



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, October 07, 2020

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Doug Morten (arriving at 7:08 PM)
Councilor Keith Locke
Councilor Ginny Carlson
Councilor Stephen R. Topaz

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

OTHERS

Jaime Smith
Brady Preheim

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

No visitor comments were received.

ORDINANCES – *Final Reading*

1. Ordinance No. 3256: An Ordinance to Amend the City of St. Helens Comprehensive Plan Map for Certain Property from the Suburban Residential (SR) and Public Lands (PL) Designations to the General Commercial (GC) Designation and the Zoning District Map from the Moderate Residential (R7) and Public Lands (PL) Zones to the Mixed Use (MU) Zone

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3256 by title for the final time. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Locke to adopt Ordinance No. 3256. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

RESOLUTIONS

2. Resolution No. 1900: A Resolution Determining that a Nuisance Exists Upon Property Located at 234 N. 16th Street Within the City of St. Helens and Directing that Notice to Abate the Nuisance be Posted on Said Premises

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1900 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Topaz to adopt Resolution No. 1900. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

3. Street Vacation Petition for Portion of S. 2nd Street
4. Agreement with TimmiSue Hald for Police Dept. Administrative Services Assistance

5. Memorandum of Understanding & Maintenance Agreement with Oregon Made Creative Foundation
6. Contract Payments

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Locke to approve '3' through '6' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

7. Planning Commission Minutes dated August 11, 2020
8. Parks & Trails Commission Minutes dated August 10, 2020
9. Library Board Minutes dated August 10, 2020

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Locke and seconded by Councilor Carlson to approve '7' through '9' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

10. Council Work Session, Executive Session, Public Hearing, and Regular Session Minutes dated September 2 and 16, 2020
11. Amendment to Police Sergeant Job Description
12. Request for Proposals for Exclusive Towing Contract
13. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Locke to approve '10' through '13' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

Mayor Scholl referred to Councilor Topaz's statement at the end of the work session where he stated Council discussed the Graystone property during executive session. The Graystone property is a small lot adjacent to the old hospital property. Council has discussed the property as there was interest from the developer. It raised red flags when Councilor Topaz said executive session, but it has all been done in the open. The appraisal was approved about a month ago.

COVID Funds

Motion: Upon Councilor Carlson's motion and Councilor Topaz's second, the Council unanimously approved allocating the COVID funds as per staff's recommendation. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- He has had a hurt back for over a week and a half. He has not been out and about like normal.
- The City continues to move forward.
- There is a lot of collaboration among partnering agencies. They can do more when working together.
- The City is continuing to move the Waterfront forward. They are in the process of drawing the streets, followed by public outreach.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Morten reported...

- Acknowledged the work of community volunteers.
 - SOLV cleanup at Dalton Lake Nature Preserve on September 26.
 - A grant was received for a salmon study at Dalton Lake. About 15 people participated in the workshop. He asked Lynne Pettit to bring a report back to the Parks & Trails Commission and Council.
- Have heard complaints about parking issues from citizens trying to access downtown restaurants on the weekends. He asked staff to obtain temporary parking.

- Looking forward to Public Works Director interviews.

Councilor Locke reported...

- Several years ago, he suggested paving and striping Second, Third, and Fourth Streets. There is a lot of parking on those three streets between Columbia Blvd. and St. Helens Street.
- Asked City Administrator Walsh if they are still moving forward with restructuring the building permit process. Walsh responded that they are. The staff has been undergoing training for electronic permits and data has been migrated. They are working on advertising for the building inspector position. Locke is hearing from contractors that it is taking a long time to get permits. Council President Morten is hearing the same. He expressed frustration about permits sitting on someone's desk. Discussion ensued.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- Council had talked in the past about she, Councilor Locke, and builders sitting down together to discuss what is working and what is not. She is hearing the importance of involving community input.
- Would like to see community involvement in the selection process of the inclusive playground equipment. Citizens who are personally affected want to feel heard. Mayor Scholl confirmed that the plan is to select a few pieces then get input from community members.
- Thanked everyone who has been volunteering and working in the downtown area during Spirit of Halloweentown. They are representing our City well. She cannot help this year due to her health.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- **Motion:** Upon Councilor Topaz's motion and Councilor Locke's second, the Council unanimously reappointed Jenna Reineking to the Arts & Cultural Commission. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz
- The Arts & Cultural Commission is on a sabbatical. They are going to work with Government Affairs & Project Support Specialist Rachael Barry to better understand the rules of operation.
- There was past discussion about installing a kayak launch at Grey Cliffs Park. He asked Interim Public Works Director Sue Nelson to research permits. Mayor Scholl agreed. He also asked about a railing or wire being installed at the top of Grey Cliffs Park.
- There are a lot of people upset about Spirit of Halloweentown. One person suggested an audit be done by an outside firm, so everyone knows how much money has been spent over the last year. People do not trust what is going on. He suggested a motion be made for an outside firm to conduct an audit of everything that has gone into Spirit of Halloweentown, including facilities staff and how well the vendors are doing. Mayor Scholl said they have discussed this numerous times. Do they understand that it is not tax dollars paying for this? Councilor Topaz responded that it has not been part of the discussion. Mayor Scholl said that people seem to think the City is overcharging and trying to profit from COVID. Only 250 people are allowed to be in the area. Audits are done every year. Councilor Topaz argued that there is a high grade of mistrust. Having a third-party audit is the only way to gain trust. Council President Morten said that there has to be control. 90% of the people purchasing tickets are from out of the area. An audit has to be about more than just the monetary funds spent. People are happy visiting.

OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ Jaime Smith. She wanted to make a comment about Spirit of Halloweentown. Not all of the locals are complaining or angry. It would help if City Council members volunteered at the Spirit of Halloweentown gates to see first-hand what is happening. They are the ones who voted to continue the event but now the volunteers are getting yelled at.

Mayor Scholl thanked Jaime for volunteering. He understands what she is saying. He was there in year's past, but this is a weird year. He will try to make it down there. He cannot be there for 12 hours due to other commitments.

Councilor Carlson explained that this is the first year that she has not been down there every Saturday. She made the decision based on COVID and her own personal healthy. She talked to E2C about sneaking down on a Saturday. She visited business owners over the last week and none of them expressed negative concerns. She has seen many visitors down there during the week. People are happy.

Council President Morten reported that Spirit of Halloweentown was discussed at Kiwanis meeting. They normally volunteer for everything. Council members and Kiwanis members are getting older. They would be putting themselves at risk to be down here during a pandemic. He wishes he could be there but was advised not to. If it were any other time, he would be there. Most of the Council members do a lot of volunteering at activities but cannot be at everything.

Mayor Scholl suggested some social media posts asking people to be more patient and understanding. We need to make visitors feel welcome.

ADJOURN – 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
Rick Scholl, Mayor