



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, June 07, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Jessica Chilton
Councilor Patrick Birkle
Councilor Mark Gundersen
Councilor Brandon Sundeen – via Zoom

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator	Jacob Graichen, City Planner
Kathy Payne, City Recorder	Crystal King, Communications Officer
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder	Suzanne Bishop, Library Director
Gloria Butsch, Finance Director	

OTHERS

Jim Coleman	Brady Preheim	Noelle Freshner & SHHS Band Students
Eddie	Scott Jacobson	Eric Stearns & SHHS Choir Students
Adam St. Pierre	Jennifer Massey	Pam Brady
RW Hoover	Keith Locke	Josh Brown
Ryan Scholl	Greg Clark	MaryJo Beck
Olivia Beck		

CALL REGULAR SESSION TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VISITOR COMMENTS – *Limited to three (3) minutes per speaker*

- ◆ Scott Jacobson. He is a resident and member of the Parks & Trails Commission. He is here to clarify something Steve said at a previous meeting. Steve had about a week to think about the 24-hour stay limits but the Parks & Trails Commission only had about 10 seconds. It was not fair for him to say that no one spoke up. Scott thinks 24 hours is objectionably reasonable. If they're going to stay longer, they need to show they are actively seeking services.
- ◆ Brady Preheim. A Councilor's constant attacks on the tourism director's financial responsibilities is not acceptable. It's false to say that she is not accountable. She passed an audit and any insinuations that she's stealing money is unacceptable.
- ◆ Steve Toschi. He is here to follow-up on the work session discussion.
 - He recommends Council move forward with the 48-hour stay limitation rather than the 24 hours. If they are sued, at least they had a Planning Commission hearing that discussed the 24 hours. The 48 hours will help protect the City.

- The Houlton Business District has residences and businesses. The fact that it's central doesn't have anything to do with it. The District should be excluded. There may not be an actual spot and they don't want to create an illusion.
 - He signed a Code of Ethics acknowledgement and has not violated it. This was a very difficult path. He recommends Council pause the ethics discussion for six months. A disaster can occur when errors are made. Before they make rules, take a deep breath, and start working together again as friends and neighbors.
- ◆ Jennifer Massey.
- She talked about the Public Records Request for text messages regarding the levy. She appreciates the efforts made by Mayor Scholl and Council President Chilton to obtain information from the Sheriff prior to supporting the levy. She found Councilor Sundeen's comment interesting that he said a lot of people have contacted him in opposition, but he still voted in support of the levy. People are watching what Council members are doing very closely, and there appears to be a "Good Ol' Boys Club" based on the texts sent. She requested a copy of the text messages be added to the record for this meeting. She also suggested that Councilor Sundeen encourage the Sheriff to improve the professionalism in their department.
 - There is a dire need to fill positions or the 24-hour coverage will be in jeopardy. She recently learned that another officer is already in the background phase to move to another jurisdiction and they're down one due to injury. That will put them down to 11 officers. Her husband has responded to 10 calls at the new apartments. There is a problem and it will get worse. Council has to figure out how to get more officers.
 - She also requested Councilor Gunderson's text messages be made part of the record that show concern more for a political advisor's opinion than his constituents.
- ◆ Adam St. Pierre. This is a booming tourism town. Can they capitalize on that to hire new officers? Other towns use those funds to pay for officers. The new boat is great for tourism but it will also be a liability. He understands that the Sheriff's Office doesn't want to monitor Sand Island. Where does that leave St. Helens if something happens on the Island? He emailed questions to the Sheriff on May 20 and forwarded those to the Council but has not received responses from anyone yet. In summary, he asked how many patrol deputies there are right now, when they can expect the seven new deputies, and when they can expect 24-hour coverage. He asked for Council to also try to get answers to those questions.

PROCLAMATION

1. St. Helens High School Choir and Band Programs Excel

Mayor Scholl read the proclamation into the record.

