

**CITY OF COQUILLE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
December 6, 2010**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mayor Steve Britton, Councilors E.N. “Corky” Daniels, Loran Wiese, Matt Muenchrath, Bruce Parker, Linda Short, and Fran Capehart.

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Terence O’Connor, Public Works Director John Higgins, Finance Director Chuck Dufner, Police Chief Dannels, Fire Chief Dave Waddington, City Attorney John Trew and Deputy Recorder Rene Collins.

**PRESS:** The World

**AUDIENCE:** A roster of those present is on file in the City Recorder’s Office

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Work session called to order at 6:12 p.m.

Work session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Britton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. MAYOR’S COMMENTS**

Mayor Britton said his last meeting will be in December and he appreciates being elected as Mayor. Mayor Britton received a request from Anthony Martinez of ODOT asking to be on the Parks and Recreation committee. The Mayor asked if there were any objections from Council; seeing none he was appointed with the term to expire in two years at 1/1/2013

**3. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Muenchrath wished everyone happy holidays. Councilor Wiese said Coos Curry Electrics building looks wonderful. Councilor Parker said this will be his last meeting and he enjoyed the lighted parade and the attendance was outstanding. Councilor Short thanked Fire Chief Waddington and Mayor Britton’s family for putting up the banners and the lights on the tree at the Community Building. She also thanked Councilor Capehart for all that she does at the Community Building. Councilor Capehart said it was great 3 days at the Community Building and she had a great time being in the parade on the City Float.

**4. STAFF REPORTS**

Fire Chief Waddington said he is requesting an additional \$3,884.00 to purchase of the new ambulance. The increase would upgrade the chassis from an E350 to an E450, which would provide an additional 20” in the patient area and 26” overall. Councilor Wiese made a motion to approve the additional spending of \$3,884.00 for the ambulance. Councilor Capehart seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Public Works Director/Planner Higgins thanked Tony Martinez for applying to be on the Parks and Recreation Committee. The City applied for a small cities grant and will be receiving \$25,000 which will pave East Third from Baxter to Dean.

Police Chief Dannels wanted to thank Mayor Britton and his family for decorating and putting 18,000 lights on the tree at the Community Building. Shop with the Heros has collected \$16,000 for the program and the community has embraced this program and he thanks them.

Finance Director Dufner a survey is being done to see how customers would like to pay their utility bills; the survey will run until the end of the month. The City’s investments are earning over 4% at this time. The City received a letter from Mr. Slack expressing his concerns about how the city calculates the utility bills. For example if you had four offices and one left we would not have a way of knowing that. The City has 56 commercial buildings which pay

for 192 offices and 45 commercial users that pay the equivalent of 116 residences based on their usage. There are a few choices;

1. Charge for a single meter and increase the rates system wide to maintain the revenue necessary.
2. Commission another rate study to determine a more appropriate billing method.
3. Require that building owners with multiple tenants install multiple meters either with our without city assistance.
4. Leave things the way they are.

Coos Bay-North Bend water board charges for the number of meters. City Manager O'Connor said that Coos Bay services 16,000 accounts and we service 1,800. The water rate plan that was calculated in the early 2000's included a base rate and a rate for extra gallons used. The funds collected are used to meet financial payment obligations, ongoing maintenance and fund future capital improvements. Councilor Muenchrath asked what Mr. Slack's concern is. Finance Director Dufner said that he only has 3 tenants and is being charged for 4. He feels he should only have to pay for 3 at this time. Councilor Muenchrath asked how many complaints have there been in the past year; Dufner thought about three over the past year. Mayor Britton asked what the expensive part of adding a meter is. Public Works Director said it is the plumbing and there would be charge for meters. Higgins said the system is designed to accommodate a number of people, if someone chooses not to use the system for a period of time the demand is still there. Mayor Britton asked if there is a way to create an incentive for people to add additional meters. Councilor Muenchrath feels that what we have in place seems to work, based on Planner Higgins statement on demand. Councilor Muenchrath made a motion to draft a letter to Mr. Slack stating that no action will be taken at this time. Councilor Short second the motion; all voted in favor.

