

# **MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**February 4, 2020**

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 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

## **Those Attending**

Those present were Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Stephanie Kilmer, Phil Marler, and Rob Miles. Councilors Lucinda DiNovo, Drew Farmer, and Carmen Matthews were absent. City staff present were City Manager Rodger Craddock, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Finance Director Nichole Rutherford, Deputy Finance Director Melissa Olson, Library Director Sami Pierson, Deputy Library Director Christina Coffman, Public Works and Community Development Director Jim Hossley, Fire Chief Mark Anderson, Fire Battalion Chief Jeff Adkins, Police Chief Gary McCullough, and Deputy Police Chief Chris Chapanar.

## **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 given.

## **Report by Marshfield High School Key Club Members**

Marshfield High School (MHS) Key Club representatives Emerald Russell, Zachariah Sahli, and Lucero Santana summarized upcoming Key Club activities, shared various ongoing fundraising activities and achievements by various MHS clubs, committees, and athletic teams.

## **Presentation of the Coos Bay Downtown Association's Semi-Annual Report**

Semi-annual reports were a required component of the management agreement with the Coos Bay Downtown Association (CBDA). This was the last year for the current agreement which would expire June 30, 2020, but a new successor agreement was being crafted for council's consideration at an upcoming meeting. Main Street Manager Holly Boardman introduced the board members and reviewed events from 2019: annual meeting January 17, promotion of OSAA 3A basketball state championship OSAA held February 28-March 2, Maritime Legacy Days May 1-May 5, Farmers Market's 19th season held May 1-October 30 with an average of 90 vendors per week and 2,500 consumer attendance per week. The Organization Committee had 30% increase in membership had hosted the Oregon Main Street Network meeting June 27-June 28, worked on a policy and procedures manual, and applied for and received a Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant for \$200,000 for the Bugge Bank Building. The Promotions Committee assisted in the various events such as OSAA 3A Basketball Tournament, Treasure Hunt, Farmers Market, Blackberry Arts Festival,

Bay Area Fun Festival and parade, and Trick or Treat. The Design Committee displayed and hung seasonal banners, updated Wayfinding signs quarterly, flower baskets installed in May, and assisted with Storm Drain Mural and Bike Rack Projects. The Economic Vitality Committee applied for and received a Travel Oregon Grant for \$20,000 for an Economic Vitality Plan for downtown, and was working on a survey of downtown businesses to assess assistance needs. Mayor Benetti thanked the CBDA for all their efforts.

### **Semi-Annual Report on the Coos Bay/North Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau**

The cities of Coos Bay and North Bend, and the Coquille Indian Tribe created an intergovernmental entity, the Coos Bay/North Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) in 2010. The VCB is solely funded through Lodging Occupancy Tax collected by Coos Bay, North Bend, and the Coquille Indian Tribe. The VCB engages in activities designed to promote events and attractions in the Coos Bay and North Bend geographic area so as to attract tourists and foster an important component of the local economy. When possible, they work to coordinate their efforts with others in the area to achieve maximum return on monies expended for tourism promotion from all sources to promote Reedsport to Bandon as a destination area.

The VCB provides quarterly reports to the council detailing the activities of the VCB, the events and attractions which have been promoted by the VCB, and the funds spent to date. VCB Director Janice Langlinais stated the VCB is responsible for the promotion, advertising, and marketing of the area to existing and potential travelers to increase overnight visitation year-round, utilizing print, digital, and broadcast advertising, social media, trade shows, familiarization tours, public and media relations, promotions, and more. Ms. Langlinais presented sample advertising, campaigns, and promotions. Ms. Langlinais stated in 2018 visitor spending in Coos, Curry and Coastal Douglas Counties was \$405,800,000, up 2.35% from 2017, with approximately 1,460,000 overnight visitors spending on average \$111 per day on the South Coast. In comparison, visitors spent \$785,400,000 in the Central Coast an average of \$143 per day, and visitors spent \$12,300,000,000 in Oregon spending on average \$172 per day.

