



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, December 02, 2020

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Doug Morten
Councilor Keith Locke
Councilor Ginny Carlson
Councilor Stephen R. Topaz

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Mouhamad Zaher, Public Works Director
Sue Nelson, Public Works Engineering Director

OTHERS

Brady Preheim
Patrick Birkle
Tim Goodman
Rosemary Clement

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Scholl led the flag salute.

VISITOR COMMENTS – *Limited to five (5) minutes per speaker*

- ◆ Brady Preheim. Referring to the work session presentation, he cannot believe that Comcast is claiming that this has nothing to do with COVID-19. They are money-grubbing-greedy. He appreciates the comments made by Council. He expressed the frustrations he has had with them. Comcast has the absolute worst customer service. He hopes the Council will wholeheartedly reject the proposal to not have a Comcast store here. If you have dealt with Comcast, everything is not fine. The nice thing about Comcast is they have good products. Internet is a critical, essential service. It may be time to have the City take over. They certainly could be open now.
- ◆ Rosemary Clement. She lives on S. 1st Street. She is disappointed that the space for the Haunted House still has Halloween decorations up. It should be down by December 1st. She and others feel hostaged by Spirit of Halloweentown for the whole year. The City should be respectful of the merchants downtown. Why is it allowed?

City Administrator Walsh explained there is no requirement for it to come down, but Council can discuss it. Rosemary understands it is not a requirement but would like the Council to be more cognizant of residents. Councilor Carlson pointed out that the person who could answer that question is not in attendance.

PROCLAMATION

1. PROCLAMATION – City Council Election Results from November 3, 2020

City Recorder Payne read the proclamation into the record.

WHEREAS, at a General Election held in the State of Oregon on November 3, 2020 in the City of St. Helens, Oregon, the candidates for office of City Mayor and Council Position Nos. 2 and 4 were submitted to the voters, and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of St. Helens has received the results of said elections and has found as follows:

MAYOR	TOTAL VOTES CAST
Rick Scholl (incumbent)	5,466
Miscellaneous Write-Ins	355
 COUNCIL POSITION NO. 2	 TOTAL VOTES CAST
Patrick Birkle	3,230
Mark Gundersen	2,829
Miscellaneous Write-Ins	87
 COUNCIL POSITION NO. 4	 TOTAL VOTES CAST
Ginny Carlson (incumbent)	2,871
Jessica Chilton	3,215
Miscellaneous Write-Ins	70

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scholl, Mayor of the City of St. Helens, do hereby proclaim at the General Election held November 3, 2020, the following:

1. Rick Scholl was re-elected to the position of Mayor.
2. Patrick Birkle was elected to the position of Council Position No. 2.
3. Jessica Chilton was elected to the position of Council Position No. 4.

ORDINANCES - First Reading

- ~~2. **Ordinance No. 3259:** An Ordinance Granting Comcast of Delaware, II, Inc. a Non-Exclusive Franchise and Right to Operate, Construct, and Maintain a Cable System in the City of St. Helens, Oregon~~

RESOLUTIONS

- 3. Resolution No. 1903:** A Resolution Adopting a Universal Fee Schedule, and Superseding Resolution No. 1874

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1903 by title. Motion made by Councilor Locke and seconded by Councilor Topaz to adopt Resolution No. 1903. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

- 4. Resolution No. 1904:** A Resolution to Set 2021 City Public Meetings and Holiday Closures Schedule for City of St. Helens Council, Boards and Commissions

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1904 by title. Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Carlson to adopt Resolution No. 1904. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

5. Resolution No. 1905: A Resolution to Adopt a COVID-19 Infection Notification Process

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1905 by title. Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Locke to adopt Resolution No. 1905. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

6. Resolution No. 1906: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of St. Helens, Oregon, Authorizing Extended Enterprise Zone Benefits for a Fourth and Fifth Year to Cascades Tissue Group-Oregon Converting, a Division of Cascades Holding U.S. Inc. (Cascades), Located in the South Columbia County Enterprise Zone

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1906 by title. Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Council President Morten to adopt Resolution No. 1906. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

7. Exclusive Towing Contract with Drake's Towing & Recovery
8. Letter of Support for Port Westward Re-Zone Application

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Locke to approve '7' and '8' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

APPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

9. Appointments to City Boards & Commissions
Reappoint Michelle Damis and Claire Catt to Budget Committee

Motion: Motion made by Mayor Scholl and seconded by Councilor Locke to approve '9' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

10. Library Board Minutes dated October 12, 2020
11. Planning Commission Minutes dated October 13, 2020

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Locke to approve '10' and '11' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

12. Council Work Session, Executive Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated November 18, 2020
13. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Council President Morten to approve '12' and '13' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

Assistant City Administrator Brown reviewed the request for authorization to allow Walsh to sign with Arciform for the Bennett Building façade improvements. It is for the Phase I window replacement.

