



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, February 03, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERSPRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Doug Morten
Councilor Patrick Birkle
Councilor Stephen R. Topaz
Councilor Jessica Chilton

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Mouhamad Zaher, Public Works Director
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Dean Kampfer
Judy Thompson
Brady Preheim
Natasha Parvey
Al Petersen

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Scholl recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- ♦ Brady Preheim. He thought he was unhappy about the City and the Police Station. But now, he heard that the City is making an agreement with SHEDCO. From the beginning, the agreement with SHEDCO and Sheri Stuart was for Al to resign from the Board. Al moving from Chair to Treasurer is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. There is no difference. Part of the reason for him to leave the Board was the issue of financial impropriety. He was the architecture for the grants that were issued. This makes the situation worse. Did the City receive a copy of their financials and minutes? Brady was advocating for the City to work with SHEDCO. The bylaws say Al cannot be there at all.
- ♦ Al Petersen. He disagreed with Brady's statements about the recommendations from Sheri Stuart. The recommendations were for restructuring the Board. The City and SHEDCO were to come to an agreement through an MOU. After creating the MOU, a committee was to be formed and new members nominated. The Board would be restructured based on those new members. Sheri Stuart is willing to help coordinate community outreach to obtain Board member nominations. The City and SHEDCO Board have been following the recommendations

presented. He encouraged everyone to re-read Sheri's recommendations if there is confusion. Brady's statements were false.

- ◆ (Letter read into the record by Assistant City Administrator Brown) *I am writing on behalf of my grandparents. I am reaching out to see if they can request an exception to receive an additional credit in the amount of their average bill, which is usually approximately \$100-150, compared to the excessive amount due to a water leak. Unfortunately, the leak was in the main line in the front yard and they did not even notice the leak until they received the first bill for over \$900. As soon as they noticed the leak, they turned off their water and started looking for it. Family came to assist and dug a trench in the front yard to find the leak. They had a difficult time finding a plumber to respond within a timely manner. After about a week, I stepped in and got a plumber to come out the next day. The leak was professionally fixed, in addition to the rest of the water line that ran under the house and into the washroom. They are on a limited income and Grandpa just underwent a quadruple bypass surgery on January 29. They are very overwhelmed with the \$500 bill they had to pay after the first credit. The second bill was over \$300 because of the way the billing cycle pans out and the new billing cycle begins. He is requesting the City credit the difference of their average bill. They have paid almost a year's supply of their water in two months because of the leak. They have done everything they can to find the leak and get it fixed. He appreciates their time.*

Brown reported that their first bill was \$983, and their second bill was \$562. Staff can credit up to 50% administratively, which was \$663. Any more than that must come to Council for approval. They are asking for a full adjustment of the remaining \$663.

Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Mayor Scholl to approve the full adjustment of the remaining \$663. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

ORDINANCES – First Reading

1. **Ordinance No. 3259:** An Ordinance Renewing Solid Waste Drop Box Franchise and Repealing Ordinance No. 3140

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3259 by title for the first time. The final reading will be held at the next regular session.

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

2. Agreement with ECONorthwest for Assistance in RFP Process for Millard Road Property
3. Contract Payments

Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Council President Morten to approve '2' and '3' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

4. ~~Proposed Amended Non-Represented Job Descriptions-~~
5. Council Work Session, Executive Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated January 20, 2021
6. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '5' and '6' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**Timber Cut at Watershed**

Mayor Scholl would like to move forward with two cuts of about 100 acres total, based on funding for upcoming projects. Council President Morten agreed.

City Administrator Walsh reviewed the updated information received from Brent Keller. The potential cuts were broken down into three potential areas: #1 – 65 acres, #2 – 50 acres, and #3 – 50 acres. Walsh clarified that the Council is not approving the sale. They would be granting approval to prepare for a sale by getting bids for potential timber prices.

Motion made by Mayor Scholl and seconded by Council President Morten to move forward with an estimation for two cuts. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

Authorize Signature and Designate City Administrator Walsh to sign the MOU with SHEDCO for the Main Street Program

Mayor Scholl talked about Sheri Stuart's presentation. The MOU follows her recommendations.

Councilor Birkle reported that he did hear her presentation to the SHEDCO Board and the Council, prior to his service on the Council. He was very impressed with SHEDCO's willingness and positive attitude to do what needed to be done to renew their organization. They were accepting of the recommendations, although some may have seemed unfavorable to them.

Mayor Scholl said they are moving forward and not looking back. They have a roadmap that was presented by the Main Street program. The City is all about partnering. They cannot do this alone.

Consensus of Council to authorize Walsh to sign the MOU.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- It has been quiet.
- He got out into the little bit of snow they had.
- There is a lot of new building in St. Helens. He welcomed new citizens moving into the area.
- He would like to talk about returning to the Council Chambers for meetings in-person. It is vitally needed. Virtual meetings are not efficient for serving the public. He requested staff recommend a timeline for moving forward with in-person meetings. They will have to adjust.

Councilor Topaz suggested staff work with the School District Superintendent. The school seems to have the best communication lines with what is happening in Salem. Mayor Scholl said he is receiving regular updates from the Governor's office as well.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

7:27 p.m.

Council President Morten reported...

- He was very encouraged by the City Attorney's training today. He had positive things to say about how the City gives opportunities for citizen input.
- The Parks & Trails Commission recommended use of a certain piece of property. Council has had further discussions about the property. He thanked Brown for his willingness to give an update at the next Parks & Trails Commission meeting about that property, on his behalf.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- He has been watching the news and has seen articles about Nike moving out. Can the City partner more with the Port for marketing to businesses?

Mayor Scholl said yes. He is sure the Port is keeping that in mind.

Councilor Chilton reported...

- Public outreach is ongoing for the proposed Public Safety Facility. There is a lot of great information on the City's website, including upcoming Zoom information sessions. She encouraged everyone in the community to attend.
- Police officers are participating in conversation Spanish classes to increase communication.
- The Police Department is working with C-COM to generate a list of the top service call areas in the City. This will allow them to formulate plans to reduce crime and ensure proactive policing.
- Chief Greenway continues to share positive stories demonstrating the commitment of our officers.
- There are lots of good things happening with our police force. She encouraged people to get out, asks questions, and attend Zoom meetings.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- The next Planning Commission meeting is on February 9.
- He has been trying to share information and links on his Facebook page about the proposed Public Safety Facility. Based on comments made earlier today, he clarified that the Ad-hoc Committee has not made any decisions. They made a recommendation to the Council. He honors their work, whether they are residents or not. They have been involved in our community. He values their input. The Council has not committed to building a \$20 million building. It is a proposal at this time. He encouraged residents to get involved in the process. He trusts staff to provide professional information. He also trusts himself to ask hard questions.
- The SHEDCO agreement can be used as a model for moving forward in other areas. This is a time for healing and a time for moving ahead. While he respects the former Council that led them to this point, this is a new Council. They need to put personalities aside. He is disheartened to hear personal attacks. He wants to hear the information and have that information supported in facts. While he respects the rights of all to come and express their displeasure in front of the Council, personal attacks on people are the least effective way for anybody to convince him of the position.

Mayor Scholl expressed that he really enjoyed the Council Retreat last week. It was refreshing to get back to the basics. He looks forward to reviewing the Strategic Action Plan in-depth.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN – 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl

Rick Scholl, Mayor