

# MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

October 20, 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 Council Chambers, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

## **Those Attending**

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

## **Flag Salute**

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

## **Public Comments**

KT Prince, Coos Bay stated concern for the streets due to the construction in Eastside and had concern for driver safety stating had not seen city administrators, signage, or flagging on construction site.

## **Public Comment Form**

No public comment forms were received.

## **Consent Calendar**

Mayor Benetti reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of:

- 3a: Approval of October 6, 2020 Minutes
- 3b: Acceptance of September 2020 Check Registers
- 3c: Acceptance of September 2020 Financial Reports

Councilor Miles moved to approve consent calendar as presented. Councilor Farmer seconded the motion which carried. Ayes: Benetti, Farmer, Kilmer, Marler, Matthews, Miles. Absent: DiNovo.

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

The Coos Bay/North Bend Visitor Convention Bureau 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 was 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. Sample advertising, campaigns, and promotions were presented.

Ms. Langlinais stated in 2019 visitor spending in Coos, Curry and Coastal Douglas Counties was \$277,300,000, up 4% from 2018, with approximately 1,080,000 overnight visitors spending on average \$112 per day on the South Coast with outdoor recreation, fishing, events, gaming, and dining as top draws. In comparison, 2020 travel spending in the United States predicted to drop 45%, from \$1.13 trillion to \$622 billion and loss of eight million travel industry supported jobs. However, there was almost twice as many who traveled over July 4th than Memorial weekend. Tourism research found perceived safe travel was outdoor (non-team) activities, RV and personal vehicle travel within a few hours from home, but business travel, air travel, and cruises were perceived as not safe. The research also found travelers would go to destinations within a few hours' drive to small, mostly undiscovered destinations with fewer visitors, outdoor recreation, space to spread out, and commitment to safety of travelers and residents.

The VCB had a 20% loss of funding in 2020 and had reduced total advertising and marketing budget for 2021 after four years of growth. In March 2020 all advertising was put on hold, May 2020 created new ads for Phase II opening with new ads in June and July 2020 while being conscious of language, imagery, and call to action. Also working on a holiday lights promotion encouraging businesses and residents to decorate for a light tour. The VCB was also supporting Coos County Lodging Tax Ballot Measure 6-185 to institute a 9.5% lodging tax in Charleston to match Coos Bay, North Bend, and Coquille Tribe. The ballot measure had to go to a vote of all Coos County residents. State law required 70% of lodging tax funds instituted after 2003 to be spent on tourism facilities and tourism promotion; 70% of the funds would be used for a new Visitor Information Center in Charleston and participation in the VCB and 30% of the funds to stay with the county for code and law enforcement.

### **Public Hearing to Consider a Proposed Solid Waste Franchise Rate Adjustment - Approval Would Require Adoption of Resolution 20-26**

City Manager Rodger Craddock stated most Oregon cities license or franchise private companies to collect garbage and other solid waste from residences and commercial buildings and transport it to an approved sanitary landfill or incinerator. Cities have a clear and historic role in the approval of franchises. These franchises tend to be exclusive, at least in practical effect, to avoid duplication of service and excess truck traffic; and to meet a city's typical requirement that the franchised hauler offer service to everyone who wants it within a defined service area. City franchises typically limit the rates charged by franchised haulers to their customers in exchange for allowing the hauler both a unique service area and a certain rate of return similar to the state's role in regulating other private utility providers.

Recently, staff received a formal request from Coos Bay Sanitary and Les' Sanitary Services for a residential and commercial rate increase equal to 75% of last year's (2019) Consumer Price Index (CPI) which equated to a 1.90% rate increase. If approved, the adjustment would result in a \$0.43 per month increase for a basic 35-gallon residential cart service which included recycling. The proposed rate increase, if approved by the Council, would take effect on or after November 1, 2020.

Section 8.02.100 of the franchise agreement entitled "Rate Regulations" requires the City Council to hold a public hearing before ruling upon the request. Mayor Benetti opened the public hearing, no public comments were made. The hearing was closed.

Councilor Kilmer moved to adopt Resolution 20-26 approving an adjustment in collection rates for the solid waste collection franchise holders. Councilor Marler seconded the motion which carried. Ayes: Benetti, Farmer, Kilmer, Marler, Matthews, Miles. Absent: DiNovo.

**Public Hearing for Adoption of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Supplemental Budget - Would Require Adoption of Resolution 20-27**

Finance Director Nichole Rutherford stated it was anticipated during the fiscal year that several supplemental budgets would be brought forward to council for consideration to adjust the budget based upon operational needs. Reasons for a supplemental budget include appropriating grant funding not included in the budget, appropriating additional carryover balance from the prior fiscal year that was more than budgeted and is needed to meet operational needs, reallocating funds within categories, and appropriating new unexpected revenues.

