



## COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, May 03, 2023 at 6:30 PM

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### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

### LOCATION & CONTACT:

HYBRID: Council Chambers & Zoom (details below)

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## AGENDA

### OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

#### TOPIC

1. Continued Public Hearing from April 5, 2023 - Consider Renaming "Mill Street" in the Riverfront District

### PUBLIC TESTIMONY

### CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

### VIRTUAL MEETING DETAILS

Join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84577603250?pwd=OERnb1JVNWtBK2tLVTdscUpqUVkwdz09>

Meeting ID: 845 7760 3250

Passcode: 099429

Dial: 669-900-9128

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The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to City Hall at 503-397-6272.

Be a part of the vision and get involved...volunteer for a City Board or Commission! For more information or for an application, go to [www.sthelensoregon.gov](http://www.sthelensoregon.gov) or call 503-366-8217.



## CITY OF ST. HELENS PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Jacob A. Graichen, AICP, City Planner  
**RE:** Renaming of “Mill Street” in the Riverfront District  
**DATE:** April 24, 2023

As part of the Riverfront District redevelopment, the street stub next to the property addressed as 330 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street that will be extended easterly (toward the river) to Strand Street needs to be renamed.

ORS 227.120 provides the procedure for renaming streets. This includes:

1. Review and recommendation from the Planning Commission

This occurred on March 21, 2023

2. **Public hearing before the City Council**

The initial hearing was April 5, 2023 (legal notice published March 29, 2023) and the Council decided to continue the hearing to May 3<sup>rd</sup> (6:30pm) to allow time for citizen input via online survey. More input could be provided at the hearing too.

Crystal King, the city’s Communication Officer intends to be present at the meeting to detail the survey findings. The survey deadline is May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the day before the continued public hearing, to maximize comment opportunity.

If you want to mull over the survey findings or if we need more input from Columbia 9-1-1 we can continue deliberations at the regular session, to a future meeting.

3. Adoption of street rename by Ordinance
4. Filing with the County (Clerk, Assessor, Surveyor)

### **Background**

Per Ordinance No. 707, which vacated some of this street right-of-way in 1941, this street was sometimes called Mill Street. It is also labeled as Mill Street on approx. 100-year-old Sanborn fire insurance maps. There is already a Mill Street within St. Helens city limits off N. Vernonia Road and pursuant to SHMC 17.152.030(12):

No street name shall be used which will duplicate or be confused with the names of existing streets in Columbia County emergency communications district, except for extensions of existing streets.

Based on this code provision, we consult with Columbia 9-1-1 to ensure new street names are not duplicative and this is a similar situation. Mill Street is clearly duplicative (and thus won't work) and any new name will need Columbia 9-1-1's consent.

As a minor street not aligned with the overall street grid (i.e., it is a midblock street), it will be most appropriate to call it “\_\_\_\_\_ **Way**” based on typical street naming conventions, similar to “John Gumm Way” between S. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets within the 200 block. **So, it is a question of what word to put before Way.**

### Recommendation

Based on the recommendation of the Planning Commission and the initial input from the Council, the following names were thrown in the hat for the community survey:

#### 1. Wapama Way

The Wapama is the name of a famous ship built here. It has a Wikipedia entry:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wapama\\_\(steam\\_schooner\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wapama_(steam_schooner))

#### 2. Nell (or Nelle\*) Way

Nellie McCormick is an important historical figure for St. Helens. Some of the Planning Commissioners thought that there should be more female representation in the city's place names. Nellie, the full name, is not used because Columbia 9-1-1 determined it would conflict with emergency response.

\*Note that Columbia 9-1-1 was ok with “Nell.” If the Council decides on this one, we'll need to make sure “Nelle” with the additional “e” is ok too.

