

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

September 28, 2021

The minutes of the proceedings of a City Council and Urban Renewal work session of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Councilors Lucinda DiNovo, Stephanie Kilmer, Rob Miles and Sara Stephens. Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilor Carmen Matthews attended remotely by teleconference. Councilor Drew Farmer was absent. City staff present were City Manager Rodger Craddock, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Nichole Rutherford, Deputy Finance Director Melissa Olson, Public Works and Community Development Director Jim Hossley, and Police Chief Chris Chapanar. City staff attending remotely by teleconference were Library Director Sami Pierson and Community Development Administrator Carolyn Johnson.

Flag Salute

Council President Miles opened the meeting and led the council and assembly in the salute to the flag.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Public Comment Form

Makenna Davis, Coos Bay submitted a Public Comment Form requesting a Council agenda item on reducing the city's carbon emissions by 50% by 2030.

Review of the City Council and URA Board Upcoming Action Items:

Review of Request for Improvement Grant Request for 225 West Lockhart

Public Works and Community Development Director Jim Hossley stated Pro Diesel Auto Repair, LLC, owned by Luis Ledesma and represented by Amy Graves of eXp Realty, proposed building improvements to 225 West Lockhart on the Lockhart elevation to give the building a more modern look with the use of natural wood and black metal accents. The project included new windows, entry double doors, cedar siding at the base with black metal above, custom light fixtures, and custom lettering to identify the property address.

Mr. Ledesma stated he would fully fund the \$12,800 cost of a revision of the existing sign and has already repainted the building. Due to heavy local contractor workloads, one bid was provided in the amount of \$50,624.76 from Morrison Gederos, LLC. The Improvement Program guidelines specify a 50/50 grant based on the lowest bid with a maximum award of \$25,000 per fiscal year. The program regulations request three written bids be obtained for the improvement project. The applicant provided a letter noting the challenge of securing more than one bid for the project.

A 50% match pursuant to the grant guidelines would be \$18,412.38. The applicant sought \$20,000 or 54% of the \$36,824.76 cost of the project. Funds in excess of 50% could be awarded at the Board's discretion. The signage improvement would be fully paid by the owner and was not included in the request. The Design Assistance Team (DAT) reviewed the project via email on August 30, 2021. All comments received were in support of the application.

Funding for the Downtown Improvement Program #57-940-520-2415 for fiscal year 2021-2022 for new grants was \$750,000.00. There were sufficient program funds available for the requested grant for the 225 West Lockhart improvements

Review of Proposed Revisions to Coos Bay Municipal Code Title 17 Marijuana Regulations as Recommended by Planning Commission

Community Development Administrator Carolyn Johnson stated a November 2020 moratorium on new business licenses for marijuana businesses was in place. At the Council's request, the Planning Commission met in August and September 2021 to reviewed potential changes to Coos Bay Municipal Code (CBMC) 17.335.080, Indoor Marijuana-related Businesses, related to distance between marijuana retail businesses and residential uses in any zoning district as well as definitions related to marijuana uses. Planning Commission recommended eliminating all distance limitations as the City did not regulate other businesses as such. The Planning Commission's August 10, 2021 supplemental report with additional information was provided.

Council discussion ensued and consensus to have continued discussion and input regarding the distance limitations. City Manager Rodger Craddock stated staff would put on the agenda with a clarified ordinance changes in October 2021 for Council consideration.

Discussion Regarding Establishing Tow Company of Record

Police Chief Chris Chapanar stated for many years the Coos Bay Police Department had used a rotating list of local towing companies for what it categorized as "non-preference" tows. It was not uncommon when a vehicle needed to be towed from an accident scene that the driver did not express a specific tow company. When that happens, dispatch calls the company at the top of the rotating non-preference tow list. In order for a company to be on the non-preference tow list they have to be in compliance with Coos Bay Police Department policy 510.3 and agree to be on the abandoned vehicle tow list, which requires them to pick up and dispose of vehicles which are considered to be abandoned based on Coos Bay Municipal Code.

Every year police department staff deals with several hundred abandoned vehicles in the city. Between September 2020 – September 2021 there were 462 abandoned vehicle calls. As part of being on the "non-preference" tow list, a tow company has to agree to tow abandon vehicles after the vehicle had worked its way through the abandon vehicle process outlined in our Towing of Vehicles City Ordinance. Traditionally, the City of Coos Bay doesn't reimburse the tow company for towing and disposal of abandoned vehicles, but the company was able to recoup those costs through the salvaging of the abandon vehicle or by other means. However, with the uptick in abandoned recreational vehicles (trailers, motorhomes, RV's, etc.) the City of Coos Bay had begun providing some compensation for the towing and disposal of these types of vehicles. This was due to the cost associated to the dismantling and disposal of vehicles. Over the course of a one-year period, the Coos Bay Police Department

estimated nearly 750 calls involving the towing of vehicles.

