



# **COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

### **STAFF PRESENT**

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

### **OTHERS**

Jane Garcia  
Brady Preheim  
Chris Cannard

### **CALL REGULAR SESSION TO ORDER – 7 p.m.**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

- ◆ Tina Curry. Council received information and pictures of a tourism boat in their boxes. The timing to purchase it is critical because everything must be replaced on the boat, and it needs to be here by August. They are going to make the boat front-loading, so they do not have to have a dock. That will allow them to have Audubon tours, kayak tours, etc. She would also like it so the seats can be removable. Not needing a dock would allow them to expedite transports. They already have a licensed captain in mind. He is usually in Alaska during that time on a commercial boat that does guest tours. The person selling the boat owns Barge Works. They have had multiple people looking at. It is tough to find what they need.

Mayor Scholl likes the idea of it because they live on the river. It is a 30-passenger boat and two crew.

Councilor Chilton asked if this will be used for Sand Island camping transportation. Curry said yes, and for the Sandcastle competition. They could charge a minimal fee if there is a COI.

Council President Morten asked about Brad Hendrickson building yurts on the Island. Curry spoke with Brad, and he wants to complete the guest gathering space for the yacht club. He is opened to having more substantial dwellings. It takes time and money to do it. Brad would give them a boat slip if they need it.

Councilor Topaz asked if Brad's boat will still be operational. Curry said yes. This would be separate. She does not want it to just be a camping boat, but it could be used during busy event weekends.

Mayor Scholl talked about how busy it gets on the Island.

Councilor Birkle asked if the price is firm at \$250,000. Curry said yes, it will not go over that. It includes the delivery and trailer. Councilor Birkle asked if they need to go through the same public hearing process as when they purchased the tram. Mayor Scholl said they could do that with a special meeting. It is time sensitive. Councilor Birkle also sees it as a resource during an emergency. Local bridges will come down during the Cascadia earthquake and they will be isolated.

Councilor Chilton is impressed with the proposal. It includes the cost, need, process, and the potential revenue.

Council President Morten talked about it giving citizens more access to the river. The river is a major asset to the city. Already having a certified pilot is an asset. The craft is made of aluminum and will be around for at least 40 years. You would only need to maintain the engine. It is a great opportunity. He appreciates the thorough proposal. The only negative thing is the time needed to make a decision.

Councilor Topaz listed some advantages of purchasing the boat:

- Army Corps of Engineers could take over the vessel in the event of a disaster to assist with aid in the community.
- Use it for tourism sight-seeing.
- Rent it as a source of revenue.

Mayor Scholl said they need to determine if a public hearing is needed. It can be added to the next agenda. Tina said her company could buy it and sell it to the City for \$1.

Councilor Chilton asked who would maintain the boat. Mayor Scholl said it would be maintained by the City's mechanics.

Council President Morten thanked Curry for coming. Everything she touches turns to gold.

- ◆ Brady Preheim. He is requesting Council deny Resolution No. 1949. Control Solutions makes equipment for monitoring vaccines, which made a lot of money during the pandemic. It is embarrassing to ask the City for money when they have had record profits. They do not need the money nor the two-year abatement. They are doing well. The boat sounds like a great idea. He does not know if a public meeting is needed, but it does not seem like it since they did not do one for building a new police station.

Councilor Chilton recommended Brady listen to the work session. The business owner was in attendance with CET. Council had some of the same questions that Brady brought up. Council President Morten met the founder of the company. It had nothing to do with vaccines at that time. It was food temperatures for products coming here. It is a sound company.

Councilor Topaz showed Mayor Scholl a copy of his Professional Engineering license stamp from Maryland. He is a real Engineer with a license. It is not active right now because he has not paid this year's dues. He also showed a copy of his Degree of Bachelors in Science in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University, dated January 21, 1961. Mayor Scholl pointed out that his Engineering degree is in Mechanical, which is different than Geological Engineering, but he recognizes the Professional Engineering license. He appreciates Councilor Topaz bringing these documents in.

### **ORDINANCES – First Reading**

- 1. Ordinance No. 3282:** An Ordinance to Amend the City of St. Helens Zoning District Map to Add a Planned Development Overlay Zone for Certain Property Generally Located at the Northern Termini of N. 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets North of Deer Island Road

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3282 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

**RESOLUTIONS**

- 2. Resolution No. 1949:** A Resolution of the St. Helens City Council Authorizing Extended Enterprise Zone Benefits for a Fourth and Fifth Year to Control Solutions, Inc., Located in the South Columbia County Enterprise Zone

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1949 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 1949.

Discussion.

Mayor Scholl explained that Kevin Wick and Paul Vogel were here this afternoon to talk about the request. There was a huge demand for the product at the beginning of the pandemic, but other companies flooded the market during that time. They have had to expand and go back to temperature monitoring devices for food. They met all the criteria to extend the Enterprise Zone benefits.

**Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton; Abstained: Council President Morten because he knows the owner

**APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE**

3. Amendment No. 1 to Safe Routes to School Program Grant Agreement with ODOT for Columbia Blvd. Sidewalk and Crosswalk Project
4. Extension No. 2 to Agreement with Columbia Pacific Economic Development District for Grant Administration for Columbia Pacific Food Bank Project
5. Public Right-of-Way Dedication for Barr Avenue Access for Comstock Property

**Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '3' through '5' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE**

6. Library Board Minutes dated January 18, 2022
7. Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes dated March 14, 2022
8. Planning Commission Minutes dated March 8, 2022

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Chilton and seconded by Councilor Birkle to approve '6' through '8' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL**

9. Council Work Session, Executive Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated March 16, 2022 and Joint City Council/Planning Commission Minutes dated March 16, 2022
10. Animal Facility Licenses
11. OLCC Licenses
12. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Chilton and seconded by Council President Morten to approve '9' through '12' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

**WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**

None

**COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Council President Morten reported...

- Participated in a two-day Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) workshop. He grew a lot from it. It was a wonderful opportunity to go through it as a teacher and coach. He encouraged Council to take the workshop.
- The Parks & Recreation Commission had interviews to fill a vacant position. The two applicants were very close with the new point system. He spoke to the Chair about the interviews, and they decided the person with the highest score will be recommended for appointment.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- Library Director interviews were conducted on Monday. Both candidates were excellent.
- Suzanne Bonamici visited the Makerspace on Tuesday. She was very knowledgeable about what it offers and the value it brings to the community. Library Technician Allen Hansen led a very good presentation. They have exceeded expected growth by three times. Suzanne wanted to make sure we have a good communications system so everyone knows about it. Some people are even using it for business purposes.
- At the last Council meeting, they talked about fees paid to the attorney regarding the marijuana facility. Since City Administrator Walsh is not here, they can add it to the next agenda for discussion.

Councilor Chilton reported...

- She has been enjoying the parks a lot lately. There is a need for benches at McCormick Park.
- Concrete was poured in the Campbell Park dugouts. It is a huge improvement for the softball teams.
- She has been attending public forums and meeting the people running for various positions.
- Library Director interviews were conducted.
- Recently made garden gnomes at the Library Makerspace. Her kids love it there.
- She is looking forward to the upcoming Budget meeting in May. She will be reviewing the binder and researching information prior to the meeting.
- She is excited about the Riverfront RFQ presentations.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- He participated in the Nob Hill work party. It was a tremendous turnout.
- There are wildflowers everywhere around town.
- Sees potential for ecotourism with the boat and hiking.
- Had a nice meeting with the County District Attorney. He is a great asset to the community. He thinks highly of our Police Department.
- Attended the St. Helens School District Family Resource Center grand opening. They use the space that previously housed Plymouth High School.
- Have received one application for a vacant position on the Planning Commission. He encouraged community members to consider applying. Exciting times are ahead.
- Tomorrow is the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) final test simulation at the Lee Broadbent Training Center. There will be three scenarios with different tragedies through which they will rotate. It has given him a greater appreciation of first responders. The CERT training is part of the reason he sees the boat as being an asset to the community. They will have to pull together as a community. They will not be getting help immediately from the metro area or State. He recommends everyone participate in the training.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- There are multiple groups in town who need help outside of normal methods. The community does well with that, especially the need for volunteers.

- There is a big puddle outside the Food Bank that will be investigated. As soon as they get their Certificate of Occupancy, it will become a busy place.

**MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS**

- Met with Chief Medina of Columbia River Fire & Rescue. He will be inviting him to Council to introduce himself and give a presentation.
- Congratulated Public Works Director Zaher on earning the Certified Public Works Professional – Management (CPWP-M) designation from American Public Works Association (APWA). Only 90 people in the US have received it. Today's presentation was phenomenal. Public Works has a good crew.
- He and Walsh met with Mike Sykes from Columbia River PUD and Russ Hubbard, the new PUD liaison, as well as Craig Melton and Chris Iverson. They discussed the recent SWAT and the Port's inventory of lands, and how best to promote those properties. They have a lot to offer businesses in the area.
- Planning Division is doing a phenomenal job.
- He is looking forward to the Boards & Commissions annual reception. He appreciates everyone, even if they cannot be there. It is a lot of work and collaboration.
- He is proud of the progress they continue to make.
- Library Director interviews went well. The library is very important with good stuff happening.

Council President Morten asked if the State will be involved in the meetings with other jurisdictions. Mayor Scholl said he was talking about a SWAT follow-up meeting. Usually, State representatives attend the City County Quarterly Dinners, which they are trying to bring back. They may be able to use the Community Center.

Councilor Topaz was at the Spotlight office on Friday. It is only open on Fridays, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The connecting point at this end of the County does not exist anymore.

- Lot of good things are happening on the Council and sometimes it's thankless.

**OTHER BUSINESS****ADJOURN – 7:59 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl  
Rick Scholl, Mayor