



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, December 20, 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
Jacob Graichen, City Planner
Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner
Gloria Butsch, Finance Director
Tina Curry, Contracted Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Wayne Weigandt	Jennifer Gilbert	Jennifer Massey
Nicholas Hellmich	Steve Toschi	Arthur Leskowich
Briana Koch	Stephanie Patterson	Shauna Stroup
Steve LeSollen	Brady Preheim	
RLT	Lisa Marsh	

CALL REGULAR SESSION TO ORDER 7PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Steve Toschi. He talked about all the time he has spent conducting audits as an attorney. He is offering his skills to assist the City. He will work with the Budget Committee members so the public will know the financial state of the City and what to expect next year. If there is a request for a levy, people will know it's based on accurate information. What has happened to the money? Employees are being notified of possible layoffs. He applied to serve on the Budget Committee and looks forward to working alongside the Council. He does not believe they can rely heavily on the audits. They need to rely on the work of the Budget Committee.
- ◆ Brady Preheim. He is following up on questions about tourism. Councilor Hubbard asked why Matt was not in jail, which Brady thinks he should have been put in jail. Matt accused the tourism director of taking funds and did not know what was in his own bank accounts. He was negligent in his duties and unresponsive to the Council. Brady recommended Councilor Hubbard go back and watch that meeting. Tourism is a contract; you don't get to ask questions about what everything costs. E2C was audited and it showed no problems. He disagreed with City

Administrator Walsh about taking \$120,000. That money is dedicated to tourism. The money received from hotel/motel tax is required to go to tourism. They can't steal her money.

- ◆ Nicholas Hellmich. He is an advocate for Psilocybin Therapy. It has positive impacts on mental health and offers a holistic approach. It is relatively safe when administered responsibly in a controlled setting. It will have a positive economic impact on the City. He has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and it has helped with his mental health. He has become a better person with it.
- ◆ Adam St. Pierre. He had a problem with the Zoom link. There was discussion a few months ago about permitting for large events. There are studies that show how many officers are needed per size of event. It's important that the Police Department signs permits so there is proper public safety available.
- ◆ Low Mason, citizen and member of the Budget Committee. He recommends Brady Preheim and Steve Toschi for the Budget Committee. They are both very passionate about the City and would be an asset.
- ◆ Tina Curry. Update since the last tourism report:
 - Sun Maid Raisins won two awards for their campaign in St. Helens in 2022
 - Best Campaign on a Budget
 - Best Holiday Campaign
 - KOIN News invited Crooked Creek Brewery for an interview. The first thing the interviewer said was that he came to Halloweentown and discovered the craft brew house.
 - An author has signed a book deal to write three books based on Halloweentown and a murder that begins at a bookstore here. She is a 2020 Oregon Book Award recipient.
 - Three brick and mortar buildings have been completely remodeled because of the money coming in from Halloweentown.
 - Potential hotels want to know what the tourism program offers.
 - Distributed a flyer showing activities that are offered year-round. A copy is included in the archive packet.

DELIBERATIONS

1. Comprehensive Plan Map and Zoning Map Amendment (CPZA.2.23) at 475 N. 12th Street (Stamp)

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Hubbard to approve the Comprehensive Plan Map and Zoning Map Amendment at 475 N. 12th Street. **Vote:** Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

RESOLUTIONS

2. Resolution No. 1996: A Resolution to Set 2024 City Public Meetings and Holiday Closures Schedule for City of St. Helens Council, Boards, and Commissions

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1996 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 1996. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

3. Resolution No. 1997: A Resolution to Appoint a Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1997 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 1997.

Discussion. This appoints the Finance Director to that position. It's part of the budget process.

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

- 4. Resolution No. 1998:** A Resolution Determining that a Nuisance Exists Upon Property Located at 2015 Cowlitz Street within the City of St. Helens and Directing that Notice to Abate the Nuisance be Posted on Said Premises

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1998 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 1998. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

- 5. Resolution No. 1999:** A Resolution Adopting a Policy Regarding System Development Charges for Conversion of Buildings from Commercial to Residential Use in Non-Industrial Zones

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1999 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 1999. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

6. Extension of Agreement with Drake's Towing & Recovery for Exclusive Towing Services
7. Second Amendment to Agreement with Oregon Patrol Service for Bailiff Services
8. Extension of Agreement with Advantage JC Excavating for Clean-up of Various Properties inside City Limits
9. Grant Agreement with Department of Land Conservation and Development for 2023-2025 Technical Assistance
10. Extension of Agreement with Wetland Solutions NW, LLC for Services related to Wetlands
11. First Amendment to AKS Engineering & Forestry, LLC Agreement for Salmonberry Reservoir Water Right Permit Renewal
12. Sixth Amendment to David Evans & Associates Agreement for Columbia Blvd. Sidewalk & Safety Improvements
13. Amendment to Agreement with Mayer/Reed, Inc. for Design, Construction, & Permits for Riverwalk Phase I & Columbia View Park Amphitheater

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '6' through '13' above.

Discussion. Clarification about number 12. It's extended for closeout activities.

Councilor Hubbard recused himself from the vote for number 13.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard (except for #13), Councilor Sundeen

REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR AND APPOINT MEMBERS TO BUDGET COMMITTEE

14. Budget Committee Applications

Six qualified applications were received for four positions. Ballots were distributed to the Mayor and City Council to each vote for four. Deputy City Recorder Scholl called Councilor Sundeen to take his vote over the phone. City Recorder Payne will tally the votes for announcement later in the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

15. Library Board Minutes dated November 13, 2023
16. Parks & Trails Commission Minutes dated November 13, 2023
17. Planning Commission Minutes dated November 14, 2023

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to approve '15' through '17' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

18. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Calendar
19. City Council Minutes dated November 15, 2023
20. Animal Facility Licenses
21. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '18' through '21' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

None

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Chilton reported...

- Met with Jim Coleman recently and had a really good conversation.
- Attended the Toy 'N Joy Fundraiser.
- Rang the bell for Salvation Army at Safeway. A homeless man even put money in the can. It was a humbling experience.
- Attended the joint City Council Planning Commission meeting. It went well with good teamwork.
- Merry Christmas!

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- It was a good Parks and Trails Commission meeting last week. A few things discussed were:
 - Improving signage
 - Documentation of the history of the parks
 - Jerry Belcher is leading the discussion of the Urban Trail
 - There were questions about dogs in public buildings and how "well-behaved" is defined. They have referred the discussion to the Safety Committee.
 - Still one vacancy
- There were good discussions at the joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting. He looks forward to working with them more in the future.

Councilor Gundersen reported...

- Agreed that the joint Planning Commission and City Council meeting went well. He feels that everyone was heard.

Councilor Hubbard reported...

- The Library applied for a \$116,000 grant, which would fund a part-time Makerspace Technician.
- Councilor Sundeen led a great historical Christmas presentation at the Library.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- Agreed it was a good joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting. They worked well together. There was discussion about vacant storefronts. Mainstreet agreed to help with that.
- The Toy 'N Joy auction was really good.
- Project Sprint is still moving forward. Meeting their needs for power is the biggest hurdle right now.
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
- Sorry to hear about yesterday's tragedy. He is praying for the family.

OTHER BUSINESS

After a tally of votes, a tiebreaker was conducted for appointment to the Budget Committee. It resulted in the following applicants with the most votes: Ivan Salas, Jennifer Gilbert, Jennifer Massey, and Steve Toschi.

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to appoint Ivan Salas, Jennifer Gilbert, Jennifer Massey, and Steve Toschi to the Budget Committee. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

ADJOURN - 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl

Rick Scholl, Mayor