



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, June 05, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Jessica Chilton
Councilor Russell Hubbard
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Mark Gundersen

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Gloria Butsch, Finance Director
Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner/Community Development Project Manager

OTHERS

Brady Preheim	Hannah Woods
Steve LeSollen	Jenni Gilbert
Ginny Carlson	Patrick Birkle
Stephanie Patterson	Adam St. Pierre
Don Patterson	

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Ginny Carlson. She was on City Council during the time they could not get volunteers or even pay someone to do 13 Nights on the River. At that time, she found out that Octoberfest in Mt. Angel had given over \$3.5 million to nonprofit organizations by partnering with them. They have since been able to do that here. The community benefits from nonprofits fundraising at these events.
- ◆ Brady Preheim. He agrees with Adam's comments made earlier today that everyone is biased on the tourism selection committee. He read Jenni Gilbert's comments (a copy of which was distributed to the Council during the Work Session and is included in the archive packet for that meeting) about the current event coordinator. Jenni referred to the coordinator as being sub-par, unprofessional, operating illegally, and had hopes for many applications with the ability to operate a suitable tourism program. That person should not be part of the selection committee. Her responses should be withdrawn or be subject to legal action.

Mayor Scholl pointed out that Councilor Gundersen has been excused from tonight's meeting.

- ◆ Patrick Birkle. He watched the afternoon Work Session and heard City Administrator Walsh address the attack against the City Recorders. He does not agree with those kinds of attacks on public servants doing their jobs. He only saw professional work by them during the time he served on City Council. He encouraged Council to not remove public comments from work sessions. He commended the Council on following through with the Event Coordination RFP process. He is not going to undermine the integrity of the evaluation committee members.
- ◆ Adam St. Pierre. Addressed the RFP process. Each councilor chose a member to be part of the evaluation committee. There was another delay tactic this afternoon that looks bad. They need to get this done. Someone needs to address the problem.
- ◆ Jenni Gilbert. Reminded the Council that the RFP says no one should intimidate or harass evaluation committee members. There was discussion during the Budget Committee meeting about tourism with a lot of questions presented. City Administrator Walsh needs to get people under control since that was specifically included in the RFP.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

1. **Ordinance No. 3301:** An Ordinance Amending St. Helens Municipal Code Chapter 8.24.120 and 8.24.200 Regarding Alcohol in City Parks, Specifically in McCormick Park, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3301 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Ordinance No. 3301 and declare an emergency. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard; Nay: Councilor Sundeen

Motion failed due to one nay.

Councilor Sundeen voted no due to it being an inconvenience and not an emergency.

Councilor Hubbard verified that it would still have to follow OLCC rules.

Mayor Scholl explained declaring it an emergency allows the approval in one single reading. Alcohol sales provide the largest fundraising opportunity for 13 Nights on the River.

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3301 by title again. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Ordinance No. 3301 and declare an emergency.

Discussion.

Councilor Sundeen pointed out that this could have been done a month ago and then it wouldn't have been an emergency. Mayor Scholl agreed and reminded him that a lot has been going on.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

2. **Resolution No. 2005:** A Resolution Authorizing an Interagency Agreement for Reimbursement of Materials and Services for Activities Relating to Preparation, Adoption, and Implementation of the St. Helens Urban Renewal Plan

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 2005 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Council President Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 2005. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

3. PUBLIC COMMENT - Increase in Planning Department Fees

No comments.

Resolution No. 2013: A Resolution of the St. Helens City Council to Set Planning Department Fees

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 2013 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Resolution No. 2013.

Discussion.

Council President Chilton does not like to raise fees, but she respects the Planning Division and their need to cover their cost.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Sundeen; Nay: Councilor Hubbard

FY 2023/2024 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS**4. Resolution No. 2006:** A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of St. Helens, Oregon, Adopting and Appropriating Funds for a Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 2006 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Resolution No. 2006.

Discussion.

Council President Chilton requested clarification of the changes. Finance Director Butsch explained the reasons for all three resolutions.

- Resolution No. 2006 – When the budget was adopted, there was not a category for capital outlay. When the City purchased the property on Kaster Road, that is considered capital outlay, and it transfers what was appropriated from another category and puts it into a capital outlay category. It still balances and is not additional money being spent.
- Resolution No. 2007 – To appropriate grants that were not anticipated at the time the budget was created. It was needed to expend those grant funds.
- Resolution No. 2008 – Referred to exhibit 'A.' Takes appropriation from one category to another to balance all the categories. It is not additional spending.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

5. Resolution No. 2007: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of St. Helens Authorizing a Transfer of Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 2007 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Resolution No. 2007. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

6. Resolution No. 2008: An Appropriations Resolution of the Common Council of the City of St. Helens for FY2024

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 2008 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Council President Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 2008. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

FY 2024/2025 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS**7. Resolution No. 2009:** A Resolution of the City of St. Helens Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues

Mayor Scholl explained that this allows them to accept State Revenues.

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 2009 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Resolution No. 2009.

Discussion.

Councilor Sundeen asked for clarification of the memo. Butsch explained that the memo refers to Resolution No. 2010.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

8. Resolution No. 2010: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of St. Helens, Oregon Adopting Budget, Making Appropriations, and Levying and Certifying Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 2010 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Resolution No. 2010.