The Visitor Information Center (VIC) had 22,343 visitors in 2019, sold \$15,082 in merchandise, had a new reader board installed, and 21 volunteers worked 3,255 volunteer hours staffing the VIC. The VCB was also supporting House Bill 4047 for continuation of the 1.8% state lodging tax, which was scheduled to sunset to 1.5%.

### **Acceptance of 2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program Award and Public Hearing for Adoption of Supplemental Budget for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year - Approval Would Require Adoption of Resolution #20-03**

Fire Chief Mark Anderson stated the Coos Bay Fire and Police Departments would like to utilize State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) funds to purchase two small drones and train nine remote pilots to operate the small unmanned aircraft system (UAS). The grant would be shared through inter-agency cooperation with the City of North Bend to provide a comprehensive drone program for the Coos Bay, Empire, and North Bend areas. This technology would be used for aerial imaging and reconnaissance with applications such as suspect pursuits, search and rescue missions, active shooter scenes, evaluation of fire conditions, and post disaster assessment. Staff recommended council accept the 2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program award of \$10,700 for the purchase of two drones

and training of nine small UAS pilots and adopt Resolution 20-03 for a supplemental budget.

Mayor Benetti opened the public hearing. No comments were made and the public hearing was closed.

Councilor Kilmer moved to accept the 2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program award of \$10,700 for the purchase of two drones and training of nine small UAS pilots and adopt Resolution 20-03 for a supplemental budget. Councilor Marler seconded the motion which carried. Ayes: Benetti, Kilmer, Marler, Miles. Absent: DiNovo, Farmer, Matthews.

### **Construction Management of Safe Routes To School Project**

Public Works and Community Development Director Jim Hossley stated the city was successful in obtaining a Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) grant for \$2,000,000 to put in sidewalks in Eastside through the Safe Routes to School grant program. The city obtained the services of Civil West Engineering to design the Safe Routes To School project. Design was completed, reviewed and approved by ODOT, and the city was ready to move forward with the bidding process in February with construction in the summer of 2020. Civil West Engineering provided scope and fees to assist the city with construction management through project completion.

Councilor Miles moved to award the contract to Civil West Engineering for construction management and inspection services, and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract with Civil West Engineering for a fee of \$135,000 plus a 5% contingency for a total expenditure not to exceed \$141,750. Councilor Kilmer seconded the motion which carried. Ayes: Benetti, Kilmer, Marler, Miles. Absent: DiNovo, Farmer, Matthews.

### **Approval to Place Library Bond Measure on the May 2021 Ballot**

Library Director Sami Pierson presented the continued structural problems (lateral failure, fire alarm failure, roof leaks) and stated in February 2014 major foundation issues were discovered in the current library building. Due to the cost of repairs, the age of the facility and other facility deficiencies, the council chose to pursue building a new facility instead of repairing the current location which could cause a library closure for at least one year at an estimated cost of \$6,300,000. The 2020 cost was now estimated at \$8,100,000. In September 2014, a Library Steering Committee was created, consisting of representatives from the Library Foundation, Friends of the Library, city staff, and city council members. In 2015, the library created a three-year strategic plan to identify current and future services which included a goal of obtaining a new facility. In April 2015, the Urban Renewal Agency (URA) contracted with Hacker Architects to conduct a needs assessment for a new facility. The final needs assessment was presented in September 2016. It included square footage necessary, some space planning, and cost estimates.

Land located on Ocean Blvd for the new library was purchased in 2018 by the URA. This piece of property is large enough for the building and parking, all of which are out of the flood and tsunami zones, and won't require extensive geotechnical stabilization. In May 2019, the Library Steering Committee recommended contracting with Cascadia Consulting Partnership to conduct a funding feasibility study regarding the identified need for a new library facility. The feasibility study explored community support potential including local donations, foundation and governmental grants, and a general obligation bond (GO Bond). Live interviews, an online pulse survey, and a telephone survey were conducted. The main question the survey study needed to answer was if it was feasible for the community of Coos

Bay to secure \$18,600,000 for construction of a new library within the next five years. According to the study, it was feasible through a combination of funding options of possible grant funding between \$583,000 and \$3,360,000, local donations of \$500,000, and a GO Bond estimated at \$16,900,000 for the remaining amount. Roughly 62% of respondents (418 telephone and 1,200 online) were in support of the bond measure. Before the bond is placed on a ballot there would need to be a robust outreach and educational program which would include why a new facility was needed, what new services would be provided, and how it will impact the community; as well as, applying for available grants and conducting local/private fundraising.

