

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

October 26, 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 the City Hall Council Chambers, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Lucinda DiNovo, Drew Farmer, Stephanie Kilmer, Rob Miles, and Sara Stephens. Councilor Carmen Matthews attended remotely by teleconference. City staff present were City Manager Rodger Craddock, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Nichole Rutherford, Deputy Finance Director Melissa Olson, Deputy Public Works and Community Development Director/City Engineer Jennifer Wirsing, Police Captain Tom Lindahl, Water Quality Administrator/Engineer II Stephan Stys, Water Quality Environmental Specialist Rishia Mitchell, and Water Quality Collections/Maintenance Supervisor Shelby Cook.

Flag Salute

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

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Public Comment Form

No public comment forms were received.

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

Discussion Regarding FOG Policy and Draft Ordinance

Water Quality Administrator/Engineer II Stephan Stys stated the City of Coos Bay's Water Quality division was continuously looking for ways to improve the city's collection system and treatment operations. One large improvement identified was to reduce the quantity of fat, oil, and grease (FOG) entering the sewer system. A large portion of the FOG in the sewer system was contributed by food establishments and manufacturing. Because of this, many municipalities had enacted FOG ordinances which focused on working with these industries to reduce the quantity of FOG they discharged into the system. This was a mutually beneficial practice as it not only protected the City's sewer infrastructure but also helps protect the establishment's sewer lines. To pursue the reduction of FOG in the city's sewer system, city staff, with the help of Littell Consultancy Group LLC who specialized in environmental compliance, drafted a FOG ordinance which focused on reducing the quantity of FOG entering the system. Reducing FOG was the main goal of the ordinance, but there had also been a substantial effort focused on trying to minimize the financial or administrative burden to these industries potentially associated with a FOG ordinance. In November of 2020, the initial draft of the FOG ordinance was presented to City Council. Council was in favor of implementing a FOG ordinance but wanted a slower rollout to make adoption of new requirements easier for businesses to adjust to. Staff decided going with a phased approach

would be best. To do this efficiently, it was decided to continue with finalizing the complete FOG ordinance, but would also be a FOG policy drafted which would take select elements from the ordinance which will be the easiest for businesses to implement. Water Quality Environmental Specialist Rishia Mitchell presented the FOG ordinance and policy overview which included the benefits of grease interceptors, strategies for implementation, schedule overview, and proposed policy implementation. Susanna Littell of Littell Consultancy Group LLC was available for Council questions remotely by teleconference. Council requested multiple public meeting dates for the local restaurant owners and waste haulers. Mr. Stys stated it was expected to take one year to know if Strategy 1 implementation was effective and could decide at that time if remaining two strategies needed to be put into place. Water Quality Collections/Maintenance Supervisor Shelby Cook stated the most recent FOG backup issue took three employees one hour to resolve along with additional administrative time. Council discussion ensued. Council felt the burden was heavy on City staff to collect the data from the various businesses, wished to incorporate FOG criteria requirements with the business license yearly renewals, stated it would be better to have waste haulers maintain paperwork and report to the City, wished to proceed with a combined Strategy 1 and 2 immediately, along with requiring waste hauling, asked staff to look at an incentive program to bring all businesses to the same level at onset of the FOG policy, and suggested including a public education campaign as well.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting. The next regular council meeting was scheduled for November 2, 2021 in the council chambers at city hall. These minutes were approved as presented by City Council on November 2, 2021.



Joe Benetti, Mayor



Attest: _____
Nichole Rutherford, City Recorder