



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, November 01, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Jessica Chilton
Councilor Mark Gundersen
Councilor Russell Hubbard
Councilor Brandon Sundeen – via Zoom

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Suzanne Bishop, Library Director
Tina Curry, Contracted Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Abbie Anderson	Logan	Ethan Flock
River Lee	Adam St. Pierre	Ava Eib
Nicholas Hellmich	Tyler	Jenni Gilbert
Tammy Maygra	Carter Meisch	Wyatt Littleton
Jen Massey	Brady Preheim	B. Gaston

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

◆ Jen Massey.

- Listened to today's Work Session. Effective today, they are down a detective. She was very concerned to hear about the high number of child abuse cases. With all the investigations, she hopes they are working on a plan to re-fill that detective position.
- Encouraged Council to investigate a four-year police levy and thinks citizens would be supportive of it.
- Compiling a report of municipalities who charge excess use fees for police departments responding to calls that are non-person crimes, such as noise complaints. In these cases, the landlord would be fined for repeat callers.
- Disappointed to see how the Police Department was portrayed with the Halloween parade. She read the emails and watched the videos. They said repeatedly that they were not the lead entity and couldn't do the plan. The applicant mentioned in their emails that they were working with a security company. She urged Council to look at the process for issuing permits. The Police Department did everything they could, including providing more bodies even when they were not the lead agency. This is a good opportunity to make improvements for next year.

◆ Brady Preheim.

- Disagreed with Jen Massey. The parade organizers did reach out to the Police Department and they were not interested in helping. At no point was a plan developed and nothing was said about why. The parade is followed by the pumpkin lighting, which is a City event and the responsibility of the Police Chief to participate. There are permitting issues and communication needs to be resolved.
- Budgeting is a huge problem. He agrees with Jen Massey's suggestion for a policy levy and pointed out that the Budget Committee unanimously agreed to that months ago. They also voted to increase the fee to fund the police position, but neither of those things happened.

Council President Chilton clarified that the parade is not a Spirit of Halloweentown event. The City does not organize it nor are they affiliated with it. Brady understands, but it does end with a City event.

◆ Tammy Maygra.

- Also read the emails. The parade dialog began in June and the Police Department finally said no on September 27. Instead of arguing, she suggested everyone discuss the needs and start fresh for next year.
- The money that the City will spend on the new police station would be better spent on hiring police officers. It takes at least two years to train them.
- Have they been contacted by Columbia County about the depletion fee not paid for the dirt hauled to the St. Helens Industrial property? City Administrator Walsh said no.

◆ Jenni Gilbert. The parade is a private event and the pumpkin lighting is a City event. The parade was up to the parade organizers. The Police Department does not have staffing for that, but still did what they could to help. It's unfair and frustrating to hear the Police Department being blamed. The organizer needs to apologize. She encouraged the Council to staff the Police Department and fill the detective position.◆ Tina Curry. She asked about doing a community event during the Christmas Ships.

Mayor Scholl said they will discuss it during the work session action items.

◆ Nicholas Hellmich.

- Agreed with their decision to approve the police station application.
- Big shout out to Tina Curry for her efforts during Spirit of Halloweentown. It benefits the community.
- Concerned about the full-time custodian position. A contractor just started recently. They need to speak with the contractor before proceeding.

◆ Adam St. Pierre. Spirit of Halloweentown and tourism is great. However, he is concerned about permitting. There was mention of people walking the streets drinking alcohol with no oversight, trailers taking up parking spaces, etc. There was also mention of the Police Chief not signing the permit. It's a liability if he signs it. The permit issues need to be addressed.**ORDINANCES – First Reading**

- 1. Ordinance No. 3297:** An Ordinance to Amend the City of St. Helens Comprehensive Plan Map for Certain Property from Light Industrial (LI) Designation to the General Commercial (GC) Designation and the Zoning District Map from the Light Industrial (LI) Zone to the General Commercial (GC) Zone

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3297 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

- 2. Resolution No. 1994:** A Resolution Amending the AFSCME Employee Compensation Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to Add the Custodian Pay Scale

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1994 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 1994.

