



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Jessica Chilton
Councilor Patrick Birkle
Councilor Mark Gundersen
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Crystal King, Communications Officer
Jon Ellis, Interim Contract Finance Director
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Arthur Leskowich	Nick Hellmich	Sarah Landels
Brady Preheim	Briana Koch	Kandace McMartin
Steve Topaz	J. Kreaflle	Japhy McMartin
Brook Van Arsdall	Kaitlyn Johnson	Lucas & Lillian De Roia and family
Kristy Van Arsdall	Maddie Grabinger	Kali Ann Dovel and family
Madison Blackburn	Jared Stram	Sara Smith
Valerie Donald	Landon Stonelake	Debbie
Graham McCallum	Russell	Lyndie
Emelia Watkins	Elliette	Landon Engelen
Colton Freeman	Caleb Griffin	

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCE & AWARD PRIZES TO "IF I WERE MAYOR..." STUDENT CONTEST WINNERS

Mayor Scholl announced and awarded the prizes to the "If I Were Mayor..." Student Contest winners. First place winners won \$150. Their entries will compete for a prize at the State level. Second place winners won \$50. All participants received a certificate and were invited to join him for a pizza lunch this summer.

Grades 4-5 Poster Category:

First Place Winner – Japhy McMartin
Second Place Winner – Kali Ann Dovel

Grades 6-8 Essay Category:

First Place Winner – Brooke Van Arsdall
Second Place Winner – Lucas De Roia

Grades 9-12 Digital Presentation Category:

First Place Winner – Montan Reading

Second Place Winner – Cinobia Arceneaux

PROCLAMATIONS**1. Save Soil Day - March 21**

Mayor Scholl read the proclamation into the record.

*Save Soil Day**March 21st*

Whereas, "Save Soil" is a global movement, launched by Sadhguru, uniting world leaders, visionaries, influencers, and citizens of all nations behind a common purpose - to restore and safeguard the world's soil; and

Whereas, Save Soil aims to address the global soil crisis, recognizing that 52% of the world's agricultural soils are already degraded, and by 2050, 90% of Earth's soil could be degraded; and

Whereas, addressing soil degradation issues would bring solutions for the loss of biodiversity, nutritional deficiencies, food security, water scarcity, climate change, and mass migration; and

Whereas, the proposed solution is to advocate for policies across all nations towards soil restoration and aim to increase organic content in agricultural soil to a minimum of 3-6%; and

Whereas, in an effort to raise awareness and activate support from leaders and citizens alike, Sadhguru was on a 30,000 km journey as a lone motorcyclist covering 27 nations over 100 days since March 21st, 2022; and

Whereas, this movement is supported by 81 nations globally.

Now, therefore, I, Mayor Rick Scholl of the City of St. Helens do hereby proclaim **March 21 as Save Soil Day** in St. Helens, Oregon, as soil is vital to all life and urge all citizens to be a part of the Save Soil movement to support national policies towards soil restoration and aim to raise the organic content of soil to a minimum of 3% - 6%.

Be it further proclaimed that I urge all citizens to participate in creating bright futures for our children and the future of our planet.

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

- ◆ Steve Topaz. He agreed with the student video addressing the need for improvements to the St. Helens and S. 4th Street intersection. There is an article in today's Chronicle about the High School bond. He encouraged Council to invite School Superintendent Scott Stockwell to speak at a meeting about the need for the bond and the fact that it will not increase taxes.
- ◆ Nick Hellmich. Also agreed that S. 4th Street needs attention. The stop sign going down the S. 4th Street hill near his house was recently taken down. Now it's worse with vehicles traveling down the hill faster without having to stop. He talked about Code Enforcement's increase in chalking tires for issues. It's putting a tracking device on people's private property without a warrant and is a constitutional violation. The Sixth District Court of Appeals ruled it unconstitutional and fined the State of Michigan one dollar per citation. He suggested installing kiosks and charging for parking than exceeds two hours.

- ◆ Hillary Dovel. She has lived on Firlok Park Street for three years. There is a lot of traffic traveling through there to bypass the lights, plus the high schoolers are using that road more. It is very congested and has a lot of really bad potholes.

Mayor Scholl informed Hillary that it is a County road. A lot of the high school videos submitted were about the poor condition of that road. He was going to suggest they go to a County Commissioners meeting to request it be fixed.