#### Finance Director Dufner read the abstract voted provided by the Coos County Elections Division

Councilor Wiese made a motion to accept the canvas of elections of votes from the November 2, 2010 election for City Council and Mayor. Councilor Short second the motion; all voted in favor. The following results were read for the record:

#### Mayor

Matt Muenchrath – 1,118  
Write Ins- 53  
Under Votes –449

#### Council

Linda Short – 1,027  
Timothy Spanberger – 787  
Loran Wiese – 846  
Robert Jump – 676  
Write In – 52  
Over Votes – 21  
Under Votes – 1,451

## **5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager O'Connor attended the State parks mandatory meeting for submission of the River Walk Grant project last Tuesday in Salem. There are 70 projects being submitted for approximately \$1,000,000. The City engineer updated the cost estimates for paving the River Walk Trail from So. Mill Ave around the GP site and back out to the sidewalk on Hwy 42 east of the ODOT office, the cost was estimated \$251,000. The limit on the grant funding of \$150,000, the City would need to come up with a match of 101,000 to complete the paving project. Port of Bandon has committed to \$15,000.

The Code Red Project is moving forward slowly, Frontier communications has found a way to provide the City with the 911 numbers and addresses for the residents of Coquille. The required Frontier documents have been provided and the City will pay the necessary license fees to acquire the numbers.

Each year DEQ requires the City to provide the citizens with information and recycling opportunities. The DEQ has given the City conditional approval on the educational portion of the requirements. The City will provide a link to the City website and brochures on recycling including prevention, reuse and composting. O'Connor will contact Les's Sanitation about taking white goods for recycling.

## **6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ethel Pettry, 1535 Shelly Road, asked why the citizens only voted on 3 council vacancies if there is going to be the fourth. City Manager O'Connor said there were only three openings at the time of elections and Councilor Muenchrath's seat will become vacant when he is takes office in January.

## **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

City Council Minutes of November 1, 2010

City Council Minutes of December 2, 2010

Councilor Capehart made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Councilor Short seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

## **8. RESOLUTION 18-2010 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION OF A RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE COQUILLE RIVER WALK TRAIL**

City Manager O'Connor provided a copy of the proposed application in the packet to be submitted by January 4,

Councilor Wiese made a motion to adopt resolution 18-2010 supporting the submission of a recreational trails program grant application for the Coquille River Walk Trail. Councilor Capehart seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

## **9. DISCUSSION ON PROCEDURE FOR FILLING VACANT COUNCIL SEAT**

City Manager O'Connor reviewed the following rules adopted by the Council in 1987:

- All Vacancies in elective office shall be advertised.
- Interviews of all candidates will be conducted by Council.
- Interviews to be done at a regular Council Meeting.
- Appointment to the vacant seat will be made at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting following the meeting where the interviews were scheduled.

O'Connor said Council needs to decide when to advertise and the interview dates. Councilor Muenchrath said there were a few days between the due date and the interviews. O'Connor said the applications were due on the interview day by 5:00 p.m. with the interviews starting at 7:00 p.m. Councilor Short would like the advertisement to be longer than a week. The City Manager suggested not doing the interviews at the first of the month due to the amount of time the interviews take.

Applications post marked by December 31, 2010 and have the interviews in January. Mayor Britton suggested the interviews be done in January so that the new Council can make the decision. Council directed staff to advertise to have the application due date be December 31, 2010, with the interviews being held on January 6, 2011 and the appointment to be made on January 13, 2011.

## **10. PRESENTATION BY NED BEMAN EX DIRECTOR COOS-CURRY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Mr. Beman was not able to attend the meeting.

## **11. PRESENTATION BY DEBI LIEGHTON OF THE SALVATION ARMY CASCADE DIVISION**

Debi Leighton, Service District Extension Officer, when money is donated from Coquille and the money comes back to Coquille. Mr. White does a great job at Whoozit's but additional services are needed here. We need to be able to disburse bus vouchers, lodging voucher, and fuel vouchers. Many police departments work with this program in the area such as Bandon, Reedsport, and Gold Beach. The group is asking for the police department to help with this program. Chief Dannels said that they will be working with a local church to store blankets and coats and the vouchers will be very helpful. Kiwanis does ring the bell for Salvation Army on an annual basis.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Britton adjourned the Council Meeting at 8:13 p.m.

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Mayor, Steve Britton

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Recorder, Rene Collins