#### 3. Twilight

The building at 330 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street (at the corner of S. 1<sup>st</sup> and the street in question) was a filming location for the 2008 Twilight movie.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twilight\\_\(2008\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twilight_(2008_film))

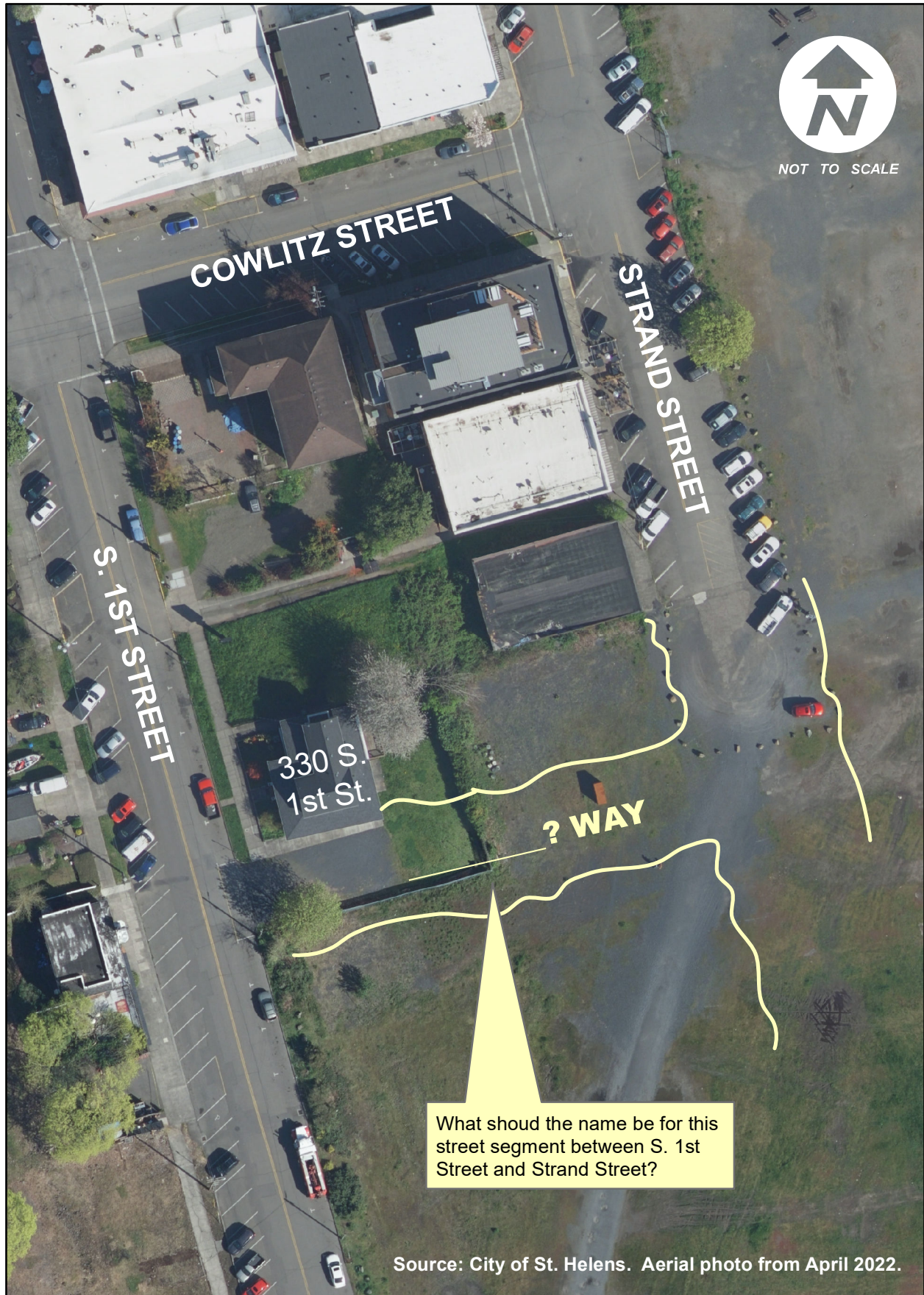
#### 4. Lope Way

Name of family that built the building at 330 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street (c. 1910) and used as a family home for several decades. Note this is the same building used in the Twilight movie per #3.

The Council also discussed **Kaleva Way**, a nearby hotel that once existed in the area, but Columbia 9-1-1 determined this name is poor for emergency response and was thus excluded from the survey.

**Attached:** Aerial photo map





Source: City of St. Helens. Aerial photo from April 2022.