



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, January 19, 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	Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner
Kathy Payne, City Recorder	Jacob Graichen, City Planner
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder	Tina Curry, Event Coordinator
Brian Greenway, Police Chief	

OTHERS

Jane Garcia	Brady Preheim	Art Leskovich
Jennifer Pugsley	Ben Tiscareno	Steve Toschi
Russ Hubbard	Ali Hasenkamp	Shauna Stroup
Mary Hubbard	Molly Matchak	

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Molly Matchak, Molly's Market. She applied for a permit in November to repair the walkway from Molly's Market to Cowlitz Street. She was told there was no fee when she submitted it but when she came to pick it up, she was told there was a \$100 fee. She paid for the repairs, she owns the business, and owns part of the building. She is requesting the \$100 fee be waived, which she paid on January 10.

There was no objection from Council to refund the fee.

Molly said that it would encourage other businesses to repair their walkways.

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to waive the fee to allow people to do the repairs.

Discussion.

Councilor Chilton clarified that it's only for the work that was already done. It would also be waived for anyone else wanting to fix additional sections.

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

- ◆ Shauna Stroup-Harrison.
 - Requested a lagoon update

- Will there be a tram schedule?
 - Only traveling 15mph will slow traffic and locals could take alternative routes
 - What will the fee be?

City Administrator Walsh reported that the City has been investigating filling in the lagoon and repurposing it. They need to know that it's a permissible facility with DEQ and what funding is available. They are working with partners to advance it. There is the technical and community acceptance aspect of filling it, including if it can be done safely. It's a slow process. As they get closer, he recommends creating a community advisory group.

◆ Tina Curry.

- Tram
 - Primarily used for tourism events
 - May be used for historic tours during the summer
 - Thanked Council for moving it forward
- Spirit of Halloweentown
 - Already getting questions about Halloween and what's happening
 - Once they establish a schedule and locations, needed improvements can be paid for with tourism funds.
 - Tourism pays for all repairs and damages. Most people are respectful.
 - Adding character actors along pathways and trails
 - Adding greeters
 - Would love to see improvements in the Rose Garden and Plaza before the fall
 - First Halloween meeting will be held the last week of January
- 13 Nights on the River is moving along
- Met with Judy Thompson about summer activities and collaborating on events
- People are excited about what they can do here

◆ Brady Preheim.

- What is the status of the tourism contract? Did you ever find the balance of the tourism account? Tourism should not be in limbo. They're lucky that they have someone who is competent.
- Council should accept it and do the fireworks, but they should find a different way to fund it. It's not a tourism event.
- Council is going to sign an MOU for Main Street. He is concerned about the program and the Columbia Theater not spending the grant money. The ADA bathrooms are needed. He doesn't want to see them fail again. It could be a great program. However, he is concerned about the leadership. He doesn't know what can be done to give them leadership and guidance. It would be nice if the money could be used and not lost.

◆ Amy Bynum, Port of Columbia County. She is here to introduce herself as the new Real Estate and Business Development Manager. She will be working on recruiting new companies to Port properties.

Mayor Scholl welcomed Amy and thanked her for reaching out.

◆ Ben Tiscareno. He loved the Waterfront video. He is encouraged by the process moving forward and appreciates their work. He agreed with Brady's comments about moving forward with the tourism contract. He hopes they move forward to establish trust.

Mayor Scholl announced that they will be going back into executive session following this meeting.

DELIBERATIONS**1. Deliberations - Extinguish Storm Sewer Easement and Water Easement at Proposed Public Safety Facility Site (4N1W-9AB-1400)**

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Councilor Chilton to extinguish the storm sewer easement and water easement at the proposed Public Safety Facility site. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

2. Deliberations - Annexation of 58389 Columbia River Hwy. (Eggers)

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve the annexation of 58389 Columbia River Hwy. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

3. Intergovernmental Agreement with Columbia County for Columbia Blvd. Sidewalk Project
4. [Ratify] Amendment No. 3 to Mayer/Reed, Inc. Agreement for Design, Construction, & Permits for Riverwalk Project Phase I and Columbia View Park Amphitheater
5. Amendment No. 4 to Mayer/Reed, Inc. Agreement for Design, Construction, & Permits for Riverwalk Project Phase I and Columbia View Park Amphitheater
6. Amendment to Arciform Agreement for Bennett Building
7. Quitclaim Deed to Extinguish Storm Sewer Easement and Water Easement at Proposed Public Safety Facility Site (4N1W-9AB-1400)
8. Agreement with GeoTerra, Inc. for New Imagery and Data for Use with GIS and AutoCAD
9. Amended Joint Memorandum of Understanding with St. Helens Main Street Alliance
10. Contract Payments

