



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, May 01, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF

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

OTHERS

Steve LeSollen	Howard Blumenthal	Brady Preheim
Eric Ovanessian	Jim Coleman	Janet LeSollen
Steve Toschi	Robyn Toschi	Jenni Gilbert
Jennifer Massey	MPonce	Nick Hellmich
Stephanie Patterson	Eugene LeSollen	

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATION

1. 55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week - May 5-11

Mayor Scholl read the proclamation into the record and thanked City Recorder Payne and Deputy City Recorder Scholl for their work.

55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week

May 5 – 11, 2024

WHEREAS, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies, and agencies of government at other levels; and

WHEREAS, Professional Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all; and

WHEREAS, The Professional Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community; and

WHEREAS, Professional Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops, and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county, and international professional organizations; and

WHEREAS, It is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scholl, Mayor of the City of St. Helens, do recognize the week of May 5 through May 11, 2024, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Professional Municipal Clerks, Kathy Payne and Lisa Scholl, and to all Professional Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

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

- ◆ Jim Coleman. He has been watching City Council and Budget Committee meetings on YouTube. Reviewing the proposed budget, he noticed that the reserves will drop from 15% to -35% over the next few years, which he compared to a sinking ship. He talked about one-time revenues to balance this year's budget, including selling timber, surplus property sales, and interest earnings from the Public Safety Fund. He does not agree with spending that money when it's needed for the increasing cost of a new police station. The budget also shows that they are spending the police levy funds that haven't been voted on. Reviewing personnel in the budget, Operations has had 15 people over the last 10 years but reduced to 11 people. The Police Department increased from 19 to 28 police officers with a \$1.9 million increase for their department. Astoria only has 15 officers and a \$3.8 million police budget, which is half of St. Helens. He does not think it makes sense to spend that much money on police and borrow money they don't have. The Budget Committee did not seem to have any concerns over the increase and Chief Greenway will get everything he wants. He also questioned how Tourism revenue is decreasing from \$853,705 to \$154,000.
- ◆ Steve Toschi. He gave kudos to City Recorder Payne and Deputy City Recorder Scholl for their work. Speaking to the tourism contractor, she is the person who contracts with bands for 13 Nights on the River and can't make promises if her contract ends June 30. He recommends extending her contract through the end of the year. They should trust the person they have been working with for nine years. He reminded them that she is an independent contractor and should only need to account for gross revenues.
- ◆ Brady Preheim. Asked for Council President Chilton to publicly disclose who contacted her about the RFP. The RFP is clear that City Administrator Walsh is the single point of contact and submittals are rejected if they contact anyone else. Brady went on to talk about contracts for 13 Nights on the River. E2C can only sign contracts for bands performing when she is here and she doesn't know if she'll be here after June 30. He agreed with Councilor Gundersen about extending the contract through the end of the year. There's no good time to change, but it's more efficient to change at the end of the year rather than in June. People are investing in Spirit of Halloweentown and they need to make a decision tonight.
- ◆ Tina Curry. She's receiving 10-20 emails everyday with Spirit of Halloweentown schedule questions. Plans are usually set by June 1. She has been suggesting people purchase travel insurance and wait until the full schedule is out. As far as people ordering for Halloween, she

ordered for the store in January when things are available. Contracts for vendors were released six weeks ago so they can plan. A decision needs to be made now.

- ◆ Howard Blumenthal. He pled for the bickering to stop. There is a lack of communication and collaboration. He addressed the downtown construction delays, concerns about safety, and business access. Residents should be the priority. They are as important as visitors.
- ◆ Janet LeSollen. Speaking to tourism, Tina Curry is very professional. People attend Halloween events from all over the world.
- ◆ Steve LeSollen. He works for Tina Curry and expressed that she is very caring and kind. He encouraged them to continue 13 Nights on the River and Spirit of Halloweentown.

ORDINANCES – First Reading

2. Ordinance No. 3300: An Ordinance Amending the St. Helens Municipal Code Title 10, "Vehicles and Traffic," adding Chapter 10.20 "Traffic Calming"

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3300 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

3. Agreement with Aaron Martin for Pro Tem Judicial Services

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 ACCEPTANCE

4. Parks and Trails Commission Minutes dated March 11, 2024
5. Planning Commission Minutes dated March 12, 2024

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to approve '4' and '5' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

6. New Librarian I (Youth & Makerspace Librarian) Job Description
7. Council Minutes dated February 7, 2024 and March 13, 2024
8. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '6' through '8' 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...

- Each budget cycle is difficult. Cuts must be made and they're working hard to find funding. They're also trying to find the best way to bring a police station to the community.
- Doing their best to keep moving forward with tourism and make needed changes.

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- Thanked Lynne and Greg Pettit for their help at the Earth Day work party at McCormick Park Japanese Gardens. They got a lot done.

- Enjoyed the Boards & Commissions appreciation reception.
- Thanked the Finance staff and Budget Committee for all the work they do.
- Friends of the Library book sale on Friday and Saturday.
- Still looking for Citizens Day in the Park volunteers.

Councilor Gundersen reported...

- He does not want to see the community lose events and suggests continuing the tourism contract through the end of the year.

Councilor Hubbard reported...

- Thanked City Recorder Payne and Deputy City Recorder Scholl for all they do.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- Attended the City County Dinner in Vernonia yesterday. There were good discussions with power being the main topic.
- League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Small Cities meeting at City Hall on Friday.
- 13 Nights on the River has been going on since 2005 or 2006.
- They need to talk to the contractors before they can make a decision about Spirit of Halloweentown. He does not want to see it go away.
- The tourism contract is very strict. It would be a mistake to not move forward on it. And it may not be anyone new in the position.
- The water reservoir is in disrepair. They tried to get it repaired, the contractor failed to do so, and the money was returned. They cannot share the Walker report that continues to be requested by Ron Trommlitz.
- Working diligently on the budget. The lack of industry has a huge impact. He looks forward to their conversations tomorrow.
- Thanked City Recorder Payne and Deputy City Recorder Scholl for their work.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN – 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
 Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
 Rick Scholl, Mayor