



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Jacob Graichen, City Planner
Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner/Community Development Project Manager
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Ali Hasenkamp	Art Leskowich
Brady Preheim	Brenda Herren-Kenaga
Jane Garcia	Jennifer Pugsley
Steve Toschi	

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Brenda Herren-Kenaga. She is here as a citizen. She has a house on 4th Street and is here regarding number three on the agenda. The City is missing an opportunity by giving up interest in the property. They talk about being family friendly, they obtained a grant for an all-abilities playground, they have worked hard on the Riverfront development project, they have Grey Cliffs Park, and they have Godfrey Park. This would be a great opportunity to have an overlook park. There is very little opportunity left to have a viewpoint of the river. She has kayaked and watched eagles and osprey feed their young. She'd like that same opportunity to see them eye level. Brenda quoted the American Psychologist Association referring to the benefits of exposure to nature, "...improved attention, lower stress, better mood, reduced risk of psychiatric disorders, and upticks in empathy and cooperation..." Take the opportunity to make it useful for everyone. She referenced sections of the Comprehensive Plan about using public space to benefit citizens.

Mayor Scholl explained that the request is only for a signature on the street vacation application. They are not deciding whether to vacate or not tonight. Brenda is concerned that if Council gives approval of a signature it would set a precedent that they are in favor of the application. Graichen explained the street vacation process. The applicant is currently in the process of acquiring property owner signatures.

◆ Brady Preheim.

- He likes the overall Waterfront design plan. It looks nice, but he hates the bollards. People will run into them. He suggests closing the Plaza to vehicles, remove the grass, leave the trees, and put in bricks as a fundraiser. There are only three businesses that won't have parking in front of their business, but they will have parking within a block.
- The work session was really bad, again. He doesn't understand the confusion about what they're voting on. It should have only been a two-minute conversation and it ended up lasting 30 minutes.
- He is opposed to the City giving consent as a property owner of the street vacation. There are enough other signatures they can obtain to move forward. He agreed with Brenda that it would give them an advantage if the City signed. The applicant wants to build apartments and condos there. He's concerned that it could be an eyesore along the river.

- ◆ Tina Curry. She has met with Riley at the County several times to discuss the Rose Garden. It is moving along and may happen by the summer.

ORDINANCES – Final Reading

1. **Ordinance No. 3281:** An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property Located Southeast of the Intersection of Pittsburg Road and Meadowview Drive

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3281 by title for the final time. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to adopt Ordinance No. 3281. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

2. Contract with Hasa, Inc. for 12.5% Sodium Hypochlorite for the Wastewater Treatment Plant
3. Consent to Vacate Public Right of Way on N. 2nd Street
4. Dedication Deed for Right of Way at 115 Little Street
5. Extension of Agreement with Strategic Networks Group, Inc. for Broadband Assessment
6. Agreement with Kittelson & Associates for St. Helens Street & S. 1st Street Alternatives Analysis Project

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Chilton to approve '2' through '6' above.

Discussion.

Councilor Topaz thinks item number three should be removed. He agreed with comments made that it may be a conflict of interest for the City to sign their consent.

Councilor Birkle also has concerns about the street vacation.

Mayor Scholl did not get consent from the City for his personal street vacation, but he was still able to get two-thirds consent from neighboring property owners.

Vote: Yea: Council President Morten; Nay: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '2, 4, 5, and 6' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

7. Planning Commission Minutes dated February 8, 2022

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Chilton and seconded by Councilor Birkle to approve '7' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

8. Council Work Session, Special Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated March 2, 2022
9. OLCC Licenses
10. New Job Description for Building Maintenance - Utility Worker I
11. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '8' through '11' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

None

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Morten reported...

