



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Doug Morten
Councilor Keith Locke
Councilor Ginny Carlson
Councilor Stephen R. Topaz

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Mouhamad Zaher, Public Works Director
Sue Nelson, City Engineer
Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner
Christina Sullivan, Community Development Administrative Assistant

OTHERS

Howard Blumenthal Carmin Dunn
Scott Keith Brady Preheim
Patrick Birkle

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Scholl said the Pledge of Allegiance.

FAREWELL TO COUNCILOR LOCKE & COUNCILOR CARLSON

Christina Sullivan thanked Councilor Locke for his commitment to the community. She is grateful to have met him through St. Helens Community Foundation and receive his mentorship with 13 Nights on the River. His presence at local events brought a sense of connection to the community and the Council. She appreciates that he is around and available. She enjoyed seeing him walking his dogs and visiting with residents. His creative mind was and still is refreshing. His dedication to making sure the Flying Eagle Canoe had a place and purpose was admirable. She hopes to see a permanent home for it, possibly at the Library. He has a way of exciting others to get involved. His support will be truly missed. Councilor Carlson is the heartbeat and important piece to the community. Her willingness to speak up and include everyone is amazing. She is thankful to have met her through community events and their mutual friend, Laura. It takes a very special person to be a caregiver. Councilor Carlson wears her heart on her sleeve and has a way of making people feel important and needed. That is a quality that every city needs in a council member. She is thankful this is not goodbye but a new adventure. She cannot wait to see what mischief she will get in to next. To both of the councilors, change is good and important for moving forward. She thanked them both for all they gave.

Patrick Birkle thanked Councilor Carlson and Councilor Locke for their years of service. As an incoming Council member, he is excited to build on the foundation they have built. He agreed with Christina's sentiments. Councilor Carlson has a great heart to include community members who are often overlooked. How can he fill Councilor Locke's position after 20 years? He thanked him for his 20 years of dedication. He has helped this town become a safe harbor, tourist destination, and a place of great jobs for our citizens.

Mayor Scholl talked about Councilor Carlson's big heart. The inclusivity she brought to Council is going to be missed. He loves her sense of humor and their talks. She has a unique relationship between Council members. To Councilor Locke, 20 years is a long time! He brought in a lot of history. He usually had the answer or researched it and knew a lot about it. Some of the projects he has worked on has been the canoe, taking care of Sand Island, fireworks, and 13 Nights on the River. Councilor Locke has a big heart. It has been an honor to serve with them both. Watching the Youth Council members talk about them brought a tear to his eye. Youth Council will survive. Civic engagement is part of what makes America, America. He thanked them both.

Councilor Carlson said she is not leaving town but will see less of Councilor Locke. In the last eight years, she has buried her mom, survived cancer twice, and had her husband walk out of her life. Councilor Locke has taught her kids to drive, held her hand for cancer, and reached out to her in many ways. It was not because of politics but because of the guy he is. There is still good stewardship on the Council to move the City on in a forward way.

Council President Morten talked about how Councilor Carlson has brought statesmanship to the Council. He is astounded at how she can put meaningful words together and respond effectively to issues. She is a phenomenal speaker. The first time he heard her speak was back when they were doing the Gateway project. She spoke so well and was so effective. She was behind the imagination and creativity of getting those kinds of things going in the city. She stands for "habitat." Not just Habitat for Humanity, but also habitat for the environment that is inclusive to St. Helens. She is an icon. He will miss her dearly on the Council. He talked earlier about Councilor Locke and his overwhelming ambassadorship to the city. All the work he has done in the last 20 years has been astounding. It is interesting that he is going out during a pandemic. When he came on the Council in 2000, it was Y2K. Those are two worldwide issues that are phenomenal. He listed several noted accomplishments.

