



COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION

Wednesday, March 02, 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
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Rachael Barry, Government Affairs Specialist
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

CALL SPECIAL SESSION TO ORDER – 5:34 p.m.

MISSION

The City of St. Helens' mission is to provide quality, effective, and efficient service to our citizens.

- Develop and preserve the highest possible quality of life for our residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Provide a safe and healthy environment within a sound economic framework.
- Provide leadership which is open and responsive to the needs of the community and works for the benefit of all.

ROUNDTABLE - Councilor Top 2 Priorities in Next 2 Years

Councilor Topaz

- Begin conversations with ODOT Road and Rail for a bridge over Highway 30 at Gable Road
- Focus marketing on attracting a major industry here

Mayor Scholl

- Waterfront Redevelopment
- Public Safety Facility

Councilor Chilton

- Public Safety Facility/Needs
- Increase in sports fields

Council President Morten

- Complete Riverwalk Phase I
- Clean up connections/thoroughfares to Riverwalk

Councilor Birkle

- Public safety in general
- Motorized transportation

Discussion of an overpass. Council President Morten suggested from West Street across the highway.

REVIEW OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Draft Goals for 2022-2024

Reviewed draft goals based on community survey responses. A copy is included in the archive packet for this meeting.

Goal 1 – Effective Organizational Structure

- Councilor Topaz wants IT to be a standard and not a goal.
- Mayor Scholl agreed with all of them listed. A sustainable budget is important.
- Council President Morten wants to add an urban trail to the list. Council directed staff to do it, but it hasn't been done yet. Councilor Topaz suggested utilizing volunteers. Government Affairs Specialist Barry explained that it would fit well under Goal 3.

Goal 2 – Community Engagement

- Mayor Scholl pointed out that they were doing a lot more community engagement pre-pandemic.
- Councilor Topaz heard during interviews that a lot of towns were using their library as a community center. He would like to keep the library in mind for community engagement.
- Mayor Scholl talked about the importance of Communications and IT to share information.

Goal 3 – Safe and Livable Community

- Councilor Chilton pointed out that they are working on police funding sources.
- Councilor Topaz wants to connect the Library with Parks & Recreation.
- Council President Morten talked about the urban trail. It will connect six parks. It was pointed out during the work session that a trail from Nob Hill will be connected to the Public Safety Facility and then can connect to McCormick Park. The urban trail can serve as a hub to other trails.
- Councilor Topaz wants to make sure the trails stay safe.
- Councilor Birkle likes that evacuation plans/drills is included to keep staff safe.

Goal 4 – Economic Development

- Councilor Topaz talked about the development behind Starbucks. How will that affect police and transportation? Councilor Chilton said it will be families, seniors, and disabled. It's not necessarily going to be problematic. The traffic issue is going to be a problem. Mayor Scholl suggested they reach out to ODOT. There could be an egress adjacent to Sunset Equipment at Port Avenue and Milton Way. There is a spur back there that would need to be approved by ODOT Rail. Councilor Chilton suggested getting input from City Planner Graichen.
- Councilor Birkle disagreed with attracting one heavy industrial business. It would be good to have discussion about multiple small businesses. Councilor Topaz agreed with that concept. They just need more industrial businesses. Council President Morten agreed with multiple industries to remain sustainable if one goes away.
- Mayor Scholl pointed out that the St. Helens Industrial Business Park property is not ready yet. He suggested crushing the rock on site to use for the Public Safety Facility. It would save a lot of money if that part of the site work was done by Public Works crews. Discussion ensued. City Administrator Walsh said there are some challenges with wetland setbacks. The area Mayor Scholl is referring to is outside of that. Mayor Scholl suggested that it be done this summer. Council directed Walsh to work with Public Works Director Zaher to bring back a plan.

Goal 5 – Long-Term Planning

- Discussion of funding from State resources.

ROUNDTABLE - Councilor Top 2 Priorities Long Term

- Milton Creek Bridge replacement
 - It's been there since the depression

- Part of the framework of the transportation corridor
 - Critical evacuation route
 - Critical public safety access
 - FEMA funding opportunity
 - Hazard mitigation opportunity
 - Good project for State funds recently released
- Sidewalks
 - SDC driven
 - Community support
 - Need to address sidewalks adjacent to roads that have been raised
- Floating pier for fishing and non-motorized boat launch
 - Working on a grant with ODF&W for Grey Cliffs Park

Barry encouraged the Council to communicate with citizens that they are conducting long-range planning.

ADJOURN – 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
Rick Scholl, Mayor