



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

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, Finance Director
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Steve Toschi
Art Leskowich
Stephanie Patterson
Brady Preheim

CALL REGULAR SESSION TO ORDER – 7 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Art Leskowich. He watched the December 1 meeting at home. Shauna Stroup asked a question about the lagoon, and it was not answered. Are there any updates? He is looking forward to Phase I and II of the Riverwalk project. He is confused about how we'll incorporate a landfill into the project.
- ◆ Brady Preheim. He distributed a Spotlight article to the Council. A copy is included in the archive packet for this meeting. He doesn't blame Erin Salisbury for the stuff that went on in SHEDCO prior to her being there. He supports the project and Columbia Theater. However, the marquee was not part of the grant. The screen may have been part of the grant. There were people who applied for the grant who were not even considered. It was pre-determined who was going to be the winner. The president of SHEDCO at the time was also the architect for the project that was chosen. He will bet money that this grant won't be used either, just like the first one. This is almost \$400,000 with matching funds. He wants to see change and see them do well, but he wants the Council to be aware of the past and makes sure it won't happen again. Part of the funds are for the bathroom remodel, but he doesn't think it will happen. He doesn't like the misinformation they were told this morning.

He was bothered about the comments from Finance Director Brown implying that money received was too little or too much. It's not acceptable to imply Tina Curry is stealing money. They need to be aware of how successful the tourism program has been. He would like to see the report and will submit a public records request.

ORDINANCES – Final Reading

- 1. Ordinance No. 3271:** An Ordinance Amending the St. Helens Municipal Code Chapter 6.04 Regarding Beekeeping

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3271 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Chilton and seconded by Council President Morten to adopt Ordinance No. 3271. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

- 2. Ordinance No. 3275:** An Ordinance Amending St. Helens Municipal Code Title 13 Relating to Definitions of Equivalent Dwelling Units for Water and Wastewater Utilities Services

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3275 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to adopt Resolution No. 3275. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

- 3. Ordinance No. 3276:** An Ordinance Amending St. Helens Municipal Code Title 2 Relating to Administration and Personnel

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Council President Morten to postpone the final reading until January 5, 2022, to allow Council more time to review the proposed amendments.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

ORDINANCES – First Reading

- 4. Ordinance No. 3277:** An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property at 35480 East Division Road

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3277 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

- 5. Ordinance No. 3278:** An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property at 58471 Columbia River Highway

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3278 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

- 6. Ordinance No. 3279:** An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property at 58284 Old Portland Road

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3279 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

- 7. Resolution No. 1942:** A Resolution to Set 2022 City Public Meetings and Holiday Closures Schedule for City of St. Helens Council, Boards and Commissions

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1942 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 1942. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

- 8. Resolution No. 1943:** A Resolution Appointing the Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2022-23

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1943 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 1943. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

- 9. Resolution No. 1944:** A Resolution Adopting a Community Public Safety Fee

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1944 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to adopt Resolution No. 1944.

Discussion. Mayor Scholl stated that this is a very good thing for our community. The fee is low cost. A new public safety building is highly needed in the community. He appreciates the officers and their work. Councilor Birkle concurred.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

10. Resolution No. 1945: A Resolution Approving Participation as a Local Government Recipient of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation Settlement, and Related Matters

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1945 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Chilton and seconded by Council President Morten to adopt Resolution No. 1945.

Discussion. Mayor Scholl stated that big pharma is finally paying for the opiate problem. They were supplying toxic prescriptions. It's about time that the federal government got involved. Your doctor could be a drug dealer.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

AWARD BID/CONTRACT

11. 2021 Aerial Imaging and GIS Data Update to GeoTerra for \$94,110

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Council President Morten to approve '11' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

12. First Amendment to Agreement with David Evans & Associates, Inc. for Columbia Blvd. Sidewalk & Safety Improvements Project
13. Contract Payments

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '12' and '13' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

APPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

14. Appointments to Planning Commission & Budget Committee

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Birkle to appoint Lew Mason to the Budget Committee. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to reappoint John Brewington and appoint Dana Lathrope to the Parks & Trails Commission. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Chilton to appoint Steve Toschi to the Planning Commission. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

Mayor Scholl welcomed the new members.

