

City of St. Helens CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Minutes

January 4, 2017

Members Present: Rick Scholl, Mayor
Doug Morten, Council President
Keith Locke, Councilor
Ginny Carlson, Councilor

Members Absent: Susan Conn, Councilor

Staff Present: John Walsh, City Administrator
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
Terry Moss, Police Chief
Neal Sheppard, Public Works Operations Director
Sue Nelson, Public Works Engineering Director
Crystal Farnsworth, Communications Officer
Joe Hogue, Police Lieutenant
Matt Molden, Police Sergeant
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Sharon Darroux, Engineering Project Manager I
Jenny Dimsho, Assistant Planner

Others: Nicole Thill Tina Curry Cody Mann

Mayor Rick Scholl called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. (We were waiting for Judge Grove.)



Oaths of Office – Mayor and Council Positions 2 and 4

Circuit Court Judge Ted Grove administered oaths of office to new Mayor Rick Scholl and Councilors Keith Locke (position 2) and Ginny Carlson (position 4).

Oaths of Office – Joe Hogue as Lieutenant and Matt Molden as Sergeant

Circuit Court Judge Ted Grove administered oaths of office to Joe Hogue who is promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant and Matt Molden who is promoted from Patrol Officer to Sergeant.

Introduction of New K-9 Officer Ryder

Officer Brent Thompson introduced our new K-9 Officer Ryder to the Council, staff and audience.

Visitor Comments

No visitor comments.

Discuss Council Appointments

Mayor Scholl felt it would be best to keep everything the same. Council concurred.

Ballots were handed out for Council President. Mayor Scholl said that it was a 3-1 vote.

Therefore, Councilor Doug Morten will continue to be Council President.

Update on Sewer Rates for McNulty PUD Customers

Finance Director Brown reviewed the properties being added, a copy of which is included in the meeting packet. A resolution will be on tonight's agenda. No questions from Council.

Discuss Proposal for 2017 Fireworks Display

City Administrator Walsh reviewed the proposal from Western Display Fireworks in October. A copy is included in the meeting packet.

Motion: Locke moved to enter into an agreement with Western Display Fireworks in the amount of \$12,000 for fireworks on July 4th. Morten seconded.

Discussion. Council President Morten asked what day of the week is proposed for fireworks. Consultant Tina Curry explained that she is working with Christina Sullivan, of 13 Nights on the River, to plan activities. Unfortunately, no independent groups have agreed to take it on. They are planning a Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday concert series. It would be an outreach of tourism and 13 Nights. There will be self-contained camping on the waterfront property and tailgating on Monday, July 3rd, with fireworks. That would give people July 4th to travel home. She proposes that only non-profits vendors be involved on Monday. There were no complaints about parking last year. Tina talked about the changes to 13 Nights to work collaboratively with the City and increase revenue.

Council President Morten asked if the yachting community in Portland were approached to donate money? Tina does not believe that they would contribute. Morten encouraged her to reach out to them. Councilor Locke pointed out that the its local boaters that come here for July 4th. Morten argued that Tina is proposing the fireworks on July 3rd, so they may be more likely to come out here.

Mayor Scholl asked how much money was made from tailgating last year? Tina said it was a couple thousand dollars. That was their first time trying it. He expressed concern about doing the fireworks on July 3rd. It's been a tradition for almost 50 years on July 4th. He believes there would be a lot of opposition from the community.

Discussion ensued. Some of the concerns discussed were:

- Lack of volunteers for a multiple day event.
- Level of work needed from staff for a multiple day event.
- Possible rainy weather.
- People expecting fireworks on July 4th.
- Organizations who have fundraised in the past do not want to do it this year. It's a lot of work.
- There are other cities who do fireworks on July 3rd.
- Will there still be fireworks if enough money is not raised?

Motion retracted and tabled until January 18.

Department Reports

Police Chief Moss reported...

- Held a sergeant's promotional process. Three candidates participated. Matt Molden rose to the top and was promoted January 1st.
- Joe Hogue was promoted to lieutenant January 1st.
- K9 Officer Ryder completed training two weeks ahead of schedule. Really happy to have

him on board.

- Struggling to fill the open police officer positions. He would like the Council consider what might attract people to law enforcement. This is an issue all over the state. Everyone is competing for the same quality applicant. Many agencies attract good candidates through incentives. He has reached out to see what other agencies offer and will report back with the results.

