



# COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, September 06, 2023

## APPROVED MINUTES

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl  
Council President Jessica Chilton  
Councilor Mark Gundersen  
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

### STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder  
Tina Curry, Contracted Event Coordinator

### OTHERS

|                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Nick Hellmich   | Jen Massey              |
| Patrick Birkle  | Brady Preheim           |
| Richard Mason   | Jesse Lagers            |
| Breanna Gaston  | V. "Chin Chin" Hokinson |
| Adam St. Pierre |                         |

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Patrick Birkle. It was an honor serving with the Council and staff. At one of his last meetings, he was confronted about questioning how the event coordinator handles cash. He only questioned that because the coordinator said at the January 18, 2023, Work Session that she does not have to account for cash. Reading the contract, he interprets it that all income related to events will be accounted for. He was fully justified in asking those questions. It was not an attack.
- ◆ Jen Massey. Acknowledged Council President Chilton's comment about being a liaison to Columbia River Fire & Rescue (CRFR). That resource is needed. She was told that Columbia County holds the ambulance contract but is not sure if it's accurate. It was disappointing to hear that Commissioner Magruder said there was "no way in hell she would agree to that," referring to loaning CRFR funds. Hopefully, CRFR will get their things together. The Police Department responds to medical calls almost 90% of the time. They are usually there first performing life-saving measures. They are in an imminent issue of not having 24-hour coverage and expect multiple retirements in 2024. The Sheriff made a promise for 24-hour coverage but has not said when that will happen. Is the City prepared to not have 24-hour coverage? Who will they call without it?

- ◆ Adam St. Pierre. There are 10 patrol officers, three patrol sergeants, one investigative administrative sergeant, two detectives, and two admin. If they have six people leave in the next two years, they are in trouble. They are one person away from losing 24/7 coverage. Just this week they have seen the Police Department remove 562 fentanyl pills from the street, arrest someone for Rape 1, and arrest someone for sexual activity with an underage female in the park. They have submitted a request for budget documents so they can be informed when they sit down and discuss ways to fund additional officers. He sent an email to the County Commissioners asking what percentage of the budget goes to law enforcement and was told they needed to complete a Public Records Request. They still have not received a response from Sheriff Pixley about 24-hour coverage. Multiple Public Records Requests have been submitted and they will share that information with the public.
- ◆ Nick Hellmich. He shared some of the reasons he wants to serve on Council:
  - Serve the community
  - Bring the spotlight back to the people of St. Helens
  - Act as a bridge between the people of St. Helens and the City
  - Bring solutions to the budget crisis
  - Create an inclusive and sustainable future
  - Transparency
  - Build a future to be proud of
- ◆ Brady Preheim. He is thankful that Patrick Birkle is gone. He constantly attacked the event coordinator. She does account for cash and Council should correct that in public. They know what he's saying is wrong. He would like to see an audit done of the Councilor who claimed he was going to donate all his money. His attacks are unfounded and unwarranted.

## RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution No. 1988:** A Resolution to Amend the City of St. Helens Personnel Policies and Procedures Handbook (Resolution No. 1913, as amended) Adding a Policy on the New Paid Leave Oregon Law

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1988 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Resolution No. 1988. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

2. **Resolution No. 1989:** A Resolution Adopting a New City of St. Helens Worksite Wellness Policy and Superseding Resolution No. 1715

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1989 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 1989. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

3. **Resolution No. 1990:** A Resolution Amending the AFSCME Employee Compensation Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1990 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to adopt Resolution No. 1990. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

4. **Resolution No. 1991:** A Resolution of the City of St. Helens City Council Authorizing Application to the 2023-2025 Department of Land Conservation and Development Technical Assistance Grant Program

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1991 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 1991. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Increase in Drop Box Rates**

No public comments.

**Resolution No. 1992:** A Resolution Establishing Drop Box Rates and Superseding Resolution No. 1965

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1992 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Resolution No. 1992. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

**APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE**

6. Contract with Howard S. Wright for Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) Services for New Public Safety Building
7. Agreement with Tiberius Solutions for Urban Renewal Financial Update
8. Second Amendment to Agreement with Kittelson & Associates, Inc. for S. 1st Street & St. Helens Street Intersection Improvements Project

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to approve '6' through '8' above.

Discussion.

Mayor Scholl reported that this corrects a couple minor errors made at the S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street and St. Helens Street intersection.

**Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE**

9. Parks and Trails Commission Minutes dated July 10, 2023

**Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '9' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL**

10. Council Minutes dated August 2, 2023
11. New Building Permit Technician Job Description
12. New Librarian I (Patron Services Librarian) Job Description
13. New Water Quality Operator I, II, and III Job Descriptions
14. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

**Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '10', '12', '13', and '14'. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

**WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**

None

**COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Council President Chilton reported...

- Proud of the Police Department. They are doing great work and protecting the community. It's important to share those updates with the community.

- She has been getting emails about the reservoir. What was reported by Public Works Director Zaher and Engineering Manager Darroux is all they know. She doesn't know about a smoking gun.
- She looks forward to a new councilor joining them. There are a lot of great candidates.
- They lost a pillar of the community today. Diane Dillard was a mentor to her and touched the lives of so many. Condolences to her family. She will be truly missed.

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- Parks & Trails Commission meets next week.
- Nob Hill Nature Park work party on Saturday.
- Thanked the Police Department for their great work. A lot happens behind the scenes that they don't see.
- It's hard to imagine the community without Diane Dillard. It's a big loss for the community. His thoughts are with the family.

Councilor Gundersen reported...

- He missed the last Planning Commission meeting.
- There are two candidates for the vacant Planning Commission position.
- He looks forward to performing Council interviews next week.

### **MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS**

- Condolences to Cheryl Breslin and Diane Dillard's families. They lost two powerful women back-to-back. They were both very involved in the community and will be missed.
- They received 10 applications for the vacant Council position. He is happy to see people wanting to be involved. Interviews will be held next week.
- They signed a contract for the new Public Safety Facility tonight. An ad-hoc committee recommended the Public Safety fee be added to utility bills. It makes it more equitable that everyone pays that \$10 per month.
- Kudos to the Police Department for getting drugs and sex offenders off the street.
- He still hasn't received financial information from the County. The City keeps money in reserves so they don't end up in the same predicament as CRFR.
- Already reading comments from reporters about what he said during the Work Session about CRFR. They don't hold secret meetings and make decisions behind the scenes. He is pleased with where they are at. He thanked City Administrator Walsh for monitoring the budget and managing the day-to-day operations. They would be shocked to see what he does and what he gets paid.
- Welcome back to school!
- 13 Nights on the River is rescheduled to next week.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Consensus of Council to cancel the September 13, 2023, joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting. The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2023.

### **ADJOURN – 7:35 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl

Rick Scholl, Mayor