

# City backs Occupy mission

Story Discussion

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By Alice Campbell, The World | Posted: Thursday, March 8, 2012 11:00 am | (31) Comments

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## Library foundation funding

Money to fix a section of sinking library foundation won't all come from the downtown Urban Renewal Agency.

City Manager Rodger Craddock asked councilors, who met after the council meeting in their dual role of Urban Renewal Agency members, if they wanted to make the repairs to the sinking wall an agency priority. Work is expected to cost \$350,000, he added.

But several said urban renewal dollars would be better spent on other project that are less maintenance or infrastructure oriented.

Councilor Jon Hanson suggested having a grant program to help any downtown building owner cover the cost of sinking foundation repairs. The library could then be eligible for some of those funds, he added.

A more detailed goal-setting session will be held later.

COOS BAY -- Councilors sent a clear message to state and federal representatives: Support and pursue a constitutional amendment to end corporate personhood.

Six voted in support of a resolution, written by Councilor John Muenchrath, that says corporations do not have inalienable rights like humans -- a core belief of the Occupy Wall Street movement -- during Tuesday's meeting.

Jon Hanson cast the lone nay vote on the resolution, saying he agrees with the resolution's premise, but doesn't think it's council's responsibility to take a stance on an issue that doesn't have a direct local connection.

He elects city councilors to talk about local issues, state representatives to talk about state issues and federal representatives to deal with national issues, he added.

Often, the council receives requests for resolutions that clearly aren't connected to the city, City Manager Rodger Craddock said. For example, one time a request was sent that the city formally recognize national magicians month, he said. But because Muenchrath proposed and wrote the resolution, it has enough of a tie for the council to take action.

Several in the audience spoke in favor of the resolution and said it's important the city take a stand so state and federal representatives know how community members feel about the issue.

Craddock said he will send letters to representatives telling them of council's decision.

Councilors also:

• Approved an emergency contract worth \$31,245 to Billeter Marine to repair a pier for the wave boom that has come loose near the Empire boat ramp. Oregon Department of State Lands typically doesn't allow similar work this time of year because of environmental concerns, but made an exception until March 15. The short timeline doesn't allow for a normal bidding process to be followed, and if the pier goes unfixed, other piers could be damaged, said Jim Hossley, the city's Public Works and Development director. The money will come from left over funds originally set aside for maintenance and repairs to the Mingus poolhouse.

• Upheld a Planning Commission decision not to vacate Webster Avenue between South Marple and South Wall streets. Siegfried Hoffman owns the abutting property to the south and requested the vacation to allow for him to build a house. A neighbor sent a letter opposing the vacation, and Tom Greaves, on behalf of the Community Coalition of Empire, suggested in an email that the land be used for the public instead.

• Approved 2012 goals, which are available in their entirety at [www.coosbay.org](http://www.coosbay.org).

Reporter Alice Campbell can be reached at 541-269-1222, ext. 235, or at [acampbell@theworldlink.com](mailto:acampbell@theworldlink.com).

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## Poll

With its incinerator at least temporarily out of action, what should Coos County do about solid waste?

- Close it for good, and haul our trash to a landfill.
- Repair the incinerator and keep burning trash.
- Don't know yet. Let's see all the numbers first.

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