St. Helens High School Choir & Band Programs Excel

June 7, 2023

Whereas, the City of St. Helens is proud to be home to the outstanding St. Helens High School; and

Whereas, the St. Helens High School diligently serves the students of the City of St. Helens, and the band and choir programs provide a curriculum that challenges students, builds character, and develops personal musicianship; and

Whereas, the St. Helens High School Chor Leonis members, under the direction of Eric

Stearns, recently traveled to Corvallis, Oregon to compete at the 2023 OSAA State Choir Championship; and

Whereas, the St. Helens High School Wind Ensemble members, under the direction of Noelle Freshner, recently traveled to Corvallis, Oregon to compete at the 2023 OSAA State Band Championship; and

Whereas, the St. Helens High School Jazz Band members, under the direction of Noelle Freshner, recently traveled to Gresham, Oregon to compete at the 2023 OMEA State Jazz Championship; and

Whereas, the City of St. Helens recognizes the outstanding commitment to excellence by the students, directors, and leadership of the St. Helens High School Choir and Band Programs.

Now, therefore, I, Mayor Rick Scholl of the City of St. Helens do hereby recognize and honor the outstanding achievement of the St. Helens High School Chor Leonis members for placing second in the 4A 2023 OSAA State Choir Championships, St. Helens High School Wind Ensemble Members for placing second in the 4A 2023 OSAA State Band Championship, and St. Helens High School Jazz Band members for placing first in the 4A 2023 OMEA State Jazz Championship.

Be it further proclaimed that I urge all citizens of St. Helens to recognize your achievements and celebrate these successes.

ORDINANCES – First Reading

- 2. Ordinance No. 3292:** An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property at 35046 Maple Street

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3292 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

- 3. Ordinance No. 3293:** An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property at 35082 Maple Street

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3293 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

- 4. Ordinance No. 3294:** An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property at 58927 Firlok Park Street

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3294 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

- 5. Ordinance No. 3295:** An Ordinance to Change the Name of Mill Street as Located Along the South Side of Lot 8, Block 10, City of St. Helens, to Wapama Way

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3295 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

- 6. Ordinance No. 3296:** An Ordinance Amending the St. Helens Municipal Code Chapter 12.20, and Adding Chapter 12.22 Regarding Camping on Public Property

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3296 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

7. PUBLIC COMMENT - Increasing Garbage & Recycling Rates

No comments.

Resolution No. 1980: A Resolution Establishing Garbage & Recycling Rates and Superseding Resolution No. 1963

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1980 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 1980. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

8. PUBLIC COMMENT - Increase in Utility Rates

No comments.

Resolution No. 1981: A Resolution to Establish Water, Sewer, Storm Drainage Utility Rates and Charges, and Administrative Rules

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1981 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Birkle to adopt Resolution No. 1981. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

9. PUBLIC COMMENT - Increase in Public Safety Fee

No comments.

Resolution No. 1982: A Resolution Adopting a Community Public Safety Fee

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1982 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Council President Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 1982. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

10. Resolution No. 1983: A Resolution of the City of St. Helens Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1983 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 1983. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

11. Resolution No. 1984: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of St. Helens, Oregon Adopting Budget, Making Appropriations, and Levying Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1984 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Birkle to adopt Resolution No. 1984. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

12. Resolution No. 1985: A Resolution of the St. Helens City Council, Establishing the City Employee Compensation Schedule for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1985 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 1985. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

13. Resolution No. 1986: A Resolution of the St. Helens City Council, Adopting a Code of Conduct for City Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1986 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 1986, amending the Accountability section, paragraph two, third and fourth sentences to read: "The board member has the option to provide a timely response to the concerns within the timelines established by the Council and have an opportunity to address the concerns at a Council subcommittee review hearing. The City Council reserves the right to remove a board member at its discretion whether or not a board member responds and participates in a hearing."

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen; Nay: Councilor Birkle, Councilor Sundeen

Councilor Sundeen declared that he voted no because he has not had the opportunity to review the final draft and feels that it should have gone to the Boards and Commissions first. Councilor Birkle voted no for the same reasons as Councilor Sundeen.

AWARD BID AND/OR CONTRACT

14. Award Bid and Authorize Mayor to Sign Contract with Hampton Tree Farms, LLC for the Pinkney Road Timber Sale at \$519.58 per MBF

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Council President Chilton to approve '14' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

15. Council Work Session, Executive Session, and Regular Session dated April 19, 2023

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '15' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**Spirit of Christmas Parade**

The parade organizers are not nonprofit. However, they do collect donations for the Food Bank. Council President Chilton suggested they apply for the grant since it's for the Food Bank. Consensus of Council to waive the \$100 Special Use Permit fee, but still pay the City's \$450 refundable cleaning deposit, for the 2023 Spirit of Christmas 7-mile challenge.