- ◆ Brady Preheim. He is sad that they wasted \$1.5 million in the design of the first police station, but is happy that they are redesigning it. He has concerns about the Waterfront Development and it being paid for with Urban Renewal money. If people don't come, they will be in serious financial trouble. He is fully supportive of the Waterfront but is concerned about the financing. He gets lots of complaints from people, including from City employees, about City employees getting demoted and no action being taken with their salary. He suggests they take action on it.

RESOLUTIONS

2. **Resolution No. 1976:** A Resolution Adopting the City of St. Helens Health and Safety Manual, Superseding Any Prior Versions

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1976 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Council President Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 1976. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

3. **Resolution No. 1977:** A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of St. Helens, Oregon, Adopting a Supplemental Budget and Authorizing a Transfer of Appropriations within a Fund for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1977 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 1977. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

4. **Resolution No. 1978:** A Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Appropriations within a Fund for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1978 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Council President Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 1978. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

5. **Resolution No. 1979:** A Resolution Determining that a Nuisance Exists Upon Property Located at 155 N. Columbia River Hwy within the City of St. Helens and Directing the Nuisance to be Removed or Abated

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1979 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Birkle to adopt Resolution No. 1979. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

6. Amendment No. 7 to Agreement with Mayer/Reed for Riverwalk Phase I Project Design, Construction, & Permits
7. Agreement with Lower Columbia Engineering, LLC for Design and Engineering Services related to the Gateway Project at South 1st and St. Helens Streets
8. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement with Columbia County for Columbia Blvd. Sidewalk and Safety Improvements Project

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '6' through '8' above.

Discussion. Councilor Birkle questioned the gateway project design. Are they expecting the project to be consistent with Branding and Wayfinding that already exists?

City Administrator Walsh said the gateway is already in the Wayfinding Plan. There will be a public process with public involvement on the design. Councilor Birkle wants to keep the Branding and Wayfinding design in mind when creating the gateway design. Mayor Scholl agreed.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

9. Amended Parks & Trails Commission Bylaws (fka: Parks & Recreation Commission)

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '9' above.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

10. Council Public Hearing Minutes dated March 1, 2023
11. OLCC Licenses
12. Declare Surplus Property - Police Department Expired Evidence and Unclaimed Found/Safekeeping Items
13. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to approve '10' through '13' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

None

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Chilton reported...

- Attended the Council and Planning Commission joint meeting last week. It was good to have clarifications made.
- Attended a recent candidate forum. It was a great opportunity to network with surrounding agencies.
 - Sheriff Pixley talked about a levy that would increase staffing to 24-hours.
 - Heard from Port candidates with ideas on utilizing deep water ports and bringing industry to the County.
 - Heard from School Board candidates.

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- Thanked the "If I Were Mayor..." Student Contest participants. They all did a great job.
- Park updates
 - Lots of good work happening behind the scenes.
 - Vandalism continues to be a big problem, especially in Campbell Park.
 - Thanked Little League and Softball groups for the work they do to improve fields.
 - The Parks Commission is forming a subcommittee to apply for grants.
 - There are several Parks Commission members with concerns about the stage location in Columbia View Park. Renderings will be available soon to help alleviate the concerns.
- Police updates
 - New Police Station is progressing. They have been meeting with the design team weekly.
 - They are conducting background checks for two potential new hires.

- New K-9 Officer Max is about halfway through training.
- Policing the docks and Sand Island will become a bigger problem with summer weather. Partnership with the Sheriff's Office will be important.

Councilor Gundersen reported...

- The Planning Commission meeting was postponed until next week. They also have a retreat coming up. Most discussion will likely be about HB 3115.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- Helped direct runners during the Columbia Pacific Food Bank Hunger Run. It was cold and rainy.
- Helped at the 5th Street Trail Work Party.
- The Library Board meeting was rescheduled due to lack of quorum.
- Has had good meetings with Library Director Bishop.
- Working on partnerships with OMIC and PCC for Makerspace staff funding once ARPA funds expire.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- The City is going through growing pains.
 - Building a Police Station
 - Waterfront Development
 - Parking will be an issue as summer events start happening.
 - Encouraged Council to refer citizens to staff when they don't know the answer.
 - Broadleaf Apartments
 - He has heard a lot of concerns from community members about the Broadleaf intersection. He explained that it meets all the traffic studies.
 - They can't deny something if it meets all criteria.
 - It will house a lot of local families.
- Thanked Council President Chilton for filling in while he was on vacation during the last meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN – 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
Rick Scholl, Mayor