

City of St. Helens

CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Minutes

December 2, 2015

Members Present: Randy Peterson, Mayor
Doug Morten, Council President
Keith Locke, Councilor
Susan Conn, Councilor
Ginny Carlson, Councilor

Staff Present: John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
Terry Moss, Police Chief
Neal Sheppard, Public Works Operations Director
Sue Nelson, Public Works Engineering Director

Others: Genet Smiens Nicole Thill Denise Simpson
Chuck Daughtry

Mayor Randy Peterson called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.



Visitor Comments

♦Genet Smiens, Columbia County Christian School. They are interested in the old hospital property on Millard Road. The school is currently located behind Warren Community Fellowship but is required to relocate by 2021. They have been searching for property and this would be a great fit. She submitted a letter and asked the Council to consider their request.

♦Denise Simpson. She read her comments into the record. People are constantly producing cannabis in their bodies. Cannabis is an antioxidant, anti-nausea, anti-fungal, anti-inflammatory and antibiotic. She talked about the benefits of cannabis. She would like to apply for two licenses for a cannabis garden. They have purchased their building and have spent thousands of dollars preparing. She needs the help of the City. Cannabis should be taxed but not to death. It is not a thing to be shamed. She plans to be an active part of the community.

Recommendations from Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission

- 1) The Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission voiced concerns about the crosswalks near Lewis & Clark Elementary School. They recommended installing a traffic light on Columbia Blvd., near IGA.

Councilor Carlson suggested a flashing light through the school zone during high use times. Locke agreed the flashing light is what they would like to see. Council President Morten added that the Portland metro areas have blinking lights in the middle of the street. He suggested we talk to Public Works about what they can do.

- 2) The Commission applied to be recognized as a Bicycle Friendly City through the League of American Bicyclists. They did not get approved this time because of the inadequate bike racks around the city. Is the Council in support of adding bike racks?

Mayor Peterson would be in favor of the City subsidizing the bike racks if they worked with the school district and came up with a plan.

Review Ordinance Amendments for Marijuana Related Businesses

City Administrator Walsh talked about the challenges that have arisen with marijuana related business licenses and rules. They have reduced the community impact proposed fee and made it only for retail businesses. The fee would then be credited back to the business license. There are many cities waiting to see what's going to happen. Our Council is being more proactive and moving forward.

Councilor Locke asked if marijuana related businesses will go to the Police Department for approval. Walsh confirmed that there is a background check process.

There were no other concerns from the Council.

Review Community Impact Agreement for Marijuana Related Businesses

City Administrator Walsh reported that the community impact agreement only applies to the retail establishments. The fee has been reduced to be more consistent with the hotel tax in effect.

Department Reports

Public Works Engineering Director Nelson reported...

- Nothing to report.

Public Works Operations Director Sheppard reported...

- There is a stormwater project happening at the end of S. First Street. They are adding more catch basins.
- The tree is up. Tina will be in town next Wednesday to finish decorating.

Council President Morten asked if there are safety measures in place if it gets icy when the Christmas Ships are here. Sheppard said they could put deicer on the docks.

Library Director Jeffries reported...

- She mentioned at the last meeting that the Library has planned events happening in the afternoons when kids get out of school early. On December 21, 12-1:30 p.m., they will create "Stop Motion Lego Movies." They are going to use the Library's Lego collection and iPad's with the appropriate software.

City Recorder Payne reported...

- She asked the Council if they are checking their City voicemail lines. It was the consensus of the Council to discontinue using the City voicemail and reference their personal phones.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- The ornaments and lights will be hung in the Plaza tomorrow. The decorating will be done in time for the Christmas tree lighting.

Council Reports

Mayor Peterson reported...

- Reminded everyone that December 12 is the Police Department Donut Day, tree lighting ceremony and Christmas Ships.

Councilor Conn reported...

- The Arts & Cultural Commission has recommendations to appoint new members tonight.
- There is no recommendation for the sculpture that was proposed of Seaman the dog. They feel it is too soon to choose art for the waterfront property.
- She received a report from the Sheriff's Office yesterday that there are no inmates being furloughed at this point.

Council President Morten reported...

- Thanked City Recorder Payne for preparing the department head evaluation form. Council needs to schedule times to meet with department heads.
- Big thanks to Rich Bailey for donating the Christmas tree.
- Thanked Howie and Guy for their due diligence to give us all good, clean water. They received a certificate of excellence for good quality water and follow-through.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- Nothing to report.

Councilor Locke reported...

- The Youth Council has been doing well. There is a possibility of the Youth Council taking over the reflector business from Victoria. She is leaving the area and would like to see it continue.

Executive Session

ORS 192.660(2)(e) Real Property Transactions

Motion: At 1:39 p.m., upon Morten's motion and Conn's second, the Council unanimously voted to move into executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(e) Real Property Transactions.

Motion: At 2:20 p.m., upon completion of the executive session, Morten moved to go back into work session, seconded by Locke, and unanimously approved.

Semi-Annual Report from Columbia County Economic Team (CCET)

Chuck Daughtry, CCET Executive Director, was present to give his report.

- There is a meeting on Friday with EconNorthwest to discuss the potential economic impacts of the Boise white paper property.
- Thanked everyone who attended the CCET Breakfast in Clatskanie. Over 100 people attended.
- Today is the deadline for appeals of the UGB expansion in Scappoose.
- Has not heard any updates about Portland Community College locating in the County.
- They are working with a major employer in Columbia County who is looking to expand. It will add 70 good wage jobs.
- Custom Metal Fab in Scappoose would like to expand. They are looking at land near the airport.
- Part of the Port's property on McNulty Creek is encumbered with wetlands that need to be mitigated in some way. They are looking at a possible plan. They have one company in mind that manufactures jerky.
- They are working with Photo Solutions in Vernonia again. They recently purchased a \$250,000 machine to help with their manufacturing.
- ColPac and CCET will have a holiday party on December 21 at 3 p.m. You are welcome to come.
- We sent a letter of support to the City for the Community Wide Assessment grant application.

- CCET is setting up a tour of various businesses and agencies for Sarah Baessler with Suzanne Bonamici's office.
- The Keep it Local campaign was successful. They were able to get another \$15,000 grant from the Federal Economic Development Commission.
- CCET has a website and Facebook page.
- They are working on a tour for Rebecca Carey Smith, who is the new PGE county representative. Council President Morten asked why anyone would want to relocate when the PGE rates are 50% higher than the PUD rates. Chuck responded that it's still cheaper than other areas. He suggested bringing that question up to Rebecca.
- Working with Rightline in Rainier on an enterprise zone application.
- Organizing an electrical utilities luncheon for members of CCET. He would like to open up communication between them.
- There is an enterprise zone application for Dyno Nobel. They are in the process of completing a \$50 million expansion that created 10 new jobs.
- The golf tournament will be May 5.

Other Business

Motion: Upon Locke's motion and Carlson second, the Council unanimously approved entering into a contract with Maul Foster Alongi for the market analysis of the City's secondary lagoon at the wastewater treatment plant.



There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

Randy Peterson
Randy Peterson, Mayor