



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

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
Suzanne Bishop, Library Director

OTHERS

Jerry Cole
Brady Preheim
Adam St. Pierre
Matt Kenaga
Darcey Edwards
Roger

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

City Recorder Payne explained the conflict of interest procedures, distinguishing between potential and actual conflicts. She noted the exception under Senate Bill 983 adopted in 2025, which amends ORS 244.120 to permit local public officials to participate in discussions and vote on city budgets even if the budget includes compensation for themselves or a relative, provided they announce an actual conflict of interest first.

Mayor Massey asked each Council member to declare any conflicts. Councilors Sundeen, Hubbard, and Gundersen each stated they had no conflicts. Mayor Massey declared an actual conflict of interest because her spouse is employed by the City of St. Helens as a police officer, specifically related to the Mackenzie additional service agreement later on the agenda. She stated that under ORS 244.120 as amended by Senate Bill 983, she may participate in the discussion despite this conflict.

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

- ◆ Brady Preheim criticized what he termed "corruption" occurring between Mayor Massey and Councilor Hubbard regarding art contracts and questioning the decision-making process for public art selection. He argued that proper procedures should include RFP processes and committee

oversight rather than what he characterized as friends of officials receiving contracts. Preheim also questioned the mathematics of budget cuts, noting that a one-day-per-week furlough represents a 20% cut, not 10%, and questioned inconsistencies in Police Department staffing reductions versus other departments.

- ◆ Jerry Cole, Mayor of Rainier, Oregon for 24 years, introduced himself as a candidate for county commissioner and encouraged St. Helens residents to visit his website and contact him with questions.
- ◆ Matt Kenaga commented on the breakdown of water bills, noting that the actual water portion represents less than one-third of the total bill, with more than half being sewer and storm water costs. He suggested renaming the "water bill" to something like "community services bill" to better reflect what residents are actually paying for.

Mayor Massey responded to the public comments. First, thanking candidate Jerry Cole for being here. She went on to defend against corruption allegations and emphasized that knowing people in the construction industry does not constitute friendship or improper process. She expressed frustration with what she characterized as repeated misinformation. She also expressed appreciation of the water bill comment. Cost allocations are not always the same on each bill.

ORDINANCES – Final Reading

1. **Ordinance No. 3323:** An Ordinance Amending the St. Helens Municipal Code Chapters 2.08 and 17.36, and Creating Chapter 2.10 regarding the Planning Commission and Historic Landmarks Commission Operational Regulations

Mayor Massey read Ordinance No. 3323 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Hubbard to adopt Ordinance No. 3323. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

RESOLUTIONS

2. **Resolution No. 2070:** A Resolution Adopting the City Administrator Performance Evaluation Review Criteria and Process

Mayor Massey read Resolution No. 2070 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 2070. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

3. Fourth Contract Amendment with Consor North America, Inc. for Professional Services for the Wastewater Capacity Improvements to Sanitary Sewer Mains in Basins 4, 5, & 6 for Construction Phase Engineering Services
4. Extension of Agreement with Aaron Martin for Pro Tem Judicial Services

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '3' and '4' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

5. City Council Minutes dated April 1, 2026
6. OLCC Licenses
7. RATIFY Additional Service Agreement with Mackenzie for Value Engineering on New Police Station Project
8. Request for Proposals (RFP) for Water Taxi Services

9. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Hubbard to approve '5' through '9' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**Joint City Boards & Commissions Meetings**

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to have joint boards and commissions meetings once per year rather than twice per year and direct staff to work with each board and commission to establish meeting dates. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

Fisheagle Osprey Vessel

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Hubbard to authorize City Administrator Walsh to proceed with finding a suitable disposal method for the Fisheagle Osprey vessel according to City Code. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilor Sundeen reported on the Parks and Trails Commission meeting, noting they preferred to continue one joint meeting annually and expressed preference for monthly one-hour meetings rather than two-hour meetings. He also shared historical research from newspapers from 100 years ago, noting similar issues to today including budget concerns, downtown parking, and overcrowded county jail. He highlighted the city council's 1926 decision to acquire watershed land around Salmonberry Reservoir, which became today's timber property, and promoted the digitized newspaper resources available through the University of Oregon and St. Helens Public Library.

Councilor Hubbard briefly mentioned the police station median and indicated he had offered design services free of charge but would discontinue that effort due to public comments, though Mayor Massey encouraged him to reconsider and not be deterred by disruptive voices.

Gundersen had nothing to report.

MAYOR MASSEY REPORTS

Mayor Massey celebrated City Recorder Payne's 25 years of service, praising her institutional knowledge and behind-the-scenes efforts. She thanked staff and citizens for participating in the State of the City meeting, expressing hope for future sessions with more time for questions and dialogue. She clarified that recent hiring has been in Enterprise Fund departments (water, sewer, storm) which are not affected by General Fund budget constraints and thanked the Council members for their collaborative approach despite occasional disagreements.

PROACTIVE ITEMS**OTHER BUSINESS****ADJOURN – 7:24 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