M I N U T E S

Coburg City Council

Work Session and Town Hall Meeting
November 28, 2006 - 7:00 P.M.
Coburg Municipal Court
32694 East Pearl Street - Coburg

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Mayor Judy Volta; Bill Judd, Don Nelson, Brian Pech, John Thiel, Mike Watson

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Michelle Sunia

STAFF PRESENT: Don Schuessler, Jack Detweiler, Craig Gibons, Jack Harris, Milo Mecham, Petra Schuetz

RECORDED BY: Dan Lindstrom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Judy Volta called the meeting of the Coburg City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes Recorder Dan Lindstrom called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.

Mayor Volta welcomed the large number of citizens in attendance. She said no Council actions were planned for the meeting.

Mayor Volta reviewed community holiday events in Coburg and encouraged participation.

II. WORK SESSION/TOWN HALL MEETING

Finance Director Craig Gibons stated that the purpose of the meeting was to present information regarding the Coburg Wastewater Project and to receive citizen feedback. He said he was the designated City staff assigned to provide coordination and oversight to the project.

Mr. Gibons reported that Coburg was the only city of its size in Oregon that did not have a municipal sewer system. He said planning and implementation of the project had been frustrated and delayed because of the gradual disappearance of available federal and state grants for such projects.

A. Wastewater System

Jack Detweiler stated that he was a civil engineer from Kennedy-Jenks Consultants of Eugene and had been involved in planning the Coburg Wastewater Project for a

number of years. He reviewed its objectives – be environmentally responsible by reducing groundwater nitrate contamination; support anticipated population growth to 3,300 by 2028 and provide support for the local school, commercial and industrial development; and ensure that future development pays a fair share of the cost of the project.

Mr. Detweiler provided an overview of the needed Coburg wastewater system and reviewed available options for treatment, and discharge:

- Discharge to McKenzie or Willamette
- Regional treatment with the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Consortium
- Water Reclamation Alternative

Mr. Detweiler reviewed summaries of capital, operating, and present worth financial comparisons of the options. He described Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) and Membrane Bio Reactors (MBR) systems. He also described how STEP/MBR effluent met high Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) standards for reuse.

Mr. Detweiler showed photographs of the Coburg Treatment Site, Wetlands and Muddy Creek discharge opportunities, and examples of the use of reclaimed effluent in Yelm, Washington. He reviewed a Schedule showing the potential of the project being completed in 2009.

Citizens and Councilors asked extensive questions and discussed the options under consideration at length.

B. Financial Estimates

Milo Mecham stated that he had served as a consultant to the Coburg Wastewater Project for a number of years through a contract with the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG). He reviewed estimates of the cost of establishing a STEP/MBR system: Construction ($13,900,000); Other (Design, Financing, Easements, etc.) ($2,700,000); and Operations ($500,000 annually).

Mr. Mecham reviewed ways the initial development and loan repayment of project would be paid: loans, grants, urban renewal district, property assessments, and charges on future growth. He presented estimates on the cost to average homeowners and how it compared to other municipal systems and previous estimates of costs for the Coburg system. He explained that additional grants, lower loan costs, policy decisions about cost allocation, and additional users could reduce the estimated costs.

Citizens and Councilors asked questions and discussed the estimates.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

A C C E P T A N C E

Yes: _____

No: _____

Abstained: _____

Passed: _____ Rejected: _____

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2006

_____

Judith Volta, Mayor

Attest:

_____

Donald Schuessler, City Recorder