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Chilton and seconded by Council President Morten to approve '3' through '10' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

11. Parks and Trails Commission Minutes dated December 13, 2021
12. Planning Commission Minutes dated December 14, 2021

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '11' and '12' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

13. Council Work Session, Executive Session, Open House, and Regular Session Minutes dated December 15, 2021 and Council Special Session and Public Hearing Minutes dated December 29, 2021
14. Animal Facility Licenses
15. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Chilton to approve '13' through '15' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**Site Development Review Application for Columbia View Park Expansion**

Motion: Motion made by Mayor Scholl and seconded by Councilor Topaz to authorize signing of the land use application for a Site Development Review for expansion of Columbia View Park. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

Tram Purchase

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Chilton to approve the acquisition of a 120-passenger Dotto Brand tram, based upon the following findings: 1) the acquisition complies with the City's Municipal Code section 2.04.120(6)(q) Used Property; 2) the cost is substantially lower than new property; 3) the life-cycle cost was considered in the acquisition.

Discussion.

Council President Morten talked about the discontent between the Houlton District and downtown. This is a goal they've always had to bring the two business communities together. He is elated to see it move forward. Future concerns can be solved.

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

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- It's a busy time at the City
- Citizens Day in the Park is June 25. Vendor fees were waived last year. Is Council okay with waiving them again? Council concurred.
- Moving forward with the tourism contract. They are waiting on legal recommendations. It should be available by the next Council meeting. He encouraged Council members to contact Walsh with questions about the contract prior to the meeting.
- It was good to hear all the accomplishments during the State of the City. He serves as mayor to serve his community. Walsh implements everything they ask for. It may seem slow but is going quickly.
- Council is working well together today
- Thanked Brad Witt for visiting. He will introduce the City at the State with a request for funding to move the Industrial Park forward.
- The new senator, Rachel Armitage, will be here on Monday at 5 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Morten reported...

- Thanked Mayor Scholl for recognizing Walsh. It was very timely that they changed their governing policy for Walsh to take on city manager duties. A lot of what has been accomplished is because of him, all the staff working together, and community support.
- Thanked Tina for her report. He appreciates it.
- The Parks & Trails Commission made a recommendation for reimbursement of harm done to parks during tourism events. He suggested it be added to an agenda for discussion. Tina has already stepped forward to do that on her own.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- The doors at the library were redone to increase security and improved ventilation.
- He was at the Food Bank recently and a citizen came in with a large donation. They represent a group that collects cans to raise money. They don't want their name out there. He applauds the people who support the Food Bank in silence.
- He distributed a request to Council during the work session listing legal fees that he would like to be reimbursed for.

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz to get reimbursed for legal fees in the amount of \$9,115.

Motion died due to lack of second.

Mayor Scholl would like the City Attorney to review it first.

Councilor Chilton reported...

- Visited the library last week with her five-year-old and was able to participate in lots of activities. It was a great experience.
- Police Department update
 - The Public Safety Facility is in the planning stages. They are focusing on flood zones.
 - Acknowledged Officer McKenzie McClure. She has begun training other law enforcement agencies in the County in DUI detection. It's good to see training and ongoing education.
 - She will advocate for the Police Department during the budget review. Population continues to increase and impact public safety resources. The safety needs of citizens need to be put first by providing increased staffing.
 - Need to address policing needs on Sand Island and create a plan of action.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- Talked about Public Works recently doing work down the street from his house. The work impacted his house, and they were quick to resolve the problem.
- It was a good Planning Commission meeting last week. He was moved by citizen participation. It gave them an opportunity to feel heard.
- He took a trip to Independence to visit their waterfront and stay at their hotel. He was able to visualize what our Riverfront will look like.
- He read a book about how to make your community's economy sizzle. St. Helens is in a great position right now with the revitalization of the Main Street program and new energy at the Chamber of Commerce. It provides them an opportunity to look for ways to attract entrepreneurs to invest and build their businesses here. The investment in St. Helens Industrial Business Park shows that St. Helens is open for business.

OTHER BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN – 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl

Rick Scholl, Mayor