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EXCLUSIVE

Council: 25th Street Vacation, COG and the water line project

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The Lincoln City City Council discussed the 25 Street Vacation, listened to a presentation by Fred Abouselman of the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments and approved the authorization of an exemption in the competitive bidding process surrounding the water line project which would cross under Schooner Creek at Highway 101.

Lincoln City Attorney Richard Appicello explained that the record for the 25th Street vacation, requested by the Church of St. Augustine's in order to update the sign for the church, was asked to be reopened so an appraiser could examine the potential effect of the vacation.

Appicello asked the appraiser to look at what could happen if the entirety of the right of way versus only a section of the right of way was vacated.

The appraiser found that if the entire right of way were vacated, then the city would have to pay damages to at least two of the business owners, Appicello said.

Councilor Susan Wahlke expressed concern about the \$1,200 spent on the appraiser and asked if there were any way to acquire some of the funds back.

City Manager Ron Chandler said a representative of the church has been in contact with him and expressed they were willing to provide some compensation to the city for the appraisal.

Council directed staff to bring back an ordinance that would focus on recovering the costs of the appraisal in considering a land swap agreement with the church.

Council received a presentation from Abouselman of the Council of Governments (COG) and the services they provide for the Benton, Lincoln and Linn Counties.

Abouselman explained that COG works closely with Meals on Wheels and Medicaid, in addition to facilitating loans to small businesses.

Those interested in volunteering with or donating to COG, can contact 541-924-8720 or are welcome to contact Councilor Chester Noreikis.

During the public hearing, City Engineer Stephanie Reid and City Public Works Director Lila Bradley gave a short recap concerning the exemption of the competitive bidding process for the Water Line Project crossing under Schooner Creek at Highway 101.

Providing this exemption would make potential companies provide findings for justification and streamline the design process.

No one spoke for or against during the hearing and after the record was closed, Noreikis moved to approve authorizing the exemption.

The motion carried.

At this point, Council took a recess to hold an executive session, the subject of which was a confidential memorandum from attorney Ross Williamson.

Council reconvened the regular meeting after executive session and elected to make no actions based on the executive session.

The next regular City Council meeting will be held Sept. 26 in the regular City Council Chambers. Council will hold a special meeting on Sept. 23 at 3 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

