

Depoe Bay City Council
Workshop Meeting
Monday, April 14, 2003 - 7:30 PM
Depoe Bay City Hall

PRESENT: Mayor B. Silver, S. Scorpio, P. Taunton, A. Brown, G. Romans, J. Brown,
M. Lavery

STAFF: City Recorder P. Murray (arr 8:15), City Secretary K. Getty

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Silver called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 7:30 PM.

II. REVIEW MISSION STATEMENT

Silver distributed copies of newspaper articles (copies attached to original of these minutes), and stated that part of the Council's mission is to show cohesiveness in the City and better present the City to the outside world. He invited Councilors to further discussion one-on-one at City Hall.

III. PRESERVATION OF VOLUNTEERS - Draft Policy Review

Romans read his draft volunteer policy into the record (copy attached to original of these minutes). Several suggestions/concerns were made regarding this draft policy and preservations of volunteers in general: 1) A suggestion to add the following: "...shall bring the matter to the attention of their chairperson, *as should a person who feels they have been wronged or violated.*" 2) The Council had previously discussed the term "violation of oath of office", and was unable to define it. "Filing of an ethics complaint" was suggested as substitute wording. Complaint filing should start with the Chair, and then the Council, but should not be allowed at the State level until after exhausting in-house options. 3) There was question whether the term "civic or ethical problem" could be defined. 4) There was no recourse if the Chair did not see the concern as a violation; a written complaint should document such a situation. 5) "Disciplinary action" should be defined. 6) Recommendation was made to have the City Attorney review this draft policy. 7) A suggestion was made to focus the policy on advising and encouraging volunteers to keep the best interests of Depoe Bay in mind, with conflict resolution taking a back seat in the policy. 8) A non-public meeting between the mayor, Council president, and conflicting party(ies) was suggested as a method of resolution. 9) The importance of clearly defining all terms used in the policy was stressed. 10) Conflict resolution discussion during Executive Session was suggested. 11) Education of volunteers was suggested to prevent unintentional actions such as impersonation of enforcement officials. 12) The importance of demonstrating respect for applicants, as well as other Councilors/Commissioners was noted. 13) A suggestion was made to encourage Commissioners to welcome other points of view. 14) Several times, the question was asked: what are we looking for in our volunteers? 15) When qualified applicants are turned down, what kind of message does this send to other potential volunteers and the community? Lengthy discussion on these questions and suggestions followed.

Romans and Scorpio will re-work this draft policy, using items identified in the discussion as a guideline. This draft is to be completed and distributed with time for review before the Regular Council Meeting where Preservation of Volunteers appears on the agenda.

IV. REVIEW DRAFT ORDINANCE TO INCREASE TRANSIENT ROOM TAX

(Copy of draft ordinance attached to original of these minutes.) Concern was expressed that the timing of this is not right because the serial bond levy question has not been finalized. Alice Brown gave a report on the first meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee (copy attached to original of these minutes). Points made and concerns expressed during discussion included: 1) It was noted that if this tax is not put in place now, the City may not be able to do it in the future. 2) Monies collected now could sit in a special fund until such time as the goal of obtaining law enforcement is reached. 3) If this tax is established before the issue is voted on, it will reduce the amount voters are asked to approve. 4) If this tax is established and the State also takes 1%, that would put our total transient room tax rate at 9%, which is higher than surrounding communities. 5) Are voters willing to support the cost of law enforcement/a police officer? This question should be answered before establishing a tax. 6) The amount collected toward funding law enforcement by the 1% tax is not stable - it would fluctuate with the economy and what is happening in the world. The possibility of grant funding is also not stable. 7) What kind of service and level of service is the City looking for? 8) The Council is responsible for public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens, and having a police officer is not inconsistent with these responsibilities. 9) Minimal coverage is better than no coverage. 10) The fire department would appreciate the assistance.

Alice Brown reported her answers to questions on proposed funding for a police officer (copy attached to original of these minutes), supporting a contract with the county as being the most cost-feasible, especially since Depoe Bay doesn't have the population base to support its own police force. Additional discussion included: 1) Mayor Silver made it clear that he is in support of having a police officer in Depoe Bay, and that he wants the effort to be successful. 2) A suggestion that educating the public on the issue would be the key to the success of the project. 3) Cost of living increases must be considered when setting a cap. 4) The Council cannot assume that the majority of Depoe Bay citizens want law enforcement until they are informed of the cost and asked to vote on it. 4) If a serial levy is established, the Council needs to ensure it is of sufficient value to cover all the costs associated with setting up law enforcement. 5) There is a possibility of 50% funding through Homeland Security, if a police officer receives special training in Homeland Security operations. Jack Brown will investigate this option. 6) Modifying the language in the draft ordinance to include "public safety" in addition to law enforcement would allow more latitude in how monies collected from the transient room tax could be spent. Concern over the definition of "public safety" was also expressed, should this change be made. 7) A suggestion was made to train one or more Depoe Bay citizens, at a cost of around \$25,000 each, to be reserve police officers. 8) Alice Brown offered to obtain a copy of Lincoln City's ordinance raising room tax from 7% to 8%, and will prepare a handout to include a pie chart showing how their room tax revenues are spent.. 9) A suggestion was made to add a clause to the draft ordinance that if HB 2267 passes, it will null and void the ordinance, and then to adopt the ordinance conditionally. 10) Councilors were encouraged to contact State Representatives to oppose HB 2267. It was noted that there might be an option in HB 2267 for hardship cases.

A follow-up workshop will be scheduled after the Law Enforcement Committee has met again and further information is available.

V. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Mayor Bruce R. Silver

Silver Fox, Recording Secretary