



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, February 05, 2025

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jennifer Massey
Council President Jessica Chilton
Councilor Mark Gundersen
Councilor Russell Hubbard
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Pane, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Jacob Graichen, City Planner
Joe Hogue, Acting Police Chief
Ashley Wigod, Contracted City Attorney

OTHERS

Arthur	Jenn	Adrienne Linton, Mackenzie
Jared P.	Joe	Jeff Humphreys, Mackenzie
Melody Sexton	Erin	Brian Varricchione, Mackenzie
CH	Brady Preheim	Jane Garcia
Paul Carroll	Jenni Gilbert	Steve LeSollen
Janet LeSollen	Doug Walker	Shirley Walker
Treadway		

CALL REGULAR SESSION TO ORDER – 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Massey introduced a new tradition of recognizing hometown heroes. She gave City Recorder Kathy Payne the honor of introducing her father, Douglas Walker, as the hometown hero for this session.

Kathy Payne introduced her father, Doug Walker, a veteran and patriot living in St. Helens for the past twenty years. She detailed his service in the United States Marine Corps, including his deployment to Vietnam and his honorable discharge as a sergeant E-5 in 1966. Payne highlighted Walker's involvement in various veteran support activities, including Run for the Wall, the Alaska Airlines Fallen Soldier Car Escort, and his participation in laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. She also mentioned his local involvement as Vice President of the Hometown Heroes of Columbia County and as a volunteer driver for the VA.

Doug Walker then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- ◆ Brady Preheim. Addressed concerns about Mayor Massey, suggesting she should apologize for previous actions. He remarked that it was surprising to hear about someone being blackballed from the Elks and emphasized the need for accountability. Preheim also expressed significant concerns regarding the building site location, emphasizing that public input is crucial. He was skeptical about the projected cost of the police station, suggesting that an initial cost estimate of \$11 million seemed unrealistic and could potentially be double or triple the amount. Lastly, he criticized how funds were allocated, questioning a council member's decision to donate to their own nonprofit and suggesting that they could instead consider giving to an established organization like Kiwanis.

- ◆ Adam St. Pierre. clarified that his organization had nothing to do with the nonprofit mentioned by the previous speaker, explaining that it was started by the Zuber family. He stated, "Our organization has absolutely nothing to do with that," emphasizing that he had no knowledge of what they would do with the money. Adam expressed his appreciation for the new procedure of having a hometown hero perform the pledge of allegiance, noting that it was a positive change. He specifically thanked Doug Walker for his service, saying, "Thank you for your service, not only while you're in, but after you got out."

ORDINANCES – *First Reading*

1. **Ordinance No. 3307:** An Ordinance Amending the St. Helens Municipal Code Chapters 17.16, 17.32, 17.80, and 17.96 Pertaining to Oregon House Bill 3395 (2023) Regarding Single Room Occupancies, and Other Housekeeping Amendments

Mayor Massey read Ordinance No. 3307 by title. The final reading will be at next meeting.

City Planner Jacob Graichen briefly explained that this ordinance was related to accommodations for housekeeping discussed in a previous meeting. He noted that there was less material than initially thought.

AWARD BID/CONTRACT

2. Accept Bid and Award Contract to Mason, Bruce & Girard for Forestry Management Services

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Hubbard to approve '2' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

3. Parks & Trails Commission Minutes dated December 9, 2024
4. Library Board Minutes dated December 9, 2024

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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

5. OLCC Licenses
6. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '5' and '6' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**Habitat for Humanity Request**

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to waive the sidewalk fee and reduce SDCs by 50%.

City Planner Graichen explained the typical process for street frontage improvements and the option of a fee in lieu of construction. He noted that waiving the fee would mean no funds would be added to the pool for frontage improvements elsewhere in the city.

Councilor Gundersen expressed concerns about setting a precedent and the impact on the City's budget. Mayor Massey inquired about the frequency of such requests and whether other nonprofit housing organizations had made similar requests.

Vote: Nay: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to waive the sidewalk fee. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

Release of Chief Brian Greenway Report

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to release the redacted report.

Council discussed the release of Chief Brian Greenway's report. The discussion focused on whether to redact names or release the full report. Councilor Hubbard suggested releasing a redacted version, supported by Mayor Massey, Councilor Sundeen, and Council President Chilton, emphasizing transparency while protecting individual privacy.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

Police Station Project

Motion: Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to direct site to pursue the Columbia Blvd. location for the police station. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilor Sundeen reported on the upcoming Parks and Trails Commission meeting and thanked everyone for their participation in last Friday's session.

Council President Chilton shared information from the City County Dinner she attended, discussing FEMA and floodplain issues. She also commended Public Works for their efforts during recent weather events. She read a letter from the St. Helens Senior Center Board of Directors, clarifying information about their finances and operations.

Councilor Gundersen mentioned upcoming Planning Commission and Columbia River PUD Board meetings.

Councilor Hubbard is waiting for the Planning Commission meeting next week.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- The senior center situation and meal program
- The recent Council Work Session and Strategic Planning Session

- Approval of a School Resource Officer (SRO) by the school district
- The Central Waterfront project
- Project Arcadia extension agreement
- Treadway events planning, including July 4th activities, Spirit of Halloweentown, and Citizens Day in the Park
- Dock repairs and Marine Board grant
- Reservoir project and request for proposals
- Business access during downtown construction
- City Day at the Capitol and meetings with state representatives
- Development interest in the riverfront and mill site
- Substation project contract documents

MAYOR MASSEY REPORT

Mayor Massey thanked staff and fellow Council members for their work and open dialogue. She discussed her attendance at the City County Dinner and the importance of planning for Oregon's 250th celebration. Mayor Massey also expressed appreciation for the recent strategic planning session and the positive relationship with the City Administrator.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN – 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully transcribed by ClerkMinutes and submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Jennifer Massey
Jennifer Massey, Mayor