Mayor Scholl said it needs to be done. He requested they look into energy efficiency rebates. Brown responded that he would investigate that.

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and second by Councilor Locke to authorize Walsh to enter into an agreement for Phase I Bennett Building façade improvements. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- He has been staying close to home lately. The pandemic has really ramped up. Thank God there is a vaccine coming. They are all in the same boat. Wear a mask, wash your hands, keep your distance, and stay physically active. Assume you are infected, even if you are not.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Morten reported...

- He looks forward to the Parks & Trails Commission report regarding the Urban Trail at the next meeting. He is excited to hear their findings again. Carmin Dunn, Jerry Belcher, Elisa Mann, and Howard Blumenthal have been working in that subcommittee.
- Parks & Trails Commissioner Lynne Pettitt leads the Dalton Lake Preserve. The Public Works crew installed the bench, bike rack, and kiosk on the north end today.
- Looking forward to bidding our two councilors farewell. They will be celebrated at the next meeting.
- He looks forward to embracing the new year.

Councilor Locke reported...

- Stay safe. The next few months are probably going to be the worst. If you wear a mask and stay safe, you may not get a cold or flu. They need to get through this phase. He is part of Phase 1 when the vaccine comes out. OHSU is running a trial right now. He is thinking about being a guinea pig for that.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- Rosemary brought up something that has been on her list since before she was on Council eight years ago. The City needs to support businesses. Retail does not wait until December 10 to start. Christmas needs to be up by Thanksgiving. They need to roll out the red carpet for Christmas, just like they do for Halloween. People want to find joy. They need to plan for lights need to be up earlier. As a City, they owe it to citizens to put out the welcome mat.
- The Planning Commission has two terms expiring. They will be interviewing candidates to make changes on the Commission. They need to entertain new ideas for the Planning Commission.

Council President Morten asked Councilor Carlson when she thinks Public Works crews should take down Christmas decorations. She thinks decorations should come down within seven days of the event. Christmas decorations need to be up by Thanksgiving to be ready for Small Business Saturday shopping.

- She met the new Spotlight reporter. He is a super sweet guy. His questions reminded her of all the good reasons she ran for City Council. They have a great team and are blessed with such great public servants.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- Staff is doing a great job to be COVID-19 compliant and keep the State happy.
- Last week, he had a conversation with a Council member from Scappoose. They discussed some of their common problems and how to work together. They need to set up a joint meeting.
 - Need to get rid of the railroad switching yard and clean up the railroad.
 - Need a west bypass around Portland. If the railroads and bypassed joined together, they could make a shipping center.
 - Sewer plant.
- He just received a new iPad from the City. He is not computer literate, so had his granddaughter teach him how to use it. They found out that the City is tracking him and turned off a tracking device. His granddaughter found out the City is tracking his photos. Then they found another tracking device that only the City's IT can access. He brought this up to his attorney who told him not to use the iPad. The attorney said they can turn on the iPad to listen to him and watch his

pictures. If the staff can follow him and find out what is going on, maybe the Council should have the same privilege of tracking the staff. The mechanism of the computer is an invasion of privacy.

Mayor Scholl informed Councilor Topaz that he is not required to use the iPad supplied by the City.

Mayor Scholl added that Paul Vogel talked about a grant earlier today. Only half of the approved small businesses have completed the process to receive the money. He wants staff to help communicate that they need to complete it. It has to be dispersed by the end of the year or it is lost.

Mayor Scholl reminded everyone about the Christmas Ships event on Saturday, December 12. The Waterfront Property will be open for parking to view the ships. There will be a drive-thru Santa Claus with a candy shoot on the Courthouse steps.

Councilor Carlson added that the Library and the Recreation Center is scheduling multiple family-friendly events to do safely from your home and vehicle.

Walsh pointed out that the Council removed the Comcast Franchise agreement from the agenda. Tim Goodman is in attendance if they needed to talk to him more. Mayor Scholl found their proposal unacceptable. There needs to be more time to discuss it before sending it through the approval process.

Council President Morten asked Public Works Engineering Director Nelson what the issue is on Gable Road and Columbia Blvd. with the culverts. Nelson explained that it is a sanitary sewer extension by a private developer who wants to develop vacant property. That roadway still belongs to Columbia County, who is responsible for permitting that work. It does not impact the work already done on Gable Road. Eventually, Columbia County will be replacing a storm culvert that passes under Columbia Blvd. but that will not impact the sewer work. They did coordinate to avoid conflict. It does not conflict with the sidewalk project either.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

ADJOURN – 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
Rick Scholl, Mayor