



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, March 01, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Council President Jessica Chilton
Councilor Patrick Birkle
Councilor Mark Gundersen
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Rick Scholl

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Sharon Darroux, Engineering Manager
Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner/Community Development Project Manager
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Arthur Leskowich	Nick Hellmich	Jennifer Pugsley
Brady Preheim	Briana Koch	Howard Blumenthal
Steve Topaz	Jane Garcia	

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Nicholas Hellmich. He spoke with some employees about the recent departure of former City Finance Director Matt Brown. From his understanding, Brown miscalculated the amount of money needed to prepare and build a new police station, which cost taxpayers between \$1-2 million. Due to the shortfall of funds, water rates were significantly increased. In his line of work, he has seen a significant increase of seniors and low-income individuals not able to afford their water bill. What policies and procedures were put in place to make sure these types of miscalculations will not occur again? Has the City implemented a policy for expenditures over a certain amount to be reviewed by two or more people? He hopes policies are put in place so citizens don't suffer for one person's mistake.
- ◆ Brady Preheim. Reviewed his complaints.
 1. The Waterfront property is not accessible from the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), but is possible to add a path. Pedestrians currently must walk through neighborhoods to access it.
 2. He is unhappy about the errors made for the new police station. It needs to be a vote of the people. It should not just be added to the water bill.

3. Matt Brown asked for the Assistant City Administrator position, which he received, but then he kept his salary when he requested to move back to Finance Director. The same goes for the Parks & Recreation Manager that was moved back to her old position but continues to keep her salary. It is not acceptable. It's a promotion to keep giving them the same money when they're no longer in that position.

◆ Steve Topaz. Reviewed his questions and observations.

1. The City's new boat was supposed to be tested on February 16. Did it pass?
2. Could the training center on the Mill property be used for a police station?
3. There is a Waterfront postcard in the lobby that shows buildings with 250 living units. Looking at the project across from Walmart with a similar number of units, they get a preview of what it will look like. If you're handicap and at the front gate of Walmart, it's the same as getting out of your car and walking to a view center on the Waterfront.
4. The three-minute visitor comment time eliminates freedom of speech. The ability to communicate is a two-way street. It was announced at the last meeting, but then the Mayor set a precedent by allowing someone to speak longer last time. That is controlled speech and they are violating the Constitution.
5. They have a new Finance Director. He strongly suggests a forensic audit be done so she is aware of everything.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution No. 1974: A Resolution Appointing the Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2023-24
Council President Chilton read Resolution No. 1974 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Birkle to adopt Resolution No. 1974. **Vote:** Yea: Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

2. Resolution No. 1975: A Resolution Adopting Findings to Utilize Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) as an Alternative Procurement Method for the Police Station Project and Exempting Project from Competitive Bidding Requirements
Council President Chilton read Resolution No. 1975 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 1975. **Vote:** Yea: Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

3. Fifth Amendment to Agreement with David Evans & Associates, Inc. for Columbia Blvd. Sidewalk and Safety Improvements Project
4. First Amendment to Agreement with Mackenzie for Public Safety Facility Design

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '3' and '4' above. **Vote:** Yea: Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

5. Library Board Minutes dated January 9, 2023
6. Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes dated January 9, 2023
7. Planning Commission Minutes dated January 10, 2023

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '5' through '7' above. **Vote:** Yea: Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

8. Declare Surplus Property - Police Vehicles
9. Animal Facility Licenses

10. OLCC Licenses
11. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '8' through '11' above. **Vote:** Yea: Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

None

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilor Birkle reported...

- It has been crazy weather. Elementary students only attended half a day of school last week.
- Continues to meet with Library Director Bishop. He is impressed with her work and the staff.
- Responding to questions from visitor comments:
 - The boat/shuttle did pass the test. They are wrapping up the details now.
 - The Waterfront postcard is several years old and is conceptual. No decisions have been made.
 - There is no violation of the United States or Oregon Constitution to limit visitor comments to three-minutes. All that's required of them is to conduct their business and make decisions in public. There is no requirement to even take public comment. Three minutes is adequate. They can receive input in other ways that does not prevent citizens of providing information. He mentioned that retreats and special meetings do not even allow for public comments.

Council Gundersen reported...

- He met with Columbia River PUD staff on Monday. They have programs and grants available for the new amphitheater.
- Planning Commission wants more direction from Council if they should be looking at something. They can talk about it more at next week's joint meeting.

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- Plans are moving forward on the McCormick Park Veterans Memorial Plaza expansion.
- There was damage in McCormick Park. He thanked Police for their quick response, and Public Works and Parks for assessing the damage and ready to clean up when the weather improves.
- He saw the new Police Station designs and was very pleased with the functionality. The scaled-back version is what they need to be successful and keep the community safe.
- He attended the Police Awards Banquet on Sunday. It was a great experience and good to celebrate with them. K-9 Max even stopped by. He is proud of them and expressed his gratitude for all they do.
- He thanked citizens for being engaged. It's appreciated.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

Council President Chilton reported...

- Met with Library Director Bishop about senior outreach. She is amazed by her partnerships and advocacy for reading.
- Attended the Police Awards Banquet as well. She is encouraged by and proud of the Police.
- Last night, she met with a group of gentlemen to discuss re-opening the St. Helens Golf Course. She enjoyed learning about its history and their passion to re-open it. She will be sharing the information with Mayor Scholl to continue those discussions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Steve Topaz asked if the demonstration at the lagoon is still taking place tomorrow. City Administrator Walsh confirmed that it is tomorrow, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN – 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Jessica Chilton
Jessica Chilton, Council President