

October 29, 2012  
6:00 P.M.  
Newport, Oregon

The City Council of the City of Newport met on the above date in a Town Hall meeting at the Mo's Annex on the Bayfront. Present were Brusselback, Beemer, Allen, Sawyer, Bertuleit, Roumagoux, and McConnell.

Staff present was City Manager Voetberg, City Recorder Hawker, Community Development Director Tokos, Public Works Director Gross, and Police Chief Miranda.

Public in attendance was: Wayde Dudley, Neal Henning, Hal Pritchett, Stephen Webster, Cliff Houck, Jan Houck, Jim Shaw, Lee Fries, Mike Becker, Sunnetta Ransom, Teyre Crowell, Randy Getman, Oly Olson, Valerie Patterson, Paul Stangeland, Don Mathews, John Baker, Bud Shoemake, Bob Olson, Janet Webster, Ralph Busby, Judy Lingham, Mike Pettis, JoAn McAdams, Susan Armstrong, and Chuck Forinash.

Media present: Dave Morgan, News Lincoln County.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **WELCOME**

McConnell welcomed everyone, and thanked Mo's Annex for the donation of space for this meeting.

### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE**

Bud Shoemake thanked the City Council for the tourism facilities grant that allowed the Lincoln County Historical Society to move forward in the renovation of the Maritime History Center. He reported that the grant funding was used for all or some of needed renovations, including: multi-purpose room; sheetrock; electrical; plumbing; painting; flooring; heating system; sprinkler system, and more. He added that all the contractors performing this work were local contractors. He noted that the opening of the Museum will be held in the spring of 2013. McConnell reported that the City Council will tour the facility at its work session of November 19, 2012.

### **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

Gross reported that there have been, or will be, a total of three projects affecting the Bayfront: pedestrian/crosswalk improvements; sidewalk extension at the north end of the bridge; and next year, stormwater system improvements on the northeast side of the Bayfront near the Embarcadero. He displayed a map showing the proposed alignment of SE Moore Drive and Bay Boulevard. Janet Webster asked what the traffic pattern

would be, and Gross noted that it will be similar to what it is now. It was noted that the stormwater improvement construction will occur in the summer due to weather and the construction season, but that traffic will still move despite the inconvenience.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Tokos updated the group on the status of the parking district. He noted that the intent is to generate monies to be used for smaller projects with a meaningful impact. He added that there is \$250,000 in the public parking fund, generated from in-lieu of parking fees, available for a larger Bayfront project.

Tokos reported that a significant increase in flood insurance is expected in May of 2013.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Miranda briefed the group on the 211 service for reporting Japanese tsunami debris. He noted that 211 is also used for social service referrals.

Miranda recommended that folks acquire a NOAA radio to stay abreast of natural disasters. He noted that a tsunami drill will be planned for the Bayfront in the spring. He mentioned the blue and red stickers on stop signs that indicate whether the sign is in or above the tsunami inundation zone.

McConnell reported that October is tsunami and earthquake preparedness month. He commended the Police Department volunteers for their work with tsunami/earthquake drills.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Becker expressed concern that the importance of the fishing industry to Newport is not fully understood. He suggested fishing industry representation on the parking district advisory committee. He distributed a handout showing the economic breakout of monies brought to the community by the fishing industry, and stated that fishing brings more money and economic development than tourism. Gross asked whether there is a fisherman's forum, and it was suggested the best forum is the Newport Fishermen's Wives Association. Allen suggested contacting Kaety Hildenbrand, from the Oregon Sea Grant Extension; and Becker volunteered to help. Shoemake noted that now is a good time to work with the Port as it is working on a strategic plan. It was noted that both commercial and recreational fishing have an economic impact on the community. Shoemake noted that Toledo and Newport are linked by the Yaquina River, and that it is important that both cities work together.

It was suggested that signage be placed at the sidewalk entrances to the Port docks, and that this be referred to the Ad Hoc Wayfinding Committee.

Hal Pritchett inquired about the bridge lighting project. McConnell explained that funding was inadequate, and that ODOT had suggested an unacceptable alternative.

Mike Pettis talked about the salmon enhancement program in the Coos River. He noted that there is a group interested in organizing the same type of project in the Yaquina River. He added that lots of money can be generated from sport fishing. Neal Henning reported that all the Coos Bay students assist with the salmon enhancement program. Allen noted that SeaGrant and ODF&W are also working on this project and are likely to return to Council with something more certain. McConnell noted that marketing grant funding is available. Lee Fries stated that he supports Salmon for Oregon, and that ODF&W is taking over that project, and looking at releasing 100,000 smolt into Yaquina Bay. McConnell suggested that Pettis or Fries connect with John Lavrakas, and make a presentation to YBEF.

Valerie Patterson asked about the \$250,000 in the public parking fund. Tokos noted that this money is not earmarked for a project. She noted that she had applied to be on the Parking Advisory Committee and had not been contacted. McConnell stated that this Committee will begin meeting soon, and able to propose projects to the City Council. It was noted that the four-hour parking does not help some of the fishing related businesses. McConnell reported that the city funds, through a portion of its transient room taxes, the city bus loop to take pressure off parking in the Bayfront at certain times of the year. He suggested more frequent loops during the summer. Pettis suggested that local businesses develop an incentive coupon book for tourists taking the bus to the Bayfront. It was noted that the Seafood and Wine Festival shuttles had stopped the use of water taxis.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 P.M.