The consultant recommended placing it on the ballot for the November 2020 election. The library steering committee supported this recommendation. Council discussed concerns with the November 2020 and preferred the May 2021 ballot. Possible federal grants if library was also a disaster services building and would need to be out of floodplain and tsunami zone which library is currently in. Mayor Benetti stated when discussed at the January 28, 2020 work session, the councilors present were in favor of May 2021; though, there was some concern when the funds would be available. The steering committee had not met to discuss the May 2021 date versus November 2020, but those present were in favor as well.

Councilor Kilmer moved to approve the submission of library bond measure on the May 2021 ballot. Councilor Miles seconded the motion which carried. Ayes: Benetti, Kilmer, Marler, Miles. Absent: DiNovo, Farmer, Matthews.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Rodger Craddock stated Scott Frasier had shared concerns of the bus routes in Eastside and erosion of roads at the January 21, 2020 council meeting. The bus routes are now different, the roads on the current route were not wide enough and not constructed for such traffic, and believed the best course of action was to have traffic engineer determine the best route to take. Additionally, Coos Bay School District was moving forward with the construction of the second school, the asbestos abatement of the Harding building should be completed by February 7, 2020, and would be going out for bid to tear down the building. The Harding building parking lot was currently used by students due to parking conflicts in the neighborhood, and the city was looking at temporary parking options for the students during construction. The street improvement projects upcoming for spring 2020 were: Koosbay Boulevard (Teakwood Avenue to Yew Avenue), Minnesota Avenue (Southwest Boulevard to S 14th Street), Donnelly Avenue (6th Street to 7th Street), Safe Routes to School sidewalks, S 4th Street, Prefontaine Drive (Fulton Avenue to Nautical Lane), Kentucky Avenue (S Morrison Street to Zanna Place), and many more potholes. Student Resource Officer Tim West graduated from D.A.R.E. school. Enhanced Safety Belt Enforcement was scheduled for February 3-16, 2020. The Coos Bay Public Library would be closed February 7 for in-service training. Mr. Craddock suggested the February 11, 2020 council work session be delayed to 6:00 pm for council to attend the Coastal Diagnostic Testing Group 10th anniversary celebration at 1957 Thompson Road. The budget committee meeting was scheduled for April 14, 2020 with April 16, 2020 if needed. Budget committee applicant interviews would be held before next regular council meeting.

### **Council Comments**

Councilor Marler stated the school bond oversight committee met and the entire project was on schedule and under budget, with the Coos Bay School District (CBSD) expecting to

complete Eastside Elementary school the first week of July and will spend until the middle of August moving in furniture and equipment to be ready for the school year. The Harding building demolition bids would be opened mid-February, with asbestos abatement completed by February 7, 2020. There would be a farewell open house for the Harding building. The CBSD was struggling with how to deal with traffic issues and impact around the area. Councilor Miles stated the Boys and Girls Club partnered with the Smart Reading Program and were hosting World Read Aloud Day on February 5, 2020 at the Boys and Girls Club. Mayor Benetti stated the downtown wine walk would begin again on February 7, 2020; Charleston crab feed was on February 8, 2020; Empire Business After Hours was scheduled for March 26, 2020; and the front page of Coos Watershed Association had the native plant nursery advertised to review if interested. Mayor Benetti also stated the City of Coos Bay was recently incorrectly reported as rated as number one dangerous city. Thirty-three cities participated out of forty-nine. The survey was 2017 data, from Oregon cities with over 10,000 population, and survey was conducted by an alarm company.

### **Executive Session**

Deputy Finance Director Melissa Olson read the executive session meeting disclosure statement. An executive session was held pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 192.660 (2) (d) for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations. No decisions were made.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting. The next regular council meeting was scheduled for February 18, 2020 in the council chambers at city hall.



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Joe Benetti, Mayor

Attest: Nichole Rutherford  
Nichole Rutherford, City Recorder