



COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, September 04, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Jessica Chilton
Councilor Mark Gundersen
Councilor Russell Hubbard
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

STAFF

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Gloria Butsch, Finance Director

OTHERS

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Jenn Massey | Mercedes Massey | Brady Preheim |
| Arthur | Rooster | Nicholas Hellmich |
| Mitzi Ponce | Stephanie Patterson | Judy Thompson |
| Mary Wheeler | Joseph Paul | Beverly Steven |
| Catherine R. | Adam St. Pierre | |

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING – 6:45 p.m.

TOPIC

1. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Supplemental Budget

Finance Director Butsch reviewed the purpose for the Supplemental Budget. It provides funding into the Tourism Fund to cover the costs of the new contract and estimated shortage.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- ◆ Joseph Paul. Expressed his concerns about the increase in neighborhood crime. Why are they putting so much money into tourism and not crime? As of October 1, there will not be 24-hour patrol. Tourists don't want to be in a town with this kind of crime. Portland is coming to St. Helens.
- ◆ Brady Preheim. Expressed his opposition to the Supplemental Budget and it likely being the first of multiple payments. Treadway wants \$193,000 paid upfront instead of monthly installments, plus \$300,000, which isn't in the budget. If they had hired E2C, they would have had a \$220,000 guaranteed revenue stream. Those funds would have paid for multiple police officer positions. Treadway has yet to announce a schedule or ticketing. Barry and other talent agencies are going to sue the City. They will lose the case and pay the attorney fees. The contract is an unmitigated disaster. When Treadway asked how it would be funded during the interview, Walsh told them they would have to fund it on their own. They should not have signed the contract if they didn't have the money. Recommends Council vote no.

- ◆ Adam St. Pierre. He is confused why the City would be getting sued when the independent contractor is the one who signed the contract with the talent. Treadway was supposed to have access to the Wauna account to cover costs but still does not. These failures need to be addressed. City Administrator Walsh should be put on administrative leave.

- ◆ Jennifer Massey. She echoed Adam about the Wauna account. She asked a lot of questions about the account during the Budget Committee meeting and felt there was no clarification. There are people who want to see Treadway fail. The Wauna funds are supposed to go to the new contractor. The City subsidized E2C from the Community Development Fund when they came in. This should have been vetted in November or December. This is affecting taxpayer money and tarnishing a contractor. She didn't have a problem with E2C or Tina Curry but is now disgusted by the toxicity and continued divide. This should not continue to happen. She reminded Mayor Scholl that he can put stuff on the agenda and should put Walsh on there to be placed on Administrative leave for this to be investigated. Having people paid in cash in City envelopes should be a huge concern.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING – 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
Rick Scholl, Mayor