- Parks & Recreation Commission update:
 - Thanked Councilor Birkle for attending the meeting to speak about invasive species.
 - Gave them bad news about not having funds for big capital park projects. However, he was firm about completing the urban trail. The urban trail travels through six parks and winds around beautiful vistas on Wyeth Street. It will not be very costly but will take energy and volunteers.
 - Recruiting to fill a vacant position. He wants to make sure they are not putting the City in a liable position. He asked them to adopt the same standards the City uses for interviewing employees by requesting they ask the same questions of all candidates. He asked them to present their questions to City Recorder Payne for approval.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- At the last meeting he brought up that there was only one taxable property on the mill property, which they were paying \$518/year. Councilor Birkle pointed out that was incorrect. Councilor Topaz agreed and had since found a total of four maps showing more properties. They are paying about \$18,000. He thanked Councilor Birkle for finding that information. They are building stuff on the property with permits, but there seems to be several problems which City Planner Graichen is looking into.
- The Library Director search is moving forward.
- He is bringing the Council in front of the Ethics Board about a recent Executive Session that had to do with the toxic waste dump at the lagoon. It is a mechanistic complaint. A lot of things were done correctly and some incorrectly. He has asked the Ethics Board, the Council has been notified, and the newspaper is aware of it. City Council is being investigated by the Ethics Board. Council President Morten said he does not think they are being investigated yet. Councilor Topaz agreed, but it has been filed. Councilor Chilton pointed out that Councilor Topaz was part of the meeting as well and participated. Councilor Topaz confirmed that information was included in his statement. There seems to be a problem with procedure.
- He will be gone part of June.

Councilor Chilton reported...

- Attended the South Columbia County Leadership meeting. They discussed county priorities, which are shared amongst most of them. It was really helpful.

- Kudos to the Makerspace at the Library. She has gone twice with their five-year-old, who was very excited about the things she made. Staff has been amazing and very welcoming.
- Attended the St. Helens Sports Boosters Auction last weekend. She got to see a more in-depth look at the schools, sports, priorities, and honoring accomplishments. It was good to see so many people involved.
- They continue to work on the budget. The meetings can get heated, especially when discussions are related to the budget. She feels confident that they will get to a good place of agreement. Everyone wants to have more money and take care of problems. They're working on it and listening to each other.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- He does not wear green on St. Patrick's Day. However, tomorrow is Sports Day for Spirit Week at school, and he will be wearing green to represent his team.
- He attended the Parks & Recreation Commission to speak about a Solv Cleanup at Dalton Lake on April 23.
- He spoke with Eliza Gallagher last Friday. She works with policies for the four northwest counties, including working with landlords about housing issues. He'd like to invite her to a future meeting to introduce herself.
- A new taproom business has opened in the Houlton District.
- He was not able to attend the South Columbia County Leadership meeting due to a CERT training conflict. Sgt. Castilleja was in attendance talking about emergency issues.
- He continues to hear good comments about the Recreation Program from his students.
- He enjoyed participating in the meeting yesterday about developments at Grey Cliffs Park.
- Planning Commission update:
 - They reviewed a new subdivision on the north side of town. He was very impressed by the developers' initial plans to work around wetlands and the natural environment. It's neat to hear from developers who are not just here to build and make money, but to contribute to the social capital of the community.
 - Two resolutions were made:
 - Be proactive with a desire to support the work of the Council and City by creating a subcommittee to promote and support the work of staff.
 - Advocate with Council during the budget review to hire another Planner. It is in no way a reflection of the great work being done by current staff.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- It was good to be part of the South County SWAT. They have done a lot of work to meet the goals discussed. They also discussed bringing back the Quarterly City County dinners. The County will work on planning it.
- It was a good meeting yesterday with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife discussing Grey Cliffs Park. They are in the beginning stages of putting in an accessible kayak and fishing dock.
- They are really close to adopting ordinances to police their docks and waterways. There will be changes that some people won't like but it gives them the ability to police the waterways.
- Enjoy the weather. Live and be nice to each other. He hopes people don't feel a lot of pressure about what's going on in the world. Mental health is important and he's here if anyone needs someone to talk to.
- Thanked staff for all they do. The amount of work continues to go on.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN – 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
Rick Scholl, Mayor