

City of St. Helens

CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Minutes

May 20, 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
Jon Ellis, Finance Director
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
Neal Sheppard, Interim Public Works Co-Director
Jenny Dimsho, Assistant Planner

Others: Kevin Chavez Cheryl Young Kannikar Petersen
Mark Miller Steve Topaz Amanda Frink

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



Visitor Comments

No comments received.

Annual Report from Arts & Cultural Commission

Arts & Cultural Commission Chair Kevin Chavez was in attendance to present the annual report. He reviewed their projects and cost.

- Nineteen trash cans were painted during the Annual Trash Can Painting Competition on the 4th of July. Two contestants won \$200. The painted cans go back into the parks for visitors to enjoy.
- The Commission partnered with St. Helens High School to create community bike racks. They are designed and built at the school.
- They hosted art shows during the Maritime Heritage Festival.
- Metal banners were created to landmark the historic downtown area as part of the Gallery Corridor project.
- Art awards were given at the Columbia County Fair. It's a good way to encourage and show appreciation of local art.
- The Gateway project was one of their largest projects. It includes the sculptures located on Highway 30. It was a very exciting project! An RFP has been released for the next phase of Gateway project.
- They are currently working on the St. Helens Mural project. It will be painted on the parking lot side of the Post Office. A public hearing will be held June 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Kevin thanked Public Works for their support and assistance with projects.

Review Proposed Senior Center Lease Changes

The St. Helens Senior Center Lease expires on June 30, 2015. The Seniors have expressed their interest in renewing the Lease and have submitted some proposed changes. The lease is on tonight's agenda.

Council President Morten expressed opposition to a 60-month lease. Council members change over time and they need to be aware of the lease. He would be in support of a 24-month lease. City Recorder Payne said it has historically been a 60-month lease. Senior Center Manager Cheryl Young believes that other uses were being considered for the Senior Center. She assumed that the reduction from five years to two years is because someone wants to do something else with their building. Morten has served on the Council for eight years and he does not recall any conflict between the Senior Center and City. Cheryl said the conflict came up when the City asked to use the building in the late afternoon and evening for the youth. They originally thought it was a good idea to mix seniors and youth. The Board of Directors decided it wouldn't work. Morten recalls that but does not see that as a conflict. It was a discussion between the Senior Center and Council. Cheryl perceived changing the 60-months to 24-months as retribution to not agreeing to allow youth to use the building. She was told that it was a City building and they better go along with it. Mayor Peterson disagreed. He and Councilor Locke attended the Board meeting to discuss it. The Board informed them that they were not interested and were not going to discuss it.

Mayor Peterson recalls the lease agreement time was reduced because the Senior Center was interested in the City selling the property to them. Since that is no longer on the table, the lease could be increased back to 60-months.

Cheryl expressed some of her concerns about interactions with the City. She would really like to see the City become an active participant at the Senior Center.

Discuss Options for Allowing Targeted Grazing

The Council is aware that the City used goats recently for targeted grazing in the Godfrey Park area to clear vegetation. The use of goats is an environmentally friendly alternative to using mechanical equipment or harmful chemicals, especially to clear invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and English ivy.

A few residents in St. Helens have expressed a desire to utilize livestock in the same manner that the City did. The Code is a bit confusing on the process by which someone would go through to acquire a permit and it is somewhat contradictory.

The St. Helens Municipal Code Section 6.04.040, Prohibited activities, states:

(5) Animal Restrictions and Prohibitions.

(a) The following are prohibited except as set forth in subsections (5)(b) and (5)(c) of this section:

(v) Livestock. No person shall possess, maintain or keep any livestock in the city limits.

(b) Except for subsections (5)(a)(i), (5)(a)(v) and (5)(a)(vii) of this section, an owner may request an animal facility license for the keeping of such animals in the manner as set forth in SHMC 6.04.080.

And Section 6.04.080, Animal facility licensing, states:

An animal facility shall require a license from the city, and no such animal facility may lawfully

be operated except upon application and payment of prescribed fees for the license. It shall be unlawful for any person to own or have custody of any animals as defined in SHMC 6.04.040(5)(b).

(1) License Issuance.

(a) Issuance of an animal facility license shall require compliance with land use regulations and permits as required by federal law, state statutes, and city ordinances.

(b) Exhibitions or parades of wildlife, dangerous animals, livestock or exotic animals may be conducted only upon securing a special date-specific permit from the city and complying with any directions set forth by the St. Helens police department.

The definition of "livestock" in the Code *includes, but is not limited to, any horse, mule, burro, llama, cow, goat, sheep, swine, or poultry such as roosters, geese and turkeys, regardless of age.*

The draft ordinance would allow for targeted grazing by goats (or as otherwise named livestock). It is specifically stated for the purpose of accomplishing a defined vegetation or landscape goal. And it gives parameters for the amount of time allowed and space that can be utilized. And it also states that a Special Use Permit is required.

Library Director Jeffries pointed out that the number of dogs is limited by household but hens and ducks are limited by person. A citizen asked her if four adults lived in a household, can they have more chickens. Council agreed that it needs to be amended to read per household.

Discussion of further amendments to that section; such as circus animals and horse-drawn carriages. City Recorder Payne will work on those amendments and bring them back to the next meeting.

