



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, March 05, 2025

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jennifer Massey
Councilor Mark Gundersen
Councilor Russell Hubbard
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

MEMBERS ABSENT

Council President Jessica Chilton

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Joe Hogue, Acting Police Chief
Ashley Wigod, Contracted City Attorney

OTHERS

Reed Hjort
Brady Preheim
Jenni Gilbert
Ashley Christner
Mitz
Roger

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

1. Agreement with Black and Veatch to Develop a Project Implementation Plan for pH Compliance Requirements for the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '1' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

2. Contract with HASA, Inc. for Bulk Sodium Hypochlorite for the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '2' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

3. City Council Minutes dated January 15, February 18, and February 19, 2025
4. OLCC Licenses
5. Staff Monthly Report Template and Staff Report (Item Specific) Template

6. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '3' through '6' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**Date for Special Sessions**

The Council engaged in a detailed discussion to determine dates for future Special Sessions, ultimately deciding that Peter Hicks would be able to meet on March 17 at 5:30 p.m. for a session focused on the Council Governing Policy. Additionally, the Council confirmed a Strategic Plan session scheduled for March 18 at 3:00 p.m. to further discuss a roadmap.

Police Chief Vacancy

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to appoint Joe Hogue as an Interim Chief of Police, subject to the terms and conditions of a mutually agreeable employment agreement.

Councilors Gundersen, Hubbard, and Sundeen supported appointing Hogue as Police Chief and acknowledged the work he has done. Discussion ensued with some members emphasizing the need for a swift resolution to provide stability to the Police Department, while others underscored the necessity of thorough due diligence and compliance with legal advice.

Throughout the debate, there was a unanimous acknowledgment of the exemplary work Hogue has accomplished since taking on the interim role in October. His leadership had already brought a positive shift within the Police Department. With these contributions in mind, members discussed the importance of having an employment agreement drafted under Akin's guidance, to be finalized once the City's Governing Rules and evaluation protocols were clearly outlined.

A notable point of deliberation was whether the position would necessitate public posting. The Council expressed the need to clarify this requirement to ensure compliance with employment regulations. Additionally, the concept of retroactive pay for Hogue's tenure as acting chief was broached, emphasizing the recognition of his ongoing efforts. This element, among others, was designated for inclusion in the employment agreement, set to be ratified later.

Council reached a consensus with a collective commitment to both immediate action and due process.

Vote: Voting Nay: Mayor Massey, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

Contracted City Attorney Wigod presented a suggested motion based on discussion.

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to appoint Joe Hogue as an Interim Chief of Police for six months, subject to the terms and conditions of a mutually agreeable employment agreement, and the City may permanently hire the Chief at any time during the term of the contract. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- Parks and Trails Commission activities
 - Upcoming cleanup at Nob Hill Nature Park on April 5
 - Interviews for an open position
- Recent Police banquet, expressing appreciation for the Police Department and Acting Chief Hogue

Councilor Gundersen reported...

- Planning Commission meeting next week
- Joint Planning Commission and City Council meeting next week
- Satisfaction with the progress of the Waterfront development project

Councilor Hubbard reported...

- Project Arcadia moving forward
- Upcoming meeting with a developer regarding the Waterfront

MAYOR MASSEY REPORTS

- Thanked staff for their preparation
- Applauded Council members for professionalism and dialogue
- Expressed excitement for upcoming projects:
 - Waterfront development
 - New police station
- Mentioned a scheduled meeting with a developer
- Noted positive feedback from citizens about the Waterfront project

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

- ◆ Brady Preheim. Raised significant concerns over perceived ethical issues related to Mayor Massey's involvement in discussions about appointing the police chief. He criticized what he saw as unethical behavior, stating that the executive session was live-streamed and that Mayor Massey's behavior was, in his view, inappropriate. Preheim argued that Mayor Massey should recuse herself from anything related to the police chief appointment due to her involvement in a damaging report concerning her and her husband. He urged the Council to make an immediate decision to appoint Acting Chief Hogue permanently, expressing his belief that not doing so was also unethical.
- ◆ Jenni Gilbert. Echoed Preheim's concerns regarding ethical issues with the Mayor's participation. She noted that she had contacted the Ethics Commission about the situation, who reportedly suggested that there might be serious legal implications for the City. Gilbert expressed appreciation for some Council members like Councilor Gundersen, highlighting their efforts to uphold standards. She asserted her belief in the necessity for a public posting of the police chief position, suggesting this might be a legal requirement. Gilbert warned the Council to be cautious of certain behaviors by Mayor Massey and proposed that, under other business, the Council should appoint Chief Hogue immediately.
- ◆ Adam St. Pierre. Emphasized the importance of substantiating statements with evidence when making any claims. He remarked that he had observed attorney involvement in other local Council meetings similar to this setting, noting this as a commonplace occurrence. St. Pierre also thanked the Council for their diligent work and mentioned that he found starting meetings on a positive note appealing. However, he expressed a preference for public comments to be scheduled earlier in meetings, arguing it would enable citizens to provide input on agenda items before decisions are made.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN – 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully transcribed by ClerkMinutes and submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Jennifer Massey
Jennifer Massey, Mayor