

# City of St. Helens

## City Council

Regular Session Minutes

August 5, 2020

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*This meeting was held electronically via Zoom.*

**Members Present:** Mayor Rick Scholl  
Councilor Ginny Carlson  
Councilor Keith Locke  
Councilor Stephen R. Topaz

**Members Absent:** Council President Doug Morten

**Staff Present:** John Walsh, City Administrator  
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Rachael Barry, Government Affairs & Project Support Specialist  
Sue Nelson, Interim Public Works Director  
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director  
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

**Others:** Lynne Pettit  
Patrick Birkle  
Art Leskowich

1) **7:00 P.M. - Call Regular Session to Order via Zoom**

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Scholl read the City Council Mantra.

3) **Visitor Comments - Limited to five (5) minutes per speaker**

◆ Patrick Birkle. Reviewed several items:

1. He was glad to hear Mayor Scholl read the City Council Mantra. It shows how serious the Mayor and Council members take their positions.
2. Gives full support for United Way book-giving donation request.
3. Supports the agreement with the National Park Service and the inclusion in the Lewis & Clark Trail Program. It is important to keep in mind the impact on indigenous residents and everyone else who contributed to its history. He suggested including the canoe with the program.
4. Suggested Council look at ways to support the School District with the additional COVID funds, such as providing broadband access, wireless hotspots, childcare, etc. Good quality childcare is essential.

4) **Ordinances - Final Reading**

- 4.a Ordinance No. 3254: An Ordinance Granting to Fatbeam, LLC the Right to Construct, Operate, and Maintain Telecommunication Services in the City of St. Helens, Oregon

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3254 by title for the final time. **Motion:** Upon Locke's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously adopted Ordinance No. 3254. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Topaz; Nays: None]

- 4.b Ordinance No. 3255: An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of S. River Street Right of Way

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3255 by title for the final time. **Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Locke's second, the Council unanimously adopted Ordinance No. 3255. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Topaz; Nays: None]

5) **Resolutions**

- 5.a Resolution No. 1897: A Resolution in Support of the City of St. Helens, Oregon's Participation in a Partnership Program with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1897 by title. **Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 1897. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Topaz; Nays: None]

6) **Approve and/or Authorize for Signature**

- 6.a Maul Foster Alongi Work Order Authorization for Professional Services Related to Industrial Park Grading and Drainage Plan  
6.b Extension of Agreement with TimmiSue Hald for Police Department Administrative Assistance  
6.c Contract with Antonia Doggett for Artwork on Library Drop Boxes as Recommended by the Arts & Cultural Commission  
6.d Contract Payments

Councilor Topaz commented on '6a.' Maul Foster was supposed to hold public meetings. City Administrator Walsh responded that the public engagement piece has not been done yet. They are organizing a virtual open house.

**Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Locke's second, the Council unanimously approved '6a' through '6d' above. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Topaz; Nays: None]

7) **Appointments to Boards/Commissions**

- 7.a Appointments to Boards and Commissions

**Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously appointed Michelle Damis to the Budget Committee. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Topaz; Nays: None]

8) **Consent Agenda for Acceptance**

- 8.a Parks & Trails Commission Minutes dated June 8, 2020  
8.b Planning Commission Minutes dated June 9 and July 1, 2020

**Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously approved '8a' and '8b' above. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Topaz; Nays: None]

9) **Consent Agenda for Approval**

- 9.a Work Session, Executive Session, Public Hearing, and Regular Session Minutes dated July 7, 8, 15, and 24, 2020  
9.b Accounts Payable Bill Lists

**Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously approved '9a' and '9b' above. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Topaz; Nays: None]

## 10) **Mayor Scholl Reports**

Items for follow-up from the work session:

- Request for Funds from United Way for the Book-Giving Program

Councilor Carlson asked why they are asking for money this year but did not request funds in the past. Library Director Jeffries explained that grants were received the first year from Oregon Community Foundation and Ford Family Foundation. Those grants helped get them started but she does not think they can reapply for them. Over time, they have extended their requests into the community. It is an effort to gradually build their base.

Mayor Scholl recommends donating \$1,000 from the Community Support Fund. Assistant City Administrator Brown cautioned Council that only \$10,000 was budgeted in that Fund this fiscal year. Last year, over \$26,000 was spent from the Council Discretionary Fund.

**Motion:** Upon Scholl's motion and Topaz's second, Council unanimously donated \$500 to the Book-Giving Program. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Topaz; Nays: None]

- Police Ad-Hoc Committee

**Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, Council unanimously directed staff to move forward with ad-hoc committee. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Topaz; Nays: None]

- Utility Adjustment for Leak

**Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, Council unanimously approved adjusting the bill to the average amount prior to the leak. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Topaz; Nays: None]

- Coronavirus Relief Funds

**Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, Council unanimously approved staff recommendations, provided there is an update given in late September or early October. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Topaz; Nays: None]

Mayor Scholl reported...

- He read Resolution No. 1842 that was adopted on April 3, 2019. The resolution was to reaffirm the innate dignity of all people in the City of St. Helens. He also read a statement into the record regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. The City Council and staff know they have work to do and are committed to it.
- There is a lot going on in the City.
- An Urban Renewal Agency meeting was held prior to this meeting.
- There is strategic planning on the Waterfront property. They are not going to let COVID slow them down. They are reviewing finance options when grants are not available.
- Staff is doing a phenomenal job.
- Council President Morten could not be here but expressed his agreement with the resolution and statement read.

## 11) **Council Member Reports**

Councilor Locke reported...

- Thanked the community for their support of the new police station. He cannot wait to get it built.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- Thanks to Officer Coy for five years of service.
- Youth Council has been doing service projects this summer. It is allowing them to keep connected despite all the summer cancellations. Their next project is to make bird houses for the parks.
- Glad to be moving forward on the inclusion and equity plan. It will set a good example to businesses and community members about inviting people to participate.
- One of the Youth Council members who is mobility impaired was planning to speak with the Council tonight about sidewalk maintenance. He was unable to use the sidewalk from McBride to Dutch Bros. The sidewalks are bad throughout that area. She requested Public Works check that section of sidewalk.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- He received questions about a street closure that occurred last week. People did not seem to know in advance, and they were irritated.
- The Food Bank is feeding 500 students a day.
- The marijuana place took possession and began repairs in June 2017. Based on their pay schedule, they owe us \$515,000. How much has been collected? Does that affect the Urban Renewal project if they have not been paying their rent? Do they have liability insurance? Do they have workers' compensation?

12) **Other Business** - None

13) **Adjourn**- 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

  
Rick Scholl, Mayor