Review Draft Ordinance Regarding Smoking, Tobacco and Marijuana Use in City Parks and on City-Owned Property

City Recorder Payne reported that the draft ordinance includes no smoking, no tobacco and no marijuana in City parks and on City-owned property. The Council can choose to focus on parks for now. The Council needs to consider City-owned property includes the Senior Center and Alano Club. The City Shops also has an area for smokers. The ordinance can include exemptions. Interim Public Works Co-Director Sheppard added that Community Service workers often take their lunches in City parks and many of them smoke. Several of his staff members chew. He does not think that should be restricted.

Councilor Carlson suggested creating designated areas for smoking on City property. She also talked about her desire to encourage staff to make healthy choices. She cares about the well-being of staff and citizens. Councilor Conn pointed out the mission, which includes providing a safe and healthy environment. Payne added that the Council also adopted the healthy community resolution.

Council President Morten believes this puts a heavy burden on department heads and supervisors. Mayor Peterson recommends removing the phrase "City-owned property." Language can be added to include no smoking at the Library. Jeffries would like the ordinance to include City parks and the Columbia Center property. Morten talked about the need for self-enforcement.

Mayor Peterson suggested changing the wording to "...no smoking in City parks and posted City-owned property." That would give flexibility to add signage as needed. Council concurred.

Council did not all agree on the topic of banning chewing tobacco. Mayor Peterson and Council President Morten were not in favor of including chewing tobacco in the ban. Councilors Conn, Locke and Carlson were in favor chewing tobacco being included in the ban.

City Administrator Walsh will return with language to reflect what was discussed.

Discuss City's Concerns about Coal Trains

Councilor Conn talked about the resolution Council adopted regarding hazardous cargo. Was the resolution distributed to someone in the federal government? Whose is responsible if there is a rail disaster? Are there posted evacuated routes? She wants to protect the health and welfare of our community.

City Administrator Walsh said the resolution was distributed to the affected agencies. Councilor Conn requested it be distributed again in light of the recent train disasters.

Council President Morten suggested CEPA report on their responsibility in the case of a local train disaster. He would also like to know whose insurance covers rail disasters. How will the City be compensated? Mayor Peterson believes that is a legal opinion that needs to be addressed by our attorney. He pointed out that all derailments have occurred at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour. That's not to say it couldn't happen but the risk is less.

Department Reports

Interim Public Works Co-Director Sheppard reported...

- He will be ordering about 450 water meters to be delivered after July 1 to continue upgrading to radio-read water meters.
- Tonight's agenda includes a request to award the bid for the South Trunk Sanitary sewer Cleaning and CCTV Project.
- Tonight's agenda also includes a request to approve the contract for the lift station number seven upgrade.

Library Director Jeffries reported...

- Special thanks to those who made it to the Library's 100th Birthday celebration.
- The celebration will continue tomorrow with a children's party at 5 p.m.
- The Library will host a traveling exhibit and lecture on the history of housing discrimination in Oregon on June 9 at 7 p.m. The exhibit will be on display June 1 – 17.

Finance Director Ellis reported...

- Thanked everyone for the very productive Budget Committee session this year.

City Recorder Payne reported...

- The contract with Mason, Bruce & Girard for City forestry services expires on June 30. There was no objection from the Council to extend it.
- The City County Quarterly meeting is Tuesday, May 26 at 6 p.m.
- Asked if there is an update for the Columbia Foundation Board appointments. Mayor Peterson said that Jay Tappan has agreed to be reappointed and Jeffries will be appointed.
- The resolution to appoint Cindy Phillips as Municipal Court Judge expires June 30. Council was in consensus to reappoint Judge Phillips.
- The July and August Council meetings will be held July 8 and August 12. Regular meeting dates will be cancelled.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- The Scappoose Bay Watershed submitted a grant for the Wood Debris Project in Milton Creek. Council initially pledged a \$3,500 cash contribution. Later, we were able to take advantage of a timber mitigation option as an in-kind match. That gives cash back to the City for the logs. They were awarded the project.
- Added a potential litigation update to today's executive session.

Council Reports

Mayor Peterson reported...

- Nothing to report.

Councilor Conn reported...

- Nothing to report.

Council President Morten reported...

- The budget process was stretched out this year, allowing each department an evening to present. He appreciated that process and hopes to see it continue. It aided in the deliberation process. Mayor Peterson and Councilor Locke liked the process as well. Councilor Carlson would prefer fewer meetings that lasted longer. Committee members Paul Barlow and Pat Birkle also seemed overwhelmed with the number of meetings.
- The Budget Committee meeting went really well last night. The department heads seemed to be satisfied with the process.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- Working on the Buy Local Columbia County project. She anticipates receiving a grant from the Port of St. Helens to match what we gave. We also received funds from Columbia City and the County. There is an online survey for the project. The consultant would like someone with local knowledge to accompany him visiting each community on June 15.

Councilor Locke reported...

- There is a public hearing tonight to discuss marijuana dispensaries. He had a good conversation with the Youth Council about it.
- Youth Council is coming along really well.

Executive Session

ORS 192.660(2)(e) Real Property Transactions

ORS 192.660(2)(h) Potential Litigation

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

Motion: At 3:01 p.m., upon completion of the executive session, Morten moved to go back into work session, seconded by Conn, and unanimously approved.

Other Business

Mayor Peterson reminded everyone of the Council public hearing tonight at 6 p.m.

Sheppeard reminded everyone of the Public Works appreciation breakfast on Friday morning at the City shops. Jeffries pointed out that Coffee with a Cop is occurring at the same time. You can get breakfast and then go get coffee.


Council President Morten reported that there will be a Memorial Day event in Columbia City.



There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathy Payne, City Recorder


Randy Peterson, Mayor