The City of Coos Bay has complied with the provisions of ORS 294.471 and 294.473 by publishing a notice at least five days before the meeting date that a public hearing would be held to discuss a supplemental budget at the upcoming council meeting, holding the public hearing and accept public comments regarding the supplemental budget, and adopting a resolution that states the need, purpose, and amount of the appropriations included in the supplemental budget. This supplemental budget contained changes to appropriations in several of the City's funds, mostly due to additional carryover than originally anticipated during the 2020-2021 budget process. Several funds also received CARES federal other financial assistance awards, and some funds have received unanticipated grant funds. Each of these unanticipated resources require a supplemental budget process to appropriate these funds.

Mayor Benetti opened the public hearing, no public comments were made. The hearing was closed.

Councilor Farmer moved to adopt Resolution 20-27 to approve a supplemental budget. Councilor Marler seconded the motion which carried. Ayes: Benetti, Farmer, Kilmer, Marler, Matthews, Miles. Absent: DiNovo.

**City Manager's Report**

City Manager Rodger Craddock stated the history museum had been open five years and was celebrating Coos History 2020; the Urban Renewal Agency had talked about a possible urban renewal zone to incentivize housing, a large amount of undeveloped property in Eastside which fell within the current urban renewal zone zoned for low density residential, but wanted to reach out to the International Port of Coos Bay, who owned the property, for a proposal to undertake master planning; the Eastside traffic impact analysis was hampered by COVID-19, but should be completed soon; the former Englewood school site was still in the environmental review process, had to go through the entire Federal review, once completed will go through contracting process to get the lot cleaned up, and had first meeting with Oregon Coast Community Action (ORCCA) on October 21, 2020 to discuss the future development of the site; and for Coos Bay Village development waiting on Front Street to get finished, the intersection design was approved, and had agreement for responsibilities with all the parties, intersection work to begin 2021, and no additional buildings would be opened until the traffic light was installed.

## **Council Comments**

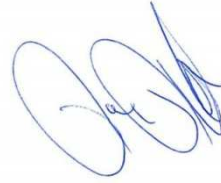
Councilor Farmer stated League of Oregon Cities (LOC) conference was held online which he and Mr. Craddock presented on Coos Bay's creative housing solution strategies; Medford spoke about homeless shelter solutions they developed and he wanted to contact Medford for information on their model. Councilor Matthews stated he was excited for the intersection light completion; his warehouse was on the corner of Bennett and 5<sup>th</sup> Street close to 4th Street construction and concerned with 5th Street roadbed due to drainage; lending library was installed in Mingus Park; and reminded everyone to vote. Councilor Marler stated did not understand the detour for the construction in Eastside; asked to look into how long construction was taking; and was happy with progress on 4th Street. Councilor Kilmer stated businesses were asked to participate in Light Up Downtown for the holidays; Coos Bay Downtown Association was working on COVID safe holiday activities; Backpack for Kids donation at Bi-Marts was scheduled for October 24, 2020; commended Mr. Farmer and Mr. Craddock for presentation at LOC; asked for update on Methodist Church parking lot homeless camp; and wished to reinstate the homeless workgroup meetings. Mr. Craddock stated three tents were seen which were four individuals not previously requested to leave due to their situations, and the church was advised to go through needed permitting process and follow the ordinance. Councilor Miles stated the Community Coalition of Empire had a new website and their next meeting was scheduled for November 19, 2020; the Empire tree lighting was scheduled to be filmed and posted online on December 4, 2020 and the Fire Department will drive around the Empire neighborhoods to give out gifts with Santa; also attended LOC and agreed the City's presentation was; and wanted to further discuss the opportunities Medford had taken advantage of. Mayor Benetti noted he also attended LOC Conference and Mr. Farmer and Mr. Craddock did excellent job presenting; Medford had innovative ideas to look into for housing the homeless; fully supported the Homeless Workgroup reconvening; was happy to have and see Community Resource Officer out within the community; Farmer's Market was open for two more weeks, and was pleased seeing Downtown Association, Empire Coalition, and VCB being creative during these difficult times.

## **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) (e) for the purpose of discussing real property transactions. 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 November 3, 2020 in the council chambers at city hall. These minutes were approved as presented by City Council on November 3, 2020.



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Joe Benetti, Mayor

*Nichole Rutherford*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichole Rutherford, City Recorder