What had traditionally been done in the past, utilizing a rotating list of local towing companies, was no longer working. Each time a dispatcher had to call for a tow company it required five to seven minutes on the phone providing specific details to the tow company. Many times, the tow company declined the abandoned vehicle tow due to no available drivers, no available trucks, no room for storage, not capable of towing that type of vehicle/RV/Truck, not able to dispose of the vehicle, etc. Each time the tow is denied, the dispatcher had to start the process all over again with another tow company. In the recent past, this process was repeated four times before a willing company agreed to tow the vehicle. In this particular instance, the vehicle to be towed was blocking an entire lane on a roadway and still three companies refused the tow.

Over the last year, the Coos Bay Police Department Dispatch center received 72,798 calls into the center (13,564 calls were 911 calls and 59,234 calls were on our business lines). Given the volume of calls for service and the limited amount of personnel, it became a major burden on the center when taxed with trying to find a willing company to tow a vehicle. This same problem existed for the police officers, who often times were required to remain on scene until the tow truck arrived to remove the vehicle. The Coos Bay Police Department policy allowed for a penalty to be imposed on the tow company refusing the tow; however, even this had proven to be ineffective as an incentive to comply. The Coos Bay Police Department proposed to move to a model used by other municipalities and counties across the State of Oregon, including Coos County. Instead of using a tow rotation, the City of Coos Bay would secure a tow company of record through a competitive bid process, Request for Quotes (RFQ.) As a result of the RFQ, one company would be named as the City of Coos Bay's Tow Company of Record and a multi-year contract would be signed. This model would also provide a benefit to the entire City of Coos Bay in the event any city owned vehicle needed towed, as there would be a fixed set of fees including all city vehicles in the RFQ. Staff believed such a model would prove to be a more efficient use of staff time and resources, as well as, provide the City of Coos Bay with additional tow benefits which we currently do not have. In addition, this model would also help ensure the requirements established under HB 3124 are being followed.

Council consensus for staff to move forward with the RFQ process.

Discussion Regarding Approval to Purchase New Streetsweeper

Public Works and Community Development Director Jim Hossley stated a typical life of a streetsweeper was seven to eight years. The City's streetsweeper was a 2011 model and over the last couple of years had experienced significant and numerous repairs causing staff to recommend replacement. Staff researched several different types of streetsweepers and recommended the Global R4 Regenerative Air Sweeper, brochure provided to Council. There were many differences between this street sweeper model and the City's current one. The Global model had a single engine as opposed to the current one which had a dual engine. The single engine would result in reduced maintenance costs, burn less fuel, and release less emissions (Tier IV Engine). The Global was also a "purpose-built truck". The current sweeper had a Maxx Force DT chassis with streetsweeper components retrofitted onto the chassis. The Global was one unit, not a retrofit and as such was anticipated to have increased performance with respect to street sweeping and safety. Examples of this would be the Global had a shorter wheel base to increase sweeping performance around curves and the front of the cab was much shorter to increase visibility. The old sweeper had a metal

hopper where the Global sweeper had a stainless-steel hopper. Because of these reasons it was anticipated the life of the new vehicle would be greater than the City's current model.

Often times, the city purchased vehicles through a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement allowed per Resolution 17-14. The vendor works with several companies who offer Cooperative Purchasing. The best price the vendor could find was through a company we currently did not have an agreement with called Houston-Galveston Area Council or HGAC. There were no costs or obligations to enter into the contract and we could use this company, should they have the best price, for future purchases. It was recommended the City enter into a Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing with HGAC. The agreement which could be signed by the City Manager, should Council approve, was provided. The provided quote for the Global sweeper was \$297,033 which included delivery. In addition, the vehicle would need added safety equipment, decals, and registration. This was anticipated to cost an additional \$10,000. Staff was also working with the vendor as there may be an opportunity to receive a trade in credit for the old sweeper.

Council consensus for staff to move forward to present the agreement and purchase recommendation at the next council meeting.

Review of Council Committee Assignments

City Manager Rodger Craddock stated members of the City Council and/or appointed officials serve as representatives on various City and community boards and committees (committees). Information on the various committees and current committee assignments were provided for Council review. Current openings were on the Tree Board, School District #9 Best Bond Oversight Committee, and an alternate on the Enterprise Zone. Councilor Matthews stated he was the Council Member on the Tree Board and volunteered for the Best Bond Oversight Committee. Councilor Stephens volunteered for the Enterprise Zone Alternate.

City Manager Rodger Craddock stated a delegate was needed to represent the council at the League of Oregon Cities to vote on behalf of the City. Councilor Stephens volunteered to be the delegate. Alternate would be Councilor Farmer if he was comfortable, otherwise City Manager Rodger Craddock volunteered.

Council Comments

Councilor DiNovo stated October 11, 2021 was Indigenous Peoples Day and November was Native American Heritage Month and requested council to consider City proclamations to celebrate and commemorate the contributions of various ethnic and demographic groups. Council consensus in support of the proclamations and Councilor Matthews requested to invite the Tribal Councils to meet with City Council. Councilor DiNovo also thanked the Police Department, who received a complementary letter from a citizen in regards to a police interaction. Councilor Miles stated the After Hours at the Library event was scheduled for October 9, 2021.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the council, Council President Miles adjourned the meeting. The next regular council meeting was scheduled for October 5, 2021. These minutes were approved as presented by City Council on October 5, 2021.



Joe Benetti, Mayor

Attest: Nichole Rutherford
Nichole Rutherford, City Recorder