Council President Morten would like to recognize the outgoing members, Bill Eagle and Elisa Mann, at a future Council meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

15. Oregon Department of State Lands Amended and Restated Submerged and Submersible Land Lease Agreement No. 10474-ML

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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

16. New Engineering Manager Job Description
17. New Engineer III Job Description
18. New Water Quality Manager Job Description
19. New Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Job Description
20. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '16' through '20' above.

Discussion. Councilor Birkle appreciated Zaher's presentation during the Riverwalk Open House at the Recreation Center. Councilor Birkle spoke with a resident who talked about how professional Zaher is. The new engineering structure will be good for the city.

Councilor Chilton acknowledged Zaher's work as well. She is looking forward to what he brings.

Mayor Scholl pointed out that these are restructures and already in the budget. They are not new positions.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

None

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- The Christmas Ships event was nice. The rain stopped and allowed them to enjoy the ships.
- Had the first dock meeting yesterday. It went really well. They will draft a policy and bring it back to the next meeting. They need to be able to police their waterways.
- Tonight's Riverwalk Open House was phenomenal. The riverwalk is becoming a reality. He thanked staff for their work. Walsh brings a sense of calmness. He thanked him for his leadership. Walsh thanked Mayor Scholl. There's a lot of work to do and it's exciting for the community. A video will be coming shortly.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Morten reported...

- Dalton Lake Nature Preserve
 - Attended a meeting with Columbia River Estuary System (CRES). They are rehabbing the Dalton Lake area for salmon habitat. Their project is 60% planning. It is very fascinating. The beavers in the area are not problematic, but part of the system. There is a lot of flexibility built into the planning.
- Nob Hill Nature Park
 - The park has a lot of passionate volunteers. Councilor Birkle is one of those who is very involved in the work being done. They look for the quality and experience of being in a nature park. The nature trails are made for people. He would like some guidelines about widths of trails.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- Council President Morten talked about salmon. Their lifecycle is very complicated. There needs to be a seminar to inform people. Council President Morten said there is a guy in the community who wrote the book.

- Council President Morten also talked about Dalton Park. He should emphasize what else lives in that area.
- The Library has been working with Government Affairs Specialist Rachael Barry on a Strategic Planning exercise. The Library staff and Library Board lists were very similar.
- The Riverwalk, Riverfront framework, Veneer walk, Connector Plan, toxic waste dump, parks, and sewer problems somehow need to be added to a master plan with an explanation of how they all fit together.
- He has heard concerns about parking downtown. What happens when there are a lot of people at the Riverwalk and the County Courthouse is in session? Some designs haven't taken into consideration the parking when multiple events are taking place.
- He received a handout in the packet from Main Street. Was the report from the Census Bureau? It shows St. Helens has some problems with jobs and income. It kind of hurts. He showed pictures when the mills were in operation. We had the highest paper capita of any city in the country. They need to get their spirit back.

Councilor Chilton reported...

- Participated in the annual police awards dinner. It was eye opening. Some of their lifesaving awards are amazing to hear about it. She expressed appreciation of Officer Boswell, who received the Officer of the Year award. He is serving our community and country in the military.
- The Riverwalk Open House was good tonight. It was beneficial to see the drawings and maps. She talked with people and learned what they are interested in. She looks forward to seeing it.
- Welcomed the new committee members.
- Merry Christmas! Have a safe and happy time with family and friends.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- Have always known Brown to tell it like it is, whether it is good or bad. If he doesn't say it in a public meeting, he's exercising responsibility and discretion.
- Since there will be a public records request for the Executive Committee report, he would not hesitate to invite others who have questions to do the same thing.
- Planning Commission (PC) met yesterday. There's another annexation on the way. St. Helens is continuing to expand. People want to be part of the community and the opportunities that it provides. PC continues to do great work.
- Applied for and was accepted to a position on the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Community Development Policy Committee. He is anxious to share what is happening with that. Council President Morten reported that he served on two of those. They are very rewarding. Birkle will make a difference state-wide.
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Scholl congratulated Senator Johnson and her efforts running as Governor. She has resigned her position as State Senator. She is common sense and is all about what will be good for Oregon. She works tirelessly. It's time for Oregon to look through a different lens. The two-party system is broken. He is Independent and serves the best he can. She is doing the same.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Be safe!

ADJOURN – 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
Rick Scholl, Mayor