

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

December 27, 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 and Stephanie Kilmer. Councilors Carmen Matthews, Rob Miles, and Sara Stephens attended remotely by teleconference. Councilor Drew Farmer was absent. City staff present were City Manager Rodger Craddock, Assistant City Manager Nichole Rutherford, Finance Director Melissa Olson, Deputy Public Works and Community Development Director/City Engineer Jennifer Wirsing, Police Chief Chris Chapanar, and Police Captain Tom Lindahl. 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:

Discussion Regarding Request of Funding for the Reconfiguration and Remodel of 911 Dispatch Center

Police Chief Chris Chapanar stated prior to January 1, 2021, the North Coos 911 Dispatch Center (Center), a primary public safety answering point, had a total staff of ten dispatchers and three console units used to receive and dispatch calls for service. During this period, the Center was providing emergency dispatch services for the Coos Bay community, including police and fire, as well as contracted dispatch services for the City of Coquille (police, fire and ambulance), Coquille Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribe of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. Though the Center had been remodeled previously about a decade ago and that remodel included the addition of a bathroom facility, the overall square footage of the space was limiting adding additional consoles and extremely tight for fluid movement throughout the space. Starting January 1, 2021, the Center began dispatching services for the City of North Bend (police and fire), adding three additional staff members and one additional console. This was done by utilizing the existing space but limited the additional console accessibility and configuration. Though these additions assisted with the provision of emergency dispatching services, the Center space continues to be a concern for staff. A dispatcher's job is high energy and stress and involves constantly monitoring six monitors with detailed data sets, all while conversing in a professional and calm manner with those experiencing trauma and needing assistance. The consoles provide for movement from a

seated to a standing position, as well as, telescoping further and closer to the dispatcher, creating a myriad of options to comfortably as possible accommodate the dispatcher's 12-hour shift. The fourth dispatch space added in the Center did not include a fully functional console, as the space would not allow for it.

Additionally, it was the belief of the management team there was strong possibility other entities may transition to the North Coos 911 Dispatch Center in the coming years, as several have already expressed sincere interest. Should that occur, the Center would not have capacity to add additional staff necessary to adequately provide the level of service required. With this possibility, this could result in the addition of up to five additional staff members and two more consoles, absolutely requiring more square footage. Staff initially believed that the limited Center space might be resolved by the transition of the Center into a shared facility with the Library. However, with the recent response from voters, the option does not seem feasible in the near future. Even if the potential for additional entities contracting with the North Coos 911 Dispatch Center for emergency dispatch services doesn't come to fruition, the current staff would greatly benefit from additional space, providing them an appropriate work environment to undertake one of the most important jobs city staff is tasked with. Chief Chapanar proposed reconfiguration and remodel within the Police Department, focused on the Center, which would increase the space to comfortably accommodate the current four consoles, plus the ability to add up to two more consoles. The proposal also included the purchase of new consoles, as the current consoles were approximately fifteen years old. The consoles are what make the 12-hour shifts manageable, with the ability to hold the six monitors and move in several configurations to accommodate individual dispatch workspace configurations. Estimates for the complete proposed project was expected not to exceed \$250,000 with funding from the Downtown Capital Improvement Fund. Should the project exceed the estimated \$250,000, the additional funds would come from the 911 Tax Fund.

Council discussion ensued; consensus for support of the proposed reconfiguration and remodel of the 911 Dispatch Center with continued pursuit of moving to a shared facility with the Library in the future.

Discussion Regarding Council Meeting Start Time

Mayor Benetti stated at the December 6, 2022 Council meeting, both Councilor Stephens and Councilor Matthews shared interest for further discussion regarding the start time for Council meetings. Background regarding the Council meeting dates and times, work sessions meetings, and Council rules were provided. Council discussion ensued; consensus to engage the public regarding preference of a 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. start time for regular Council meetings and to come back before Council at the January 17, 2023 Council meeting along with discussing changing the Council rules from a 10:00 p.m. end time to three hours from the start of the meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting. The next regular council meeting was scheduled for January 3, 2023.