



# COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Wednesday, August 03, 2022

## APPROVED MINUTES

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl  
Council President Doug Morten  
Councilor Patrick Birkle  
Councilor Stephen R. Topaz

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Jessica Chilton

### STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder  
Suzanne Bishop, Library Director  
Mouhamad Zaher, Public Works Director  
Brian Greenway, Police Chief

Crystal King, Communications Officer  
Rachael Barry, Government Affairs Specialist  
Jacob Graichen, City Planner  
Bill Monahan, City Attorney  
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

### OTHERS

Justin Watson                      Brady Preheim  
Amara Liebelt                      Robert Brawand  
Lynne Pettit

### CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.

### VISITOR COMMENTS - *Limited to five (5) minutes per speaker*

- ◆ Justin Watson, Executive Director of St. Helens Senior Center. He is pleased to step into Kathy Innocenti's role and continue her legacy. He looks forward to reporting to Council next month. He has a background serving in the community. He graduated from Portland State University, is a liaison with the City of Tigard Town Center Advisory Commission, and is the Board of Director's Secretary for the Community Partners for Affordable Housing. He has a passion for seniors, housing, and community development. He is looking forward to working with Government Affairs Specialist Rachael Barry and the new Executive Director of Mainstreet Alliance, Amara Liebelt. His goal for the building is to bridge the gap with funding and delineate it to serve equitable measures. He is excited to serve both St. Helens and Scappoose.
- ◆ Amara Liebelt, Executive Director of Mainstreet Alliance. She just finished her first month. It's been very busy meeting business owners. She is also coordinating with Event Coordinator Tina Curry on Spirit of Halloweentown and Communications Officer Crystal King on bringing back the scarecrow contest. She will be meeting with Parks & Recreation Manager Shanna Duggan to discuss ways to get kids more involved in creating scarecrows for display.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS** - *The Council will take a break around 3:00 p.m.***1. Employee Length of Service Recognition - John Walsh, City Administrator (10 Years)**

Mayor Scholl recognized City Administrator Walsh for his years of service. He appreciates his quiet voice of reason in an atmosphere that can sometimes be chaotic. He is a huge asset.

Walsh thanked Council. It's a privilege and honor to serve. They have a great team.

City Recorder Payne said it has been a pleasure working with Walsh. She appreciates his leadership.

Public Works Director Zaher recognized Walsh's leadership. He appreciates his support and vision.

Mayor Scholl appreciates his vision with the community's interest at heart.

Councilor Birkle talked about not having the needed financial resources through the tax base, so they have had to look at alternative funding sources. With that shared vision, he has enabled staff to find funding through State and Federal resources. That has been especially helpful to meet goals.

**2. Semi-Annual Library Department Report - Suzanne Bishop, Library Director**

Library Director Bishop reviewed her PowerPoint presentation. A copy is included in the archive packet for his meeting.

- Have transitioned to fine free, which has resulted in an increase in patrons returning
- US Representative Suzanne Bonamici visited the Library
- Received a lot of community support to retain the Youth Librarian position
- Summer Library Challenge currently taking place
- Two new Library Board members
- Will begin Strategic Plan soon
- Friends of the Library update
- 17 active volunteers
- Community engagement
- 1,671 books, DVDs, and CDs have been added
- They have over 100 items in the Library of Things to check out
- Thanked Library staff
- Will be hiring a Youth Librarian
- Will be working on the five-year plan
- Looking for permanent funding for the Makerspace Technician position
- Planning the 2023 Genealogy Conference
- Returning to youth and other in-person programming

Councilor Topaz is amazed at what has been done.

- The Cooling Center at the Library brings a feeling of belonging.
- The Makerspace continually adds new things as the budget allows. They have discussed requesting donations from the community for things people have but are no longer using.
- Reference Librarian Brenda Herren-Kenaga was able to get people from the Library of Congress for the Genealogy Conference.

Councilor Birkle talked about books he is reading right now about the Russia Ukraine conflict. They have a good selection. He recommends people go check out what they have.

Council President Morten recently viewed a documentary about the revolution of libraries. It's so much more than just checking out books. He is encouraged to see St. Helens is keeping up. Bishop added that they are trend setting with it. Things have changed dramatically.

**3. Review Proposed New Librarian 1 (Youth Librarian) Job Description**

City Administrator Walsh reviewed the job description. Every time a position is vacant, they review the job description and bring it to Council for updates. Library Director Bishop pointed out that former Youth Librarian Gretchen Kolderup made changes to it prior to leaving.

There were no concerns from Council. It is on tonight's agenda for approval.

**4. Review Proposed Psilocybin Moratorium Resolution & Notice of Measure Election**

City Administrator Walsh pointed out the resolution and notice of measure election on tonight's agenda. Based on Council's direction, it is for a moratorium.

Councilor Topaz said there are a number of communities saying 'no' right now. There needs to be good rules and a good medical backup, which does not exist at this point. Walsh agreed that there are no rules at this time. Councilor Birkle added that the State does not have everything ready to even be able to implement this.

**5. City Administrator John Walsh Report**

- The adopted budget includes the acquisition of two new leased police vehicles. The colors of the existing vehicle are no longer available. Chief Greenway showed pictures of a proposed police car. It goes from a dark blue to black. They want police vehicles to be consistent. The proposed decal would go from blue to gray for the word "POLICE." The officers like the Dodge Durango. There will be a mix of Ford and Dodge, but they want them all to be same color scheme. They would all be wrapped the same, but the blue would stay until they are phased out. There was no objection from Council.
- Sand Island Sandcastle Festival this week. The new boat will not be here. They do have a contracted boat that will be here. There are no concerns with the new boat, it's just taking time.
- Reached out to the auditors about the extension of their contract. They should have something next month.
- Their region recently received quite a few federal funding awards
  - \$814,000 to Columbia Economic Team for the Small Business Incubator, which includes the Library
  - \$500,000 to Riverside Training Centers for empowerment to people with intellectual developmental disabilities
  - \$340,000 to City of St. Helens for law enforcement technology
  - Scappoose received funding as well
  - Having Barry to work on this is invaluable
- Docks
  - Making progress with the Harbor Master Agreement
  - The boat under enforcement was moved
  - Most people are paying to stay
  - Hope to roll the 3-5 day stays to October
  - Behavior has much improved
- Working on wastewater funding for challenges with growth
- Investigating the best long-term solutions for the reservoir
- First Street is moving along
- Riverwalk is on schedule to go out for bid next spring
- The scope of work for the Central Waterfront federal funding is moving along. He passed Councilor Topaz's comments along to the contractor.
- Partnering with Growing Rural Oregon to discuss ways to support entrepreneurs
- Met the new Senior Center Director Justin Watson
- Met the new Mainstreet Alliance Director Amara Liebelt

Councilor Topaz heard they were going to close the bridge to Longview for a few days. Will they monitor how that will impact St. Helens? Will fewer people pass through here?

Discussion about the timing and impact. It is slated to take place in Spring or Summer 2023.

**ADJOURN – 1:57 p.m.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl

Rick Scholl, Mayor