

# MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

September 6, 2022

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 Lucinda DiNovo, Stephanie Kilmer, Carmen Matthews, Rob Miles, and Sara Stephens. Councilor Drew Farmer was absent. City staff present were City Manager Rodger Craddock, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Assistant City Manager Nichole Rutherford, Finance Director Melissa Olson, Public Works and Community Development Director Jim Hossley, Deputy Public Works and Community Development Director/City Engineer Jennifer Wirsing, Fire Chief Mark Anderson, Police Chief Chris Chapanar, and 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**

No public comments were made.

## **Public Comment Form**

No public comment forms were received.

## **Consent Calendar**

Mayor Benetti reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of:

- 3a: Acceptance of 2021 FEMA Grant for Thermal Imaging Equipment for the Fire Department

The Coos Bay Fire Department would like to utilize FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant funding for the replacement of thermal imaging equipment for the fire department.

- 3b: Acceptance of Community Summer Grant Program

Coos Bay Public Library applied for and received \$19,850 grant through the Oregon Summer Grant Program administered by Oregon Association of Education Service Districts. The focus of the grant was to increase summer enrichment that provided more learning opportunities for students. The library was using the money to provide books to create personal libraries, family passes for youth and families at the Coos History Museum and to host a free event for youth and families at the Egyptian Theatre.

- 3c: Consideration to Adopt Resolution 22-25 Appropriating Grant Funds

The City of Coos Bay was recently awarded two grants: Library Community

Summer \$19,850 grant and Fire Department 2021 FEMA \$32,381 grant.

3d: Approval of North Bend City Council Appointment to Coos Library Board

On May 4, 2022, the North Bend City Council approved the reappointment of Carol Ventgen to serve another four year term on the Coos County Library Service District Advisory Board (CLB). This position is one the two that is filled by a person from North Bend. North Bend and Coos Bay are required to approve each other's nominations to the CLB.

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

**Approval of a National Preparedness Month Proclamation**

Fire Chief Mark Anderson stated over the past five years, 10,000 wildfires have burned more than 2.5 million acres, and forced several thousand Oregonians to evacuate their homes. This year's wildfire season was far from over which meant the time to prepare was now. The Oregon Division of Financial Regulations invited everyone to join their efforts to help Oregonians to protect their property and recover from disaster by declaring the first week of September as Home Inventory Week and the month of September as National Preparedness Month. Items suggested are to create a home inventory, review insurance coverage, build an emergency kit, and plan an escape route. Chief Anderson read the National Preparedness Month Proclamation.

Councilor Kilmer moved to approve the proclamation declaring September 2022 National Preparedness Month. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion which carried. Ayes: Benetti, DiNovo, Kilmer, Matthews, Miles, Stephens. Absent: Farmer.

**Public Hearing to Consider Approval of Amendment to the Towing of Illegal Vehicle Ordinance - Approval Would Require Enactment of Ordinance**

Police Chief Chris Chapanar stated over the past month, staff had been reviewing municipal code chapter 10.40. During review, staff determined the follow revision to section 10.40.030: Section 1: Coos Bay Municipal Code Section 10.40.030 (1) Towing After Notice was hereby amended to read as follows:

(1) When a vehicle which has been previously tagged for tow as an abandoned or unlawful vehicle is found in the same condition as described in CBMC 10.40.110 on which the intent-to-tow notice was affixed to the vehicle, within 30 days of the original notice, an officer shall post a 24-hour sticker of intent-to-tow on the vehicle. If the vehicle is not removed from the public right-of-way or found on the public right-of-way in the same condition after the 24 hours, the vehicle shall be towed without further notice by the chief of police, or his designee.

This amended language would provide a secondary notice to the owner of the vehicle as a fail-safe to ensure city staff has provided numerous notifications to vehicle owners prior to the removal of a vehicle from a city street or right-of-way.

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

Councilor DiNovo moved to enact the ordinance amending Coos Bay Municipal Code Section 10.40 Towing of Illegal Vehicles. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion. Finance Director Melissa Olson read the ordinance by title only, "An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 241, previously amended by Ordinances No. 410, 520, and 546, providing for the towing of certain illegal vehicles and providing a penalty therefor." and Ordinance 561 was enacted by the following vote:

Ayes: Benetti, DiNovo, Kilmer, Matthews, Miles, Stephens.

Nays: None.

Absent: Farmer.

### **Consideration for Support of Utility Box Art Wraps Agreement and Project Funding with Community Coalition of Empire**

Assistant City Manager Nichole Rutherford stated the Community Coalition of Empire (CCE) contacted city staff with interest to undertake an art project in the Empire area similar to the art project underway in the downtown area. The city had previously partnered with the Coos Bay Downtown Association (CBDA), and in coordination with Pacific Power, to undergo a utility box art wrap project. The first phase of that project was complete and the second phase was currently underway. The addition of art wraps on the electric utility boxes in downtown has made a marked improvement in the visual appearance and feel of the downtown area. Partnering with CCE was expected to have a similar effect in the Empire area, with focus on covering all of the utility boxes the city owns.

Councilor Matthews moved to approve the Utility Box Art Wrap Project agreement with the Community Coalition of Empire and provide funding of up to \$1,500 to support the project. Councilor Kilmer seconded the motion which carried. Ayes: Benetti, DiNovo, Kilmer, Matthews, Miles, Stephens. Absent: Farmer.

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

Assistant City Manager Nichole Rutherford stated Blackberry Arts Festival was completed, Boardwalk cleanup event was scheduled for September 10, 2022; working with CCD to partner on grant administration providing grant writing support for Front Street and the Boardwalk; LGOC annual conference designate a delegate for voting rights scheduled for October 5-7, 2022 with Council consensus for Rodger Craddock or Nichole Rutherford as the delegate and alternate delegate; Coos Watershed Team was working with staff on the Parrots Feather eradication options; initial plans to move forward with a Empire Master Plan request for qualifications with a scope committee including Councilor DiNovo, Councilor Stephens, and Mayor Benetti; a draft of the VCB updated agreement was provided to the Council for review; TLT collection for the city would be moved to the state by January 1, 2023; analytical reports were provided to Council from new platform for Friday Update which was getting more information out to the community; and on the newspaper front page was story regarding Habitat for Humanity building a duplex on property the Council cleaned up and donated.

### **Council Comments**

Councilor Stephens stated the Coos Art Museum was looking for new Art Director, Bay Area Beautification group has done a great job, and was appreciative of receiving emails with

solutions and ideas. Councilor Kilmer stated there were posters for the Bay Area Fun Festival and the Mill's Salmon Celebration was coming up. Councilor Miles asked if the CCD grant project was limited to one project, stated the pre kids run was scheduled for September 18, 2022, and gave a Coos Bay Public Library user report. Assistant City Manager Nichole Rutherford stated CCD had \$10,000 in grant funds for available work. Councilor DiNovo stated 17th annual salmon celebration was scheduled for Sept 10-11, 2022. Councilor Matthews thanked Councilor Miles for the library report, thanked the Coos Bay Downtown Association for the Blackberry Festival, and gave a Water Board update. Mayor Benetti thanked all the volunteers for all the cleanup done, enjoyed the Blackberry Arts Festival, and an artist reached out with interest in a mural if anyone had ideas for any available area.

### **Executive Session**

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) (h) for the purpose of discussing current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting. The next regular council meeting was scheduled for September 20, 2022. These minutes were approved as presented by City Council on October 4, 2022.



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Joe Benetti, Mayor

Attest: Nichole Rutherford  
Nichole Rutherford, City Recorder