Council President Morten talked about the number of officers who have stayed for only a few years and then move on. Can bonuses be given at seven or eight years of employment? Portland is trying to raise a lot of revenue to entice officers to sign up now. Moss agreed that it's an option to look at. He strongly feels that the most successful long-term employees are those who are invested in the community; live here, send their kids to school here, shop here, etc. He will return to Council with proposed ideas.

Public Works Engineering Director Nelson reported...

- Congratulations to Mayor Scholl, Councilor Carlson, Councilor Locke, Lieutenant Hogue and Sergeant Molden.

Public Works Operations Director Sheppard reported...

- Congratulations to Mayor Scholl, Councilor Carlson and Councilor Locke. He appreciates that the Council will remain in the same positions.
- They are prepared for the big weather storm coming on Saturday.

Library Director Jeffries reported...

- Tonight's packet includes a grant agreement with the Columbia County Cultural Coalition. It was initiated by the ukulele group.
- The Library is hosting an Oregon Humanities Conversation Project on January 19. The topic is Homeless in the Land of Plenty.
- Several after-school programs have been planned over the next several months based on requests.

Finance Director Brown reported...

- Nothing to report.

City Recorder Payne reported...

- Reminder that we are having a couple of different receptions for our former Mayor Randy Peterson on Wednesday, January 11; one is 2-4pm here in the Council Chambers and the other is 5-7pm at the Elks.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- Department of Land Conservation and Development will be meeting January 26 and 27 at the Meriwether Place. The City will be hosting the meeting.
- The contract with Alta Planning for wayfinding and branding was approved at the last meeting. There is a time limit of one year to complete the grant. He proposes an advisory committee of about 10 people be formed; including selected members of staff, Council, SHEDCO, Chamber of Commerce, Planning Commission, Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission, Arts & Cultural Commission and Youth Council. Council President Morten would prefer holding it as a public meeting so that all the Council members can attend.
- Tonight's agenda includes a resolution amending last week's resolution in regards to personnel benefits.
- The Arts & Cultural Commission wants to move forward with the salmon tree sculpture project. They have raised about \$35,000, which will cover the art piece of it. Walsh will

return with a contract for Council approval.

- The City's attorney is working on the lease document for Civic Pride Park.
- He has asked ECO Northwest to help draft the RFP for the waterfront site development.
- He has not gotten to the tourism RFP yet.
- Voters approved the tax of recreational marijuana sales. The state has offered to manage and enforce it for a percentage of revenues. The county also mentioned doing something similar.
- Meeting individually with taxing districts to discuss the formation of an Urban Renewal District.

Council President Morten mentioned that the lights in the gateway sculpture over Milton Creek do not appear to be functional. Public Works Operations Director thinks there is a limit to how bright they can be.

Council Reports

Councilor Locke reported...

- Welcome aboard, Mayor Scholl.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- We are lucky to have such a great team. Our library goes above and beyond to make everyone feel welcome. She appreciates all of the staff.
- Congratulations to Mayor Scholl.

Council President Morten reported...

- Congratulations to Mayor Scholl.
- Accolades to Jeffries. The library has become a cultural center for the community.
- Code enforcement has made such an impact in our community. He appreciates what has been done. He asked Walsh for an update on the lady who attended the last meeting with her attorney. Walsh will find out and report back.
- Lisa Scholl and Joe Hogue have stepped up to lead the City's Relay for Life team.
- Thank you to Public Works and the Police Department for their work during adverse weather.
- Received a call from a veterans representative proposing to move forward with the veterans plaza at McCormick Park. It would increase the size of the concrete slab to give more space for seating, wheel chairs and the Howitzer. It would also add more current war memorials.
- We are unique as a governing system. Our voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of the Council being a commission form of government. That means that each councilor oversees a department. He asked the Council to finish their department head evaluations and give them to City Recorder Payne as soon as possible.

Mayor Scholl reported...

- Thanked everyone for being patient with him. He is a team player and does not hold grudges. If he has a problem he will address it and move on. We have a very good team. He is very approachable and can be called anytime. He's happy to be sitting here and is grateful for the opportunity. He has a lot to learn. If you think he needs to know something, let him know.

Executive Session

ORS 192.660(2)(e) Real Property Transactions

No executive session was needed.

Other Business

No other business.



There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:



Kathy Payne, City Recorder



Rick Scholl, Mayor