



# COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, May 03, 2023

## APPROVED MINUTES

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl  
Councilor Patrick Birkle  
Councilor Mark Gundersen  
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Council President Jessica Chilton

### STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder  
Crystal King, Communications Officer  
Jacob Graichen, City Planner  
Gloria Butsch, Finance Director  
Brenda Herren-Kenaga, Reference Librarian  
Tina Curry, Contracted Event Coordinator

### OTHERS

Brady Preheim	Brian Pixley
Howard Blumenthal	Uncle Abu
Kellie Smith	Tyler Miller
Jim Coleman	Danny
Eddie Dunton	

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Kellie Jo Smith, St. Helens School Board Member and Columbia County Commissioner.
  - She distributed a handout about the St. Helens School District Matching Grant Bond. A copy is included in the archive packet for this meeting. There will be no increase to taxpayers. They are requesting the City's support.
  - The School District has \$147,000 budgeted for a Student Resource Officer (SRO). They have been unsuccessful in working with the City to fill that position, and Kellie is requesting Council's help to fill that.

Mayor Scholl clarified that the Matching Bond would not extend or change the current Bond. Kellie confirmed that was correct. Mayor Scholl pointed out how the new housing market helps pay for this. Kellie talked about how this funding will help increase the quality of the school.

◆ Brady Preheim.

- He appreciated the discussion about the rules for Boards and Commissions. They are very needed. His concern is about how to address issues from the past.
- There was a lack of respect from the Sheriff and County Commissioners for not showing up in the first place. The Sheriff has been asked questions and hasn't responded. There have been problems with the Jail Levy as well. He doesn't see a need for it in St. Helens. Scappoose has money for police but can't fill the positions.

◆ Howard Blumenthal.

- Requested Council keep the street name one that will represent the heritage.
- Referring to leash laws, he likes the idea of a shorter leash.

◆ Brenda Herren-Kenaga. She feels the six-foot leash is too short for practicing obedience. She suggests eight to ten feet. She is sorry not all owners can control their dogs.**DELIBERATIONS****1. Consider Renaming "Mill Street" in the Riverfront District**

Mayor Scholl likes Old Mill Way. He directed staff to check with Columbia 911.

Graichen said they can leave it at that and continue deliberations to the next meeting, or they can have a second option.

Mayor Scholl said Wapama is also a great option.

Councilor Birkle likes Wapama, Nell, and Old Mill.

Deliberations were continued for the next meeting.

**ORDINANCES – Final Reading****2. Ordinance No. 3290:** An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of the North 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Wyeth Street Rights-of-Way Generally between Blocks 92 and 95 of the St. Helens Subdivision

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3290 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Ordinance No. 3290. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

**ORDINANCES – First Reading****3. Ordinance No. 3291:** An Ordinance Amending Section 6.04 (Animal Control) and 8.24 (Park Regulations) of the St. Helens Municipal Code Designating Additional Off-Leash Dog Parks and Establishing Consistent Leash Length Law

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3291 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

Discussion of leash length. No changes were proposed. Councilor Sundeen pointed out that this is a recommendation by the Parks & Trails Commission but he can bring up the concerns at Monday's meeting. This only applies to leashed dogs in parks.

**APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE**

4. [Ratify] Agreement with Lost Locals Media LLC for Media Production of City Projects
5. Oregon Public Works Emergency Response Cooperative Assistance Agreement
6. Amendment No. 8 to Agreement with Mayer/Reed for Riverwalk Phase I Project Design, Construction, & Permits

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Birkle to approve '4' through '6' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE**

7. Budget Committee Minutes dated July 13, 2022

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '7' above.

**Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL**

8. Council Work Session and Regular Session Minutes dated January 18, 2023  
9. Council Work Session, Executive Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated February 1, 2023  
10. Animal Facility Licenses  
11. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '8' through '11' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

**WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**

Sheriff Pixley and County Commissioner Magruder attended the Work Session and requested support of the Sheriff's Levy. A letter was drafted in support of the levy.

**Motion:** Motion made Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to authorize Mayor Scholl to sign the letter of support for the Columbia County Sheriff's Levy 5-290.

Discussion.

Mayor Scholl talked about the letters submitted, a copy of which is included in the Work Session archive packet. He met with County representatives and requested a copy of the budget for the last five years and still has not received it. The money is not there with inflation. Everyone's budget has gone up.

Councilor Sundeen is glad they came. The pros outweigh the cons. It is possible to support the Police Department and Sheriff's Office at the same time. He has been asked how it benefits the City when they already have 24-hour service. They need protection even when they leave the City. The City's support will likely not have weight on how people vote. He supports the levy.

Councilor Gundersen supports law enforcement and providing services to all areas of the County. It's going to be up to the voters to decide.

Councilor Birkle corrected a comment he made during the Work Session. Columbia City does have its own Police Department. However, they are all part of the County. He agreed that the pros outweigh the cons and their support won't sway voters.

Mayor Scholl spoke of his disappointment that the Sheriff won't support them if there is a drunken incident at Sand Island.

**Vote:** Yea: Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen; Nay: Mayor Scholl

Mayor Scholl clarified that his vote of opposition is only because of the lack of support on Sand Island. He did encourage community members to vote for the levy if they see a need to increase law enforcement.

**COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- Attended Take Your Kids to Work Day with his two kids. It was a great experience. He thanked everyone involved in the planning.
- Attended a Gateway Kickoff meeting with Council President Chilton. It was a good first meeting and discussion.
- Thanked the Police Department for the work they do and keeping the community safe.

- Parks staff are working hard to keep the parks looking good. They are catching up on mowing. There was recent vandalism in McCormick Park. They have spent thousands of dollars on repairs. Mayor Scholl suggested a camera system and signage. Councilor Sundeen said there have been concerns in the past about Wi-Fi and not being able to confirm they are the ones who did the damage.
- They had a productive work party at the McCormick Park Japanese Gardens with about seven or eight volunteers.

Councilor Gundersen reported...

- He will miss the next meeting.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- He will be in New York City for his daughter's graduation during the next Council meeting. He may be able to join the meeting by Zoom.

### **MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS**

- He expressed his frustration at the County for not providing the budget information requested.
- The Chamber of Commerce dinner is on Friday.
- A person requested to sell knives as a vendor at Citizens Day in the Park. He did not want to make a decision on his own and requested Council input. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to not allow gun and knife sales at this family event.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **ADJOURN – 7:52 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl

Rick Scholl, Mayor