

City of St. Helens

City Council

Regular Session Minutes

June 3, 2020

This meeting was held electronically via Zoom.

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

Staff Present: John Walsh, City Administrator
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
Sue Nelson, Interim Public Works Director
Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner
Tina Curry, Events Coordinator

Others: Patrick Birkle
Quinton Carlson

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

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

- ◆ Patrick Birkle. He and his daughter just returned from the march. He thanked the mayor, the St. Helens Police Department, Columbia County Sheriff's Office, and everyone else who contributed. He was proud to call himself a citizen of this community. Law enforcement represented themselves and our town very well. Most participants were peaceful.

Council President Morten was impressed with all the youth participating and how well they behaved.

Mayor Scholl thanked Patrick for his comment. Public safety was the number one concern.

Councilor Topaz acknowledged how well the operation was planned.

Comments received from Quinton Carlson via email:

- ◆ Quinton Carlson. I am late in the game, but here are quick thoughts:
 - a. Since the waterfront has been opened as a temporary park, I have seen the community take great advantage of it. This area has now become a treasure for many of us. At the moment, the waterfront "belongs" to the entire community. To me, if this were developed

for residential and commercial use, it would be taking--stealing--a community treasure and putting it into the hands of a few. The great benefit as the current park is that people can get away from buildings and the city, yet still be close to town. If this area gets developed, the city will unlikely ever be able to acquire a Central Park again. I suggest the aim be to put this treasure in the hands of the community, not the few.

- b. The Chronicle quoted a city rep as wanting to bring people to our town with the development. What is the aim? To bring tourists? Or to bring a foreign demographic to fill in the central waterfront, thus changing the tone of the city?
- c. Has anyone done market research on what tourists want when they come to St. Helens?
- d. Again, I believe a St. Helens Central Park would be the best draw for tourists.

Mayor Scholl reported that a lot of planning has been done around that. The park has expanded through the planning. City Administrator Walsh added that a lot of public outreach was done with discussions of including both park space and private development.

4) **Resolutions**

- 4.a Resolution No. 1885: A Resolution of the City of St. Helens Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues
- 4.b Resolution No. 1886: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of St. Helens, Oregon Adopting Budget, Making Appropriation, and Levying Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020
- 4.c Resolution No. 1887: A Resolution to Authorize Application for Community Development Block Grant Funds for COVID-19 Emergency Small Business & Micro-Enterprise Assistance
- 4.d Resolution No. 1888: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of St. Helens Adopting an Agreement with Unrepresented Employees of the City of St. Helens
- 4.e Resolution No. 1889: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of St. Helens, Oregon, Amending the City Employee