Discussion.

Council President Chilton referred to the memo in the packet and asked how it affects this resolution. Finance Director Butsch explained the reductions are based on the General Fund. The failure of the police levy reduces the revenue and expenditures for the Police Department. Management discussed reducing IT and Parks Administration to half-time. It should not affect any expenditures or appropriations in the resolution. They are still discussing the IT position. Council President Chilton expressed confusion since it is in the memo but not the resolution. Butsch said IT and Parks Administration are both part-time in the budget. Councilor Sundeen was also surprised by that change. He pointed out that the Budget Committee recommended an additional \$15 public safety fee and asked if that was included. Butsch said no. They need to give public notice and the opportunity to comment.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Sundeen; Nay: Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard

Motion fails.

Butsch requested direction on how to proceed to adopt a budget. If they don't have a budget by the end of the fiscal year, they will have to shut down. They can't spend money without an approved budget.

Mayor Scholl thought the IT concerns had been discussed. Council President Chilton did not feel there was a resolution nor were they included in the discussion. Who will be doing the work of IT and Parks Administration? City Administrator Walsh said they will be discussing operational issues tomorrow. Council President Chilton is frustrated that they are expected to vote yes but they don't know what they're voting yes for. Walsh and Butsch explained that it's neutral in the budget. Council President Chilton suggested that it should have been left out of the memo. Butsch agreed.

Mayor Scholl re-read Resolution No. 2010 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Council President Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 2010. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

9. Resolution No. 2011 - A Resolution of the St. Helens City Council, Establishing the City Employee Compensation Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 2011 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Resolution No. 2011. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

10. PUBLIC COMMENT - Increase in Utility Rates

No comments.

Resolution No. 2012: A Resolution to Establish Water, Sewer, Storm Drainage Utility Rates and Charges, and Administrative Rules

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 2012 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Resolution No. 2012. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Sundeen; Nay: Councilor Hubbard

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

11. First Amendment to ORPD Local Government Grant Program Agreement for St. Helens Riverwalk Phase I
12. Agreement with the State of Oregon for the St. Helens Scappoose Refinement Trail Project
13. Agreement with Columbia County for the St. Helens Scappoose Refinement Trail Project
14. Agreement with Scappoose for the St. Helens Scappoose Refinement Trail Project

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '11' through '14' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

15. Library Board Minutes dated April 8, 2024
16. Parks and Trails Commission Minutes dated April 8, 2024
17. Planning Commission Minutes dated April 9, 2024
18. Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee Minutes dated January 5, 2022

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Council President Chilton to approve '15' through '18' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

19. Utility Bill Leak Adjustment Request for 555 Commons Drive (Columbia River Foursquare Church) in the Amount of \$2,680.15
20. City Council Minutes dated April 10, April 17, May 9, and May 14, 2024
21. Animal Facility Licenses
22. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '19' through '22' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

Next Steps for Event Coordinator RFP

City Administrator Walsh reported that the attorney pointed out a problem with the score sheets and it needed to be pulled off the agenda. Does the Council want to have a special meeting or wait? Consensus of Council to have a special meeting. Walsh will report back when he hears back from the attorney.

Councilor Sundeen requested a summary in the future when they are tasked with scoring RFPs.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Chilton reported...

- It was recently brought to her attention that there were internal decisions made to cut or potentially lay off a staff member. That position was not discussed during the Budget Committee meetings nor was it related to ARPA funding. She encouraged the person to talk about the cut but they chose not to. To be transparent, she shared that she was not part of the discussion nor the decision. She supports City staff and does not want them to be uncomfortable or uncertain about their jobs.

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- Agreed with Council President Chilton. He understands they don't need to be involved in all the decision making, but it's embarrassing when people in the community knew this before him. It would be beneficial to have the information or be part of the process in the future.
- Grateful for the Kiwanis members who showed up today. It was never his intention to cut ties with service organizations. He hopes they can move forward working with them.
- Interested in having a Tourism Committee again. He hopes they can learn from past mistakes and move forward in a positive direction.
- Citizens Day in the Park, June 22 in McCormick Park. There are still lots of opportunities to volunteer.
- 4th of July activities at McCormick Park.
- Would like to reconsider public comments at Work Sessions. It can be intimidating to speak in front of people. He would be more inclined to limiting it to 15 minutes.

Discussion ensued about public comments during Work Sessions.

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Council President Chilton to continue to allow public comments at Work Sessions. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

- Would like to investigate Council compensation and determine if the current model is still appropriate. They are among the highest paid in the State. There are other ways to compensate, such as cell phones, insurance plans, and some don't have anything.

Councilor Hubbard reported...

- Would like to see the RFP be completed and move on.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- Good to see Kiwanis here.
- Looking forward to the parade on June 15.
- Music in McCormick Park tomorrow.
- No 4th of July activities downtown due to the construction. Fireworks are only allowed over the river.
- The downtown movie filming is only 150-200 people, compared to thousands who come for 13 Nights on the River and 4th of July. The movie also brings in revenue for the community.
- They deserve a nice waterfront and need to allow them to finish construction.
- Citizens Day in the Park is on June 22.
- Agreed that a Tourism Committee is a good idea.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN – 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl

Rick Scholl, Mayor