

**CITY OF COQUILLE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
September 2, 2003**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mayor Steve Britton, Councilors: E.N. "Corky" Daniels, Kathy Hagen, Mollie Anderson, Jan Torbeck and Loran Wiese

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Terence O'Connor, Public Works Director John Higgins, Accounting Technician Ruth Graham, City Attorney John Trew, Library Director Sharon Smith, Public Works Utility Worker Mike Arellano

**PRESS:** Amy Moss Strong, The World

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Britton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those assembled in a flag salute.

**2. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS**

*This item scheduled under #8*

Since Commissioner Ross had another meeting to go to, he addressed the Council at this time. He was scheduled under item number 8 on the agenda. Mr. Ross reported to everyone that the County will celebrate its sesquicentennial on December 22nd of this year. Commissioner Ross is present to ask Council for their support in forming a special service district for the senior transit program. The transit district needs to be supported by a government entity. City County Insurance cannot cover South Coast Employment, who the transit district was managed by, for liability insurance up to the necessary limits. That is why a special service district needs to be formed. There will be no fiscal impact on taxes. Councilor Hagen declared a conflict of interest because she works for South Coast Employment. Councilor Wiese also declared a conflict of interest because he is a trustee for City County Insurance Services. Councilor Torbeck expressed her concern about this request being a back door to getting a tax base. Commissioner Ross explained that the special service district would have to be disbanded to form a taxing district. He explained that the other option would be a local option tax. That wouldn't raise very much because most cities are in compression. City Manager O'Connor stated that he would like to discuss the matter with City Attorney Trew before he has a recommendation. Mr. Ross stated that they would like an answer by the end of the month, so they have 30 days to hold public hearings. They would save \$35,000 a year in insurance costs by doing what they are proposing. City Attorney Trew recommended that Council not act on this request. He wants to get more information from County Counsel and see what other cities are doing on this matter. Bruce Bennett, Manager of Coos Area Transit, reported on their budget constraints and why they are requesting to form a special service district.

Mayor Britton requested attendance at Coquille's Tribute to our American Heroes at noon on September 11<sup>th</sup> at Sturdivant Park.

**3. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Torbeck mentioned that her daughter would be singing at the 9/11 tribute.

**4. STAFF REPORTS**

Fire Chief Waddington reported that they will be hosting the punt pass and kick for youth. It will be on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Coquille High School. October is Fire Prevention Month, so they are getting ready for that.

Public Works Director Higgins stated that there is an on-going issue with the recycle bins located by the fence by the City's Sewer Treatment Plant. He said that people were dropping off items that cannot be recycled like

tires, tv's, recliners, etc. The crew ends up having to clean this site up every couple of days. There was some discussion about the options the City has like putting up video cameras. Councilor Anderson made a motion to direct staff to look at the options before considering closing the site. The motion died for a lack of a second. Mayor Britton stated that this matter will be looked into further. Library Director Smith reported that there were 3,359 attendees of the children's program in the last fiscal year. Her department is applying for a Ready to Read Grant. They have decided to target getting some books for boys from grades six to eight. The Children's Assistant will be working with the Language Arts teachers on this project. The Children's Program will start again on September 24, 2003.

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

City Manager O'Connor reported that he had a request from the Chamber of Commerce asking the City to co-sponsor the Oktober Festival. This would mean waiving the rental fee at the Community Building. Councilor Wiese made a motion to continue the support for the Oktober Fest. Councilor Daniels seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. O'Connor stated that he had received an application for the change in name of the OLCC license for Tadd's. Mrs. Goodrum will be taking over the business after her husband passed away. A background check was done and the Police Department found no concerns. Staff recommends approval. Councilor Wiese made a motion to approve the OLCC liquor license from Patty Goodrum. Councilor Daniels seconded. All voted in favor. City Manager O'Connor stated that Sets In Order have paid a \$25 floor maintenance fee in the past and now the fee is raised to \$30. Staff recommends that they now pay \$30. Jim Harris, of Sets In Order, addressed Council stating that his organization was paying a floor refinishing fee, not a maintenance fee. He requests that they continue to pay the floor refinishing fee of \$25. He is requesting that the fee remain at \$25. He explained that they barely break even at times. He was under the impression that they were paying a refinishing fee, not a floor maintenance fee. After some discussion, Councilor Wiese made a motion to leave the floor refinishing fee at \$25. Councilor Hagen seconded. All voted in favor. City Manager O'Connor stated that Linda Short, 650 S. First Ave., is presenting a proposal to Council for free swimming at the City Pool twice a month next summer. This project would be funded by some citizens, businesses and civic organizations. Mrs. Short offered her services in asking for donations. She explained the costs, benefits and opportunities in doing this project. Councilor Torbeck made a motion to accept the free swim proposal from Linda Short. Councilor Wiese seconded. All voted in favor.

#### **6. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Judy Costello offered to bring staff some brochures on video cameras. She also offered to gather volunteers to police the area where the recycle bins are.

#### **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilor Anderson made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Councilor Daniels seconded. All voted in favor.

#### **8. REQUEST BY COOS COUNTY AREA TRANSIT FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF A COOS COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE DISTRICT**

(See item #2)

#### **9. DISCUSSION ON JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT-SOUTH ADAMS COURT COOS-ROSEBURG (STATE HIGHWAY NO. 35)**

City Manager O'Connor explained that this agenda item was held over from last month. There were questions on the limits of the transfer and conditions of the road. It was requested that Lee Sparks from ODOT be in attendance. Councilor Wiese stated that he had a conflict of interest because he is an adjoining property owner. Mr. O'Connor explained that ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) would retain the slope easement. The issue is the condition of the road that the City would be accepting from ODOT. Public Works Director Higgins reported that he met with Mr. Sparks, and Mr. O'Connor and will he will have Steve Major from the

Dyer Partnership do a cost estimate on an overlay. Mr. Sparks is going to talk to his maintenance personnel and see about a grader patch. This matter is on hold until more information is received. City Manager O'Connor explained that the costs might be prohibitive if ODOT asked for bids, so the City might ask for the bids.

**10. DISCUSSION ON PROCEDURE FOR SEWER CONNECTIONS**

Public Works Director Higgins reported that the Planning Commission recommended that if someone has their building permit they can purchase a sewer connection per the Planning Commission. They will have nine months to complete construction or their sewer connections would be revoked. The Planning Commission recommends handling these connections on a first come, first serve basis. City Attorney Trew stated that he still has a lot of questions regarding time limits and who would monitor this process. Councilor Anderson wants to see these connections sold to people who are building now, not in a year or two. Councilor Wiese made a motion to have the procedure for sewer connections referred to the Administrative Committee. Councilor Hagen seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting was set for September 29, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660 (1) ( c)      THE CONSIDERATION OF  
GENERAL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES AND ORS 192.660 (1) (h) TO CONSULT WITH  
COUNSEL CONCERNING THE LEGAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF A PUBLIC BODY WITH  
REGARD TO CURRENT LITIGATION OR LITIGATION LIKELY TO BE FILED.**

At 8:00 p.m. Mayor Britton announced that City Council will meet in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 ( c) and (h). Mayor Britton closed the Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Britton re-opened the Council Meeting. Hearing no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Britton adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder