



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, May 15, 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
Tina Curry, Contracted Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Nick Hellmich	Willow Bill	Mitzi Ponce	Ron Houghtelling
Steve LeSollen	Janet LeSollen	Jenni Gilbert	Gregory Fender
Brady Preheim	Patrick Birkle	Jenn	Jim Fischer
Steve Toschi	Jim Coleman	KT	Don Hibbs
Adam St. Pierre	Arthur Leskowich	Jen Massey	Brad Monroe
Josh Brown	Eugene LeSollen	River Lee	Wyatt Littleton

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Patrick Birkle. Apologized to Brady Preheim for a lack of decorum at the last meeting he spoke, although he still stands by how he was feeling. He had hoped the new police station would have almost been built by now and believes the delays have been politically motivated. He went on to commend the Council for what they are doing. He encouraged them to move on to a different tourism contractor, stand up to the neigh sayers, and do what's best for the community.
- ◆ Ron Houghtelling. On behalf of Project Arcadia, he thanked the Mayor, Council, and City Administrator Walsh for their work on the project and signing the LOI. He appreciates it.
- ◆ Jim Coleman. Agreed with Patrick's words about the Council's dedication and good work. After listening to the work session, he questioned the tourism contract extension during the RFP process to complete 13 Nights on the River. How is that possible when they have had a year to plan the full schedule? He suggests that she's using that as a pawn to get them to extend the contract. If she can't continue past the four concerts in June, the City has a great staff that can handle the rest and pay for them from the secret Wauna Credit Union account. He encouraged

them to not let the threat of four nights of music force them into extending the contract. She may be the next tourism director if she applies.

- ◆ Nick Hellmich. Thanked the City for approving his permit to close John Gumm Way. He requested to rent barriers to close the street. He attended his first Parks & Trails Commission meeting as a member. He appreciates being appointed and looks forward to serving.
- ◆ Brady Preheim. He is still unsure about the City's plan for tourism and events. It's clear why most cities have a city manager and not a city administrator. The Council is dysfunctional and unable to make a decision. In response to Jim's comments, Tina will not be here if she doesn't get the contract. She can't sign a contract for events she won't be at. They should listen to staff and extend the contract though the end of the year. He is okay with the RFP process but the RFP is for an employee, not an independent contractor. None of the Council are qualified to choose from RFP submittals. They need to have someone experienced review them.
- ◆ Steve Toschi. Referring to tourism, the RFP changes the dynamic of what the tourism person does. The City seems to be looking for someone to manage events and not bring in events, like Tina has been doing. He cautioned the Council on selling waterfront property to Project Arcadia.
- ◆ Adam St. Pierre. He agreed with Brady. Walsh is not qualified to lead tourism. There is no good time to end the contract. When E2C got the RFP the first time, it was the same model. There may be a problem with the contract and should allow anyone to walk in at any time and assume the contract. It's time for a change in leadership with tourism but not someone who's up for election. He appreciates the Council and what they do.
- ◆ Willow Bill. The Flying Eagle had her baby. They had a beautiful ceremony and will be carving the new canoe in Lake Tahoe. He wants to have an Eagle Fest on 4th of July and is requesting \$2,000 to have shirts printed. He'll be back here in two weeks to ask for this in person.
- ◆ Mitzi Ponce, 2C's. Brady made some statements about downtown businesses during the work session that she would like to correct. Nine years ago, the Klondike was still open, the Masonic building was occupied by artifacts, and 2C's opened in that location in 2012. That seemed to be said in the context of Spirit of Halloweentown being responsible for those businesses being open today. 80% of businesses don't make it a year. A lot of businesses are here because they work six to seven days a week. She thanked Travis at Landis & Landis for fixing a signage problem that was creating confusion. It's nice having a contractor who responds quickly. The City is facing difficult decisions and she appreciates their work and thoughtful preparation. This is the year to make contract changes with everything messed up anyway.
- ◆ Jen Massey. After listening to the work session, she understands that it's never a good time to do the RFP process. However, the contractor should be working the entire year they're being paid and planning a year in advance. A professional contractor will know what to do if they come in the middle of an event. St. Helens is not the only one needing to change contracts. She agreed with Adam and Brady. They need a city manager and not a city administrator.

ORDINANCES – *Final Reading*

1. **Ordinance No. 3300:** An Ordinance Amending the St. Helens Municipal Code Title 10, "Vehicles and Traffic," adding Chapter 10.20 "Traffic Calming"

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3300 by title. Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Ordinance No. 300. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

RESOLUTIONS

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - Increasing Garbage & Recycling Rates

Resolution No. 2003: A Resolution Establishing Garbage & Recycling Rates and Superseding Resolution No. 1980

- ◆ Nick Hellmich. He used to work at Community Action Team (CAT). Utility increases are a strain for senior citizens. Unfortunately, CAT is not able to help pay for garbage fees. He hopes they have resources to help them.
- ◆ Brady Preheim. He was told he would need to move to 'on demand' if he wanted to keep his garbage can, which is cheaper than regular garbage serve. He switched to that and then they still took his garbage can.

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Resolution No. 2003. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

3. PUBLIC COMMENT - Update Engineering Fees

Resolution No. 2004: A Resolution Adopting a Universal Fee Schedule, and Superseding Resolution No. 1972

No public comments.

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 2004. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen; Nay: Councilor Hubbard

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

4. Agreement with St. Helens School District to Obtain After School Recreation Activities for Development of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Project
5. Third Amendment to Agreement with Kittelson & Associates, Inc. for S. 1st Street & St. Helens Street Intersection Improvements Project

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to approve '4' and '5' above.

Discussion. City Administrator Walsh explained the need for '5' being related to the underground utility work.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

6. Budget Committee Minutes dated May 4, 2023, January 11, 2024, February 15, 2024, and April 25, 2024

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Council President Chilton to approve '6' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

7. Utility Bill Leak Adjustment Request for 280 St. Helens Street (Salisbury)

8. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '7' and '8' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**Columbia Learning Center Board Appointment**

Chris Iverson is willing to continue serving.

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to reappoint Chris Iverson to the Columbia Learning Center Board. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Chilton reported...

- Mental Health Fair at McCormick Park on Saturday, May 18, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. It is organized by NAMI and CCMH.
- St. Helens High School Open House on May 24, 5:30 p.m.
- Reminder to vote.
- She is excited to see Project Arcadia moving quickly.

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- Parks & Trails Commission met on Monday.
 - Thanked Nick Hellmich for his service.
 - Columbia View Park is closing May 20 for construction.
 - Park fields are looking good.
- Excited for Project Arcadia.
- National Police Week is this week. He thanked the Police Department for their work.
- National Peace Officers Memorial Day is today. Marshall Dale Perry is the only St. Helens officer who died in the line of duty, which was in 1924.
- Encouraged everyone to vote. There is a police levy on the ballot. Police are increasing in cost.
- Citizens Day in the Park is next month. They still need lots of help.

Councilor Gundersen reported...

- Planning Commission met last night. They did a good job working on proactive items.
- Need volunteers for Citizens Day in the Park.
- Encouraged everyone to support the policy levy on the ballot.

Councilor Hubbard reported...

- Glad to see Project Arcadia is moving forward and see the mill prepare to start back up.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- Citizens Day in the Park is June 22. They need volunteers and Council needs to complete their contacts.
- He met with 1st graders at Lewis & Clark Elementary School on Tuesday. They advocated for a trampoline park.
- They have an LOI with Project Arcadia.
- Most cities do not take visitor comments during work sessions. He is seeking input from Council about limiting them to regular sessions. After discussion, it was decided to limit them to regular sessions beginning on June 19, noting that written statements can be submitted anytime. Walsh pointed out they may need to amend the Council rules.
- Canceled the July 3 Council meetings.

- Need to communicate that 4th of July fireworks are cancelled. McCormick Park will host events and he suggests having a block party that night.
- Flying Eagle will be here on the 4th of July.
- Landis & Landis is doing a fabulous job on the intersection S. 1st Street and St. Helens Street.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN – 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
Rick Scholl, Mayor