it is refreshing to see the community take action. Councilor Gould commented SCDC is a good example that patience and perseverance pays off.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Nate McClintock reported the paperwork to complete the purchase of Central Dock is in progress and he expects to close the deal shortly.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Chuck Knight reported the sidewalk near the skateboard park has been repaired, the city is moving ahead in accordance to the mutual order and agreement with DEQ, and six responses to the RFP for the preparation of the facilities plan for the wastewater plants have been received.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Council Comments

Councilor Stufflebean reported on comments from a writer a for golf magazine regarding the unkempt look of property along the Hwy 101 corridor and suggested the city look into providing a way to improve the areas. He noted he will be out of town and not able to attend the November 4th meeting. Councilor Eck reported improvements have been made to the airport and it is now more accessible for commercial traffic. Discussion at the last airport district meeting included preparation to transfer ownership of the airport. Councilor Gould commented the airport is a great asset to the community, he will be attending the County Urban Renewal

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District meeting Friday, and he would like the council and staff to take action to improve the Hwy 101 corridor. Councilor Gould commented as the city looks at transportation issues, they can also consider how to improvement the look of the downtown area.

Councilor McKeown also expressed concern about improving the look of the Hwy 101 corridor and the downtown area. He commented the recent editorial was on the need to increase the number of staff in the police department, and it should be noted that increases are also needed in other departments. Councilor McKeown said he is optimistic about the economy and bout the city. Mayor Benetti reminded everyone of the joint work session on October 28th to discuss the transportation systems plan. He attended the presentation to the Planning Commission recently because he will be out of town on business on the 28th. Mayor Benetti reported Councilor Miller has expressed interest in attending the annual League of Oregon Cities Conference, and he encouraged citizens to apply for the openings on the Budget Committee, Planning Commission and Historic Design Review Committee.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to November 4, 2003, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder