

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 22, 2022

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 Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Lucinda DiNovo, Drew Farmer, Stephanie Kilmer, and Rob Miles. Councilor Carmen Matthews attended remotely by teleconference. Councilor Sara Stephens was absent. City staff present were Assistant City Manager Nichole Rutherford, Finance Director Melissa Olson, Public Works and Community Development Director Jim Hossley, Fire Chief Mark Anderson, and Police Chief Chris Chapanar. City staff attending remotely by teleconference was Deputy Library Director Christina Coffman.

Flag Salute

Mayor Benetti 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

No public comment forms were received.

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

Presentation by Coquille Indian Tribe Board Chair Brenda Meade

Brenda Meade, Coquille Indian Tribe Board Chair, presented an update on the Tribe's work on the Coquille River to address the fall chinook salmon crisis and Tribe's efforts to develop natural resources partnerships supporting local economies in southwestern Oregon. Ms. Meade stated there were 30,000 returning adult Chinook in 2010, 275 in 2019. Factors in the crisis were invasive bass, hungry seals, water quality and temperature, lower hatchery production, and less habitat. Partnership with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) helped removed 5,000 invasive species with over 500 hours collecting brood stock. Next steps for 2022 were resume electrofishing for bass, buy needed equipment, deploy volunteers, identify acclimation sites, and promote community awareness. Plans for fall of 2022 was to collect wild brood stock, collect hatchery brood stock, support habitat restoration, and hire and train staff. Also working on a watershed co-management agreement with the State of Oregon; the five-county service area was Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, and Lane. Also a proposed agreement with Coos County which involved approximately 51,000 acres including the portion of Coos Bay Wagon Road Lands within both Coos County and the Coquille River Watershed. Ms. Meade requested a letter of support from the City of Coos Bay and potential partnership. Council thanked the Tribe for their work and looked forward to working with the Tribe more in the future.

Discussion Regarding Amending Coos Bay Municipal Code Related to Vehicle for Hire Businesses

Police Chief Chris Chapanar stated the City of Coos Bay currently has a taxi cab ordinance that regulates how taxi cab companies and drivers of taxi cabs operate within the City of Coos Bay. In an effort to keep up with modern times, the consideration of a new ordinance was proposed. The draft ordinance takes into consideration taxi cab businesses, as well as, some of the newer businesses such as Uber and defines them under the title "Vehicle for Hire." The draft ordinance provided a comprehensive list of definitions to many of the names and titles used through the vehicle for hire industry and places requirements on both the owner of the company, as well as, requirements for the drivers of said vehicles. There were insurance requirements to protect the owner, drivers, as well as, the general public. The draft ordinance required a background check be done on all drivers to ensure the safety of the public at large, a business license to operate within the City of Coos Bay, and it regulated the number of vehicles one could "store" in a residential neighborhood. If this draft ordinance was agreed upon by the Coos Bay City Council, it would replace Coos Bay's existing Taxi Regulation Code Section 5.30 and go into effect thirty days from the day it was adopted. Chief Chapanar stated the draft ordinance was worked on along with City of North Bend. Staff intended to bring the ordinance to the April 5, 2022 Council meeting with recommendation for enacting the proposed ordinance.

Council discussion ensued and asked to have the local taxi cab companies notified as it could have an economic impact.

Assistant City Manager Report

Assistant City Manager Nichole Rutherford stated Redfish Rocks requested to be on the City Council Agenda to make a presentation, non City related items requires approval from the Council as a whole, and would get clarification from City Attorney Nate McClintock if it was unanimous or majority. Mayor Benetti requested an email go out to Council to respond if they each agreed to add to the next Council work session.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting. The next regular council meeting was scheduled for April 5, 2022. These minutes were approved as presented by City Council on April 5, 2022.



Joe Benetti, Mayor

Attest:



Nichole Rutherford, City Recorder