



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, February 02, 2022

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Doug Morten – 7:12 p.m.
Councilor Patrick Birkle
Councilor Stephen R. Topaz
Councilor Jessica Chilton

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Mouhamad Zaher, Public Works Director
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Jane Garcia	Brady Preheim
Ben Tiscareno	Judy Thompson
Molly Matchak	Howard
Jeff Nelson	

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Molly Matchak, owner of Molly's Market. She is requesting Council consider safety, noise, and speed as they develop the Waterfront and First Street. A vehicle hit four cars and totaled her car on Friday night. Her car was hit and pushed up on the Grant's property. Less than one minute prior to that, a couple was walking in that exact location. It's dangerous in that area when semi-trucks double park for deliveries and vehicles have to drive around them. Friday night was horrible. What type of parking will happen on her side of the street with the development?

City Administrator Walsh explained that every intersection will have a curb extension to slow traffic down and reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians. Parking will remain parallel in front of her business.

Molly is concerned about the people driving loud and fast through there during the summer. Many of them live in the apartments. Councilor Topaz agreed that noise and speed are a concern in the downtown area.

Councilor Birkle was across the street when it happened. He agrees with the safety concerns.

- ◆ Brady Preheim.
 - Thankful that Council didn't read the mantra.
 - Noticed a contract for the reservoir and hopes to see the leak issue be resolved.

- Watched the work session and saw that they are stealing money from Tina. If you're going to do it, do it big, and spend \$50,000.
 - Happy to see that they have finally done something about the derelict boats. The pirate ship is gone.
 - The contract with Tina needs to be resolved. It is taking too long.
 - Councilor Topaz requested his legal fees be reimbursed. Brady is opposed to that. He gets paid and can use his council fees for that. The fact that he would ask for it when he created the situation, is ridiculous.
 - Happy to note that Main Street is doing the work on the theater.
- ◆ Jeff Nelson. He had a conversation with Finance Director Brown, who referred him to Council for a decision. He has a large balance on his utility bill and has been struggling to pay it due to health reasons and a reduction in work hours. He is requesting an extension until he receives his tax money. He met with Community Action Team (CAT), and they offered him \$200 towards the large balance. He can pay the rest in March. He is requesting an extension to pay it in full March 15.

Mayor Scholl is in favor of extending it. There was no objection from Council. The deadline was extended through the end of March to be paid in full.

Council President Morten apologized for being late. He had a family emergency.

- ◆ Ben Tiscareno.
- He attended the afternoon work session to personally thank retiring Library Director Margaret Jeffries for her work. He was happy to see how she was acknowledged by the Council.
 - He appreciates the Council listening to the public and discussing the fireworks.
 - He attended the Halloweentown meeting last night. Kudos to Event Coordinator Tina Curry for getting the ball rolling. There were quite a few new faces. Curry listened. Creative suggestions were offered. He has a lot of hope after seeing that in action.

ORDINANCES – First Reading

- 1. Ordinance No. 3280:** An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property at 58389 Columbia River Highway

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3280 by title. The final reading will be held at the next meeting.

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

2. Agreement with Walker Consultants for Professional Forensic Engineering Services for 2.0 MG Reservoir Liner
3. Lease Renewal for Masonic Building at 231 & 235 S. 1st Street
4. Contract with St. Helens II LLC for Construction of Required Improvements at Columbia Commons Lot 4
5. Agreement with Gabriel Shepherd to Transcribe City Council Meeting Recordings
6. Contract Payments

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Chilton to approve '2' through '6' above.

Discussion.

Councilor Topaz referred to the contract for the reservoir lining. The lining may not be the reason for the leak. It needs a forensic engineering study. Public Works Director Mouhamad Zaher agreed. It's a forensic study for the entire reservoir. The lining is a just a player in the leak but may not be the whole.

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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

7. Library Board Minutes dated December 13, 2021

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Councilor Chilton to approve '7' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

8. Council Minutes:
- Work Session, Executive Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated January 5, 2022
 - Special Session Minutes dated January 12, 2022
 - Work Session, Executive Session, Public Forum, Public Hearings, and Regular Session Minutes dated January 19, 2022
9. New Accountant I, II, & III and IT Specialist I, II, & III Job Descriptions
10. OLCC Licenses
11. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Chilton to approve '8' through '11' above.

Discussion.

Councilor Topaz referred to the January 5, 2022 Work Session Minutes, top of page seven, "Discussion regarding Councilor Topaz Censure." Walsh referred to a total number of employees surveyed, but it is not specific in the minutes. He requested that number be inserted.

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

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz to insert the actual number of employees who were surveyed. Motion died due to lack of second.

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve Council Minutes dated January 12, 2022 and January 19, 2022, New Accountant I, III, and III and IT Specialist I, II, and III Job Descriptions, OLCC Licenses, and Accounts Payable Bill Lists.

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

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten to approve Council Minutes of January 5, 2022, amending the minutes to include the number of responses received from Councilor Topaz's censure discussion. [Secretary's note: The January 5, 2022 Work Session minutes were amended to include the number of employees who were surveyed. The number of responses was already included in the minutes.] **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

[Secretary's note: During transcription, it was discovered that no one seconded the motion. A new motion will need to be made at the next meeting.]

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**Audit Proposal for Events Management**

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Councilor Chilton directing Walsh to sign the audit proposal. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

Library Director Interview Process Public Comment

No public comments.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- The City is participating in the "If I Were Mayor..." Student Contest again this year. The deadline for submittals is March 28. First place winners receive \$150, second place winners receive \$50, and all participants have a pizza lunch with the mayor.
- The July 6, 2022 City Council meetings are being cancelled for the summer schedule.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Morten reported...

- Excited to see the Waterfront group moving forward. He looks forward to their recommendations.
- Appreciates that they are going to review park permit policies to hold users accountable for damages.
- Tina's Rose Garden report was very timely.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- There was an article in the Chronicle today about the Waterfront. People are seeing multiple pictures and it's very confusing. Mayor Scholl suggested asking Communications Officer King to share updated photos with the Chronicle. Councilor Birkle tells people that the renderings are conceptual and the City has made no definite commitment.
- There was an article in the newspaper about the City being in noncompliance with the Mill. There seems to be a lot of press about being in noncompliance with federal agencies and stuff being dumped into the lagoon and river. That needs to be clarified.
- There was an article about Oregon being the last state for drug addiction financial aid and second from the last on the most drug addiction. They need to try to brighten that picture.
- There is a big problem with recycled plastic and where to put it. He read an article about recycling plastics into useful plastic items. A lot of power is needed to do it, which the Mill site has. It would be a good business to draw since they have the power and space.

Councilor Chilton reported...

- Scappoose has a new police chief. He has already reached out to St. Helens offering to work collaboratively.
- Work continues on developing the County-wide radio project with C-com.
- Collaborating with the School District to continue discussion around the loss of a school resource officer. Hopeful that they can come up with creative solutions, while short on police staff.
- They continue to have problems with staffing shortages at the Police Department. They are reaching critical status to maintain their 24-hour service. Losing it would be severe and is extremely concerning to her. She is advocating to add at least two officers.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- Visited Salmonberry with his wife and dog. It gave him an appreciation for the resource and developing it. He was impressed with the forester's report.
- Grateful for a shorter work session today. It gave him the ability to patronize a local business and presented the opportunity to talk to some local agency partners and build connections.
- February is Black History Month. He encouraged everyone to pay particular attention to the history of blacks in the United States. It's important to be aware of the needs of all citizens and help them feel safe and welcome. More information is available at www.blackhistorymonth.gov.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN – 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
Rick Scholl, Mayor