- Served 20 years as Councilor
- Prior to Council, he served from 1995 – 1996 on the Riverfront Committee
- Council liaison for:
 - Planning, two years
 - Public Works, two years
 - Police, 15 years
 - Library, 2 years
 - Building and Community Development, 13 years
 - Tourism, 10 years
 - Youth Council, 6 years
 - Representative for Paper Mill property, 5 years
 - Regional Organized Crime Narcotics (ROCN), 6 years
 - Columbia Emergency Planning Associations (CEPA), 13 years
 - Economic Development
 - St. Helens Merchants Association, 2 years,
 - Columbia Pacific Economic District (COLPAC), 2003 – 2010
 - St. Helens Economic Development Committee (SHEDCO), 2007 – 2010
 - Columbia County Economic Team (CCET), 2007 – 2011

- Chamber of Commerce Liaison, 1999 – 2006
 - St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union Board, 1998 – 2004
- Some of his projects included:
 - Grey Cliffs Park
 - Sand Island Park
 - Columbia View Park amphitheater, 2005 – 2016
 - Lewis & Clark 150 Year Celebration Campfire & Canoes, 2006
 - Flying Eagle Canoe, 15 years
 - 13 Nights on the River, 8 years
 - Friday Night Movies, 2008 – 2010
 - 4th of July fireworks, 1985 – 2017
 - Christmas Ships, Captains Dinner, Santa, and Tree Celebration, 11 years
 - Tourism & Spirit of Halloweentown, 2001 – 2009
 - FORD Leadership, Crown Zellerbach Trail, Scappoose, 2006 – 2007
 - Sand Island Shuttle – 2010
- Service organizations:
 - Community Action Team (CAT) Board Officer, 10 years
 - Kiwanis Noon Club, 10 years
 - Kiwanis Parade Committee Chair, 3 years
 - Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT), 2005
 - St. Helens Community Foundation, 8 years
 - Teen Center Ad-hoc Committee, 2 years
 - Columbia Center Foundation Board Technology, 1996 – present
 - Police Board Committee
 - Chamber award, 2011
 - Police Department First Citizen Award, 2020
 - United Food and Shelter Subcommittee, 9 years

This is just a portion of Councilor Locke's involvement over the last 20 years. Thank you, Councilor Locke.

Keith Locke expressed that he could not have done this without the support of his wife, Kathy. Second, he thanked the staff. There are only a few remaining from when he first began. Looking back at some of the projects he did, he wonders what they were doing letting him do it. It is really rough out there and sometimes you have to press the limits to get things done. He learned how to do that over the years. Most everything has worked out well. His biggest advice to councilors is that if you get an idea, try to get a few people to buy into it so you are not alone. Do not be afraid to talk to each other and throw ideas off each other. Do not be afraid to dream and act on your dream.

Councilor Topaz asked how many years he shepherded the fireworks. Councilor Locke did it off and on for 33 years. When he was at the Mill, he hung out with Steve Young, who oversaw the fireworks. Mayor Scholl added that Ed Lokken was the main fireworks organizer.

Councilor Locke thanked the staff. It has been fun and a very rewarding experience.

Councilor Topaz first met Councilor Carlson on SHEDCO. She can go help them again now that she has spare time.

Assistant City Administrator Brown read a comment that was on Facebook from Jeanne Crawford, as she was unable to access the Zoom meeting, "Ginny and Keith have been a very positive force for the community, pro small business, and very supportive of our youth. As a former business owner, she appreciates the support shown. Her daughter joined Youth Council from the suggestion from them both. I love you both."

Brown displayed a slideshow with memories of them both.

Councilor Locke thanked staff for the thoughtful card, beautiful plaque, and gift certificates for a couple of his favorite restaurants.

Brady Preheim thanked them both for their years of service. He appreciates all they have done for the City. They will be missed.

City Administrator Walsh acknowledged the honor and privilege to work with them both. Councilor Carlson has been a wonderful councilor. She brought her own voice and a unique perspective. He has a lot of memories with Councilor Locke. Watching all that history walk out the door is a little bit emotional, but it is an opportunity for new voices and new perspectives. They will be missed.

Mayor Scholl expressed that being a councilor is all about networking. They will do their best to get the new councilors plugged in. They are moving forward full speed.

Deliberations - Street Vacation - Part of S. 2nd Street Right-of-Way (Zender)

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and second by Council President Morten to approve the street vacation as recommended. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

VISITOR COMMENTS

No visitor comments.

RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Resolution No. 1907:** A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of St. Helens, Oregon, Amending Resolution No. 1889, the City Employee Compensation Plan, to Change the Public Works Engineering Director Title to City Engineer

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1907 by title. Motion made by Councilor Locke and seconded by Council President Morten to adopt Resolution No. 1907. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

- 2. Resolution No. 1908:** A Resolution of the St. Helens City Council to Honor Citizen Engagement and Promote Community Health and Livability

Council President Morten expressed how important this resolution is to citizens and visitors. It gives the Parks & Trails Commission flexibility to continue their endeavors with trail connectivity and parks.

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1908 by title. Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Topaz to adopt Resolution No. 1908. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

AWARD BID/CONTRACT

3. McCormick Park Playground Equipment (*see packet materials*)
4. Columbia Pacific Food Bank Renovation Project to JH Kelly for \$1,615,777

Walsh clarified that the staff recommendation is to award the McCormick Park Playground project to Wildwood Playgrounds Northwest.

Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '3' and '4' above, as recommended by staff. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

5. Extension of Agreement with Pauly, Rogers, & Co. PC for Auditing Services
6. Statement of Work for Professional Services with David Evans & Associates for N. Vernonia Road Sidewalks Project

7. Contract Payments
8. Master Services Agreement with NW Regional Education Service District for Library Services

Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '5' through '8' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

APPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

9. Reappoint Jerry Belcher & Carmin Dunn to Parks & Trails Commission

Motion made by Councilor Locke and seconded by Council President Morten to approve '9' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

10. Planning Commission Minutes dated November 10, 2020

Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '10' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

11. Council Work Session, Executive Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated December 2, 2020
12. New City Engineer Job Description
13. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Council President Morten to approve '11' through '13' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

1st Item:

Request to hire a part-time communications staff member through June 30.

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Locke and seconded by Council President Morten to approve hiring a part-time communications staff member through June 30. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

2nd Item:

Align Budget Committee application and appointment process to be consistent with other boards and commissions recruitment. The interview process will be public in front of Council.

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Councilor Locke for the recruitment of Budget Committee members to be consistent with other boards and commissions. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- Christmas Ships was a wonderful event. It looked like everyone did a good job at social distancing. The weather held out.
- Continuing to move forward. A lot of stuff is going on. He is looking forward to getting back to the basics with new Council members coming on. He has not forgotten why he signed up to do this.
- Merry Christmas! Be safe. Hopefully, 2021 will be a better year than 2020. There was a lot of resilience in the community. Everything is okay. They are in it together.
- Happy New Year!

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Morten reported...

- There is a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. Hopefully, getting back will create good health and a good economy.
- He thanked Government Affairs & Project Support Specialist Rachael Barry for her work creating Resolution No. 1908. It is great for the community.
- Have a great holiday! See you next year.

Councilor Locke reported...

- Thank you to Council, staff, and the community. There are a lot of huge projects happening right now. There are towns 10 times our size that do not have half the projects going on.
- The new proposed police station is important to our police force and the community. Let's make this happen.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- Thanked staff and Council for their patience, understanding, and being there to answer her questions.
- The Planning Commission will be interviewing next week. A recommendation will come to the Council in January. They have a very diverse population, and she would like to see our government reflect that.
- She would like to see that the investigation not fall through the cracks. People need to be able to work and volunteer in a safe environment.
- This little squirrel is going to take her nutty ideas somewhere else.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- Library staff and Library Board have done an incredible job of changing directions to continue serving the community without letting them into the Library. It also gave the Library a chance to redo a number of things within the building. The Library and Recreation Program have coordinated to create projects in the parks. He hopes these things continue, even after the pandemic is over.
- The Library is reviewing operating rules for updates.
- Unfortunately, the Library cannot be used as a warm place for the homeless.
- There is an investigation about the waste products from the mill. He is requesting that Walsh continuing monitoring and updating Council on the status.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council President Morten welcomed the new Council members. They have tough boots to fill.

ADJOURN – 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl

Rick Scholl, Mayor