



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Doug Morten
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
Sue Nelson, Interim Public Works Director
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
Jose Castilleja, Police Sergeant
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

None

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Scholl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- ◆ Jose Castilleja, Police Sergeant. He is humbly requesting partial funds for the annual Police Awards Banquet. The total is about \$1,500. They would be grateful for any contribution.

Councilor Locke added that this is an awards ceremony for the officers. It is a great way to show recognition for their hard work. Castilleja has done a great job organizing it.

Council expressed their support of the Police Department.

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to donate \$500 from Community Support Funds. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

Councilor Topaz asked if they plan to bring back First Thursdays. Castilleja confirmed they plan to when it can be done safely.

DELIBERATIONS - Easement Extinguishment at 205 Brayden Street

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Councilor Carlson to approve the easement extinguishment as recommended by staff. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

DELIBERATIONS - Amendments to St. Helens Urban Renewal Plan

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Council President Morten to approve the amendments as recommended by staff. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

ORDINANCES – *First Reading*

1. **Ordinance No. 3257:** An Ordinance Making Certain Determinations and Findings Relating to and Approving the St. Helens Urban Renewal Plan Amendment 2 and Directing that Notice of Approval be Published

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3257 by title for the first time. The final reading will be held at the next regular session.

RESOLUTIONS

2. **Resolution No. 1901:** A Resolution Adopting a City of St. Helens Technology & Telework Policies & Procedures Handbook

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1901 by title. Motion made by Councilor Locke and seconded by Councilor Topaz to adopt Resolution No. 1901. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

3. **Resolution No. 1902:** A Resolution to Adopt the St. Helens Public Library Collection Development, Circulation, and Confidentiality Policies

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1902 by title. Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Councilor Carlson to adopt Resolution No. 1902. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

4. Memorandum of Understanding with St. Helens Police Association regarding Uniforms

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '4' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

5. Planning Commission Minutes dated September 8, 2020
6. Parks & Trails Commission Minutes dated September 14, 2020
7. Library Board Minutes dated September 14, 2020

Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '5' through '7' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

8. Request for Qualifications for St. Helens Riverwalk Project
9. Request for Qualifications for S. 1st & Strand Streets, Road & Utility Extensions Project
10. Athletic Field Use Process
11. Amendment to Building Inspector Job Description

12. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Councilor Locke asked if electricity will be underground on the Waterfront Property. City Administrator Walsh confirmed that it will be. All of the private utilities will be underground.

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '8' through '12' above. Voting Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Locke, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Topaz

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

None

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- Looking forward to the elections being over. They will have results by the next meeting.
- Columbia County continues to do really well keeping COVID numbers down. He continues to wash his hands, not touch his face, and wear a mask when needed.
- There is a lot of stuff going on with the City. He recommends people watch the work session to stay updated.
- The Waterfront is moving forward with a boardwalk that will be ADA accessible. He is looking forward to seeing the results they receive from the RFQs.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Morten reported...

- Attended the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) virtual conference.
 - Congratulations to Walsh! He was selected to be on the LOC Board.
 - City of Scappoose City Manager Mike Sykes received an outstanding award from LOC.
- The Parks & Trails Commission recommended staff move forward with a plan for an urban trail map design. He is requesting support from Council for staff to proceed.

Discussion ensued on an urban trail map. Consensus of Council to add this to the November 18 work session and invite someone from Parks & Trails Commission to discuss it further.

Councilor Locke reported...

- Requested adding an agenda item to the next work session to discuss some of the issues at Cascade, including the two and a half years of stuff that was dumped in the City's lagoon and how that will be handled. He suggested Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Aaron Kunders give a presentation on what happened. Consensus of Council for Walsh to consult with legal counsel and then report at the November 18 Council work session if it is appropriate.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- Thank you to the Recreation Program and Library Department for creating activities on wheels. They have become mobile and are visiting different areas in the community.
- A Drive-Through Boo will be held at the Recreation Center on Halloween. It replaces the Trunk-or-Treat at the Police Station. She appreciates staff working with community partners to make it happen.
- Congratulations to Building Official Mike De Roia for his Silver Sparky award.
- Planning Commission has two terms expiring at the end of this year. People interested in serving their community and have an interest in Planning, should apply. Applications are online.
- Veterans' Day is November 11. Is there something we can do virtually to appreciate and celebrate veterans?

Councilor Topaz reported...

- The kayak meeting in downtown Portland had three presentations.

- He is going to make a motion to have a three-year audit of the Tourism Halloween affair, including time, effort, and storage contributed by Public Works. People want to see an outside audit.

Councilor Carlson pointed out that he has brought this up three times and it has been discussed.

Council President Morten suggested including it in the regular audit. Assistant City Administrator Brown reported that the City is audited every year. Council receives a report, and it is on the website. The audit includes the Tourism Fund. Councilor Topaz seems to be insinuating that our current report does go deep enough into individual transactions of the Tourism Fund. An audit of the Tourism Fund done in greater detail would be a separate audit and would not be included in our annual audit. Councilor Topaz confirmed that is correct. This is what he is being asked by the citizens of St. Helens. There is a lot of anger over Spirit of Halloweentown.

Mayor Scholl does not want to comment too much on it because he has seen the comments on Facebook from the mother and daughter. This year is unique. He is appalled that people would say they are getting kickbacks. Last year, Council agreed to audit Tourism but then COVID happened. Tax dollars are not being used for these events. Tourism funds come from hotel taxes. If an audit is going to be done, that will be paid for by tax dollars.

Discussion ensued about Councilor Topaz's request. This will be added to a work session agenda in December for further discussion.

- Three presentations were made at the Portland Harbor meeting.
 - Have to re-dredge the channel that was dredged 10 years ago. They are required to sample the spoil areas. It is the first time they are able to dig dirt out and clear the channel in four and a half years, due to the bureaucracy. Someone suggested closing the Portland Harbor and not dredge it at all since they are getting rid of fossil fuels.
 - Cleaning the tar and oil from the old gas plant that was getting into the river. Someone commented on contaminating the water at Cathedral Park. It was explained that none of the gunk on the east side never gets to the west side, it goes down the Multnomah Channel. He pointed out that it is all coming to St. Helens. The stuff dug out needs to be certified that it will never go back.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Carlson gave a frost warning. It is supposed to freeze over the weekend.

ADJOURN – 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl

Rick Scholl, Mayor