Discussion. Mayor Scholl said there have been continuing problems with cleaning services. This would provide an employee who is responsible for all the cleaning. Council President Chilton pointed out that they just hired a new contractor and asked Walsh to elaborate. Walsh explained that the contractor has been unable to hire people who can pass background checks. The ones they have hired have left and don't stay. They currently have two people temporarily doing the work, one is a contractor and the other is through a temporary service. Public Works Facilities Maintenance will supervise the position.

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

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

3. Request for Full Reconveyance for CAT Loan Payoff for Olmstead Property at 296 N. 4th Street

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '3' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

4. Council Minutes dated September 14, September 20, and October 20, 2023
5. Amended Custodian Job Description
6. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '4' through '6' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**Tent for Christmas Ships**

Mayor Scholl thought it was a great idea. However, he is concerned about limited parking and blocking the view from the street to the river. He would prefer to take it down.

Council President Chilton agreed that it is a great idea. She would like to look at it for the future.

Mayor Scholl suggested the whole front row above Columbia View Park be designated handicap parking for the event. He will also talk to the County about the possibility of them moving some of their cars for more access.

Councilor Gundersen asked if there was another place that could be used for pictures. Council President Chilton said other groups offer free pictures as well.

Mayor Scholl thanked Tina for the idea. He asked City Recorder Payne to remind him to ask the County about the parking lot and to put cones out for Christmas Ship handicap parking above the park.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Chilton reported...

- She toured the Boise Cascade property for the first time and didn't realize how big it was. She appreciates hearing from community members with questions about the property.
- Shoutout to Public Works. The sidewalks are complete on Columbia Blvd. between Sykes Road and Gable Road. They look great and are safe.

- Congratulations to Lt. Joe Hogue on being honored with a prestigious FBI award.

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- Enjoyed the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Conference in Eugene. It's nice to know they're not alone in their challenges and opportunities.
- Thanked everyone involved in welcoming thousands of guests here for Spirit of Halloweentown.
- Enjoyed the Columbia County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Trunk or Treat and spending time with staff.
- Congratulations to Lt. Hogue on his award. He always goes above and beyond for the community.
- Congratulations to Officer Cutright and K9 Officer Jax for their first partnered arrest.
- There is a work party on Saturday at Nob Hill Nature Park.
- Encouraged people to get involved by joining a City Board or Commission.

Councilor Gundersen reported...

- Congratulations to Lt. Hogue.
- Congratulations to Officer Cutright and K9 Officer Jax.
- Enjoyed the LOC Conference.
- He is going to pursue the police levy.

Councilor Hubbard reported...

- He is still learning.
- Excited about the process of getting the solar business here. It's a huge opportunity and project. The City needs to keep the public informed as much as possible.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- Welcomed Councilor Hubbard. He's doing a good job listening and learning.
- The letter of intent with the solar company is to see if it's feasible for them to build here. He talked about all the agencies collaborating to make it possible. They will continue to inform the public as they are able. Hopefully, they can get someone from Newberg here to speak about what they had to do. Industry feeds small businesses and the ability to buy locally. He encouraged everyone to shop local as much as possible
- The parade is beneficial to the whole community and a lot of people want to see it continue. They need to work together and not pass blame. The City can help facilitate it if needed.
- The Waterfront Development is moving forward. He understands money is tight with losing Cascades, but that project is funded with Urban Renewal funds.
- Finance Director Butsch is moving in a good direction. He encouraged Council members to make an appointment to talk with her about finances.
- Congratulations to Lt. Hogue for receiving the FBI award.
- Congratulations to Officer Cutright and K9 Officer Jax.
- Thank you to all the men and women at the St. Helens Police Department.
- Talked to the students here from Mr. Meeuwsen's Civic's class about the City Council meeting process.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN – 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
Rick Scholl, Mayor