Construction Manager/General Contractor Services for Public Safety Building Project

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to authorize City Administrator John Walsh to sign the Notice of Intent to Award Contract to the Harry S. Wright firm for the Construction Manager/General Contractor Services for the new Public Safety Building. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

Credit on St. Frederic Church Utility Bill

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Birkle to credit St. Frederic Church for \$4,795.89 on their utility bill for a very large leak they experienced, to an average of their regular utility bill. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

Subcommittee for the Code of Conduct Alleged Violations

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to establish a two-member subcommittee of the Council to be hearings officers for any alleged Code of Conduct violations for Boards, Commissions, and Committee members, and those two members will be the Council President and the Council Liaison for the board, commission, or committee member that has allegedly violated the Code. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

Janitorial Services

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded Councilor Gundersen to award bid and authorize for signature a one-year contract with EcoBrite Services for Janitorial Services with an option to extend for an additional two years in one-year increments. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

Other

Councilor Birkle asked to go back to the Ordinance first readings. They vote at the second reading. Was tonight their opportunity to make an amendment? Mayor Scholl said yes, but they could still do that at the next meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Chilton reported...

- Congratulations to all the graduates!
- She has been attending the Gateway Committee meetings and is enjoying being part of the process. There are some great and creative ideas.
- Columbia View Park will have a new stage soon. It was sad to see it go down the way it did.
- She knows there have been a lot of 13 Nights on the River safety issues. She would really like to see the City investigate private security for big events. It's not sustainable to rely on City police.
- She reminded community members that the Council does listen. They don't just make decisions. There are lots of opportunities for public comment.
- She really wants to see more creativity and problem-solving for the budget. She is really concerned with the lack of police staff. They need to look at assets and what they are spending money on.

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- The Columbia View Park gazebo was taken down as a safety factor. He thanked Grace Sonniland for donating it many years ago. He hopes she would be happy knowing the length of time it served its purpose.
- Parks has been working with the Softball League to make improvements at McCormick Park.
- He has heard about the critical police staffing levels. He agreed they need to be creative and do better.
- He hopes they can find a way for 13 Nights on the River to remain a family friendly event. He agrees with needing private security when they only have two officers on duty.
- Excited for summer and looking forward to the parade, Citizens Day in the park, 4th of July, etc.
- He thanked everyone for their hard work.

Councilor Gundersen reported...

- Planning Commission meets next week.
- He thanked everyone for their work on HB 3115. It's been a difficult task put on them by the State. They are doing the best they can, but there is no easy solution. He hopes they can finally be done and move on to other proactive projects.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- He has been spending a lot of time outside and in the parks. He met with a producer of a travel show on PBS at Dalton Lake. Unfortunately, they didn't make the cut.
- There was a comment earlier about a "Good Ol' Boys Network." He is not aware of anything like that happening here. What can any of them gain from that? The only association he has had was with Commissioner Casey Garrett and Sheriff Pixley, which was less than a handful of times.
- He responded to Brady Preheim in the way he gathers with his 3rd graders in the morning to reflect on students absent, "he wishes him happiness, health, safety, and life filled with joy."

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- A lot of time has been spent on HB 3115. He doesn't want to overlook the needs of the homeless. He hopes they can continue to serve all citizens well and get them the resources needed. He thanked everyone for all their efforts. They have a good plan moving forward and he looks forward to having it behind them.
- Kiwanis Community Parade is June 17.
- Father's Day is June 18.
- City Council meeting on June 21.
- Citizens Day in the Park is June 24, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Council serves a free lunch and there will be a car show, live music, activities, and over 50 vendors.

- St. Helens is hosting the next City County Quarterly Dinner.
- The first meeting in July has been cancelled.
- He needs everyone's help on 4th of July. There is no tailgating this year and limited parking because of construction.
- The new tourism boat is here.
- Industrial businesses are looking at properties. City staff continue to work on it, although the Port of Columbia County is the leader. They need jobs in the area. There is potential for a solar panel business.

OTHER BUSINESS**ADJOURN – 7:57 p.m.****EXECUTIVE SESSION – Resumed**

- Real Property Transactions, under ORS 192.660(2)(e); and
- Consult with Counsel/Potential Litigation, under ORS 192.660(2)(h).

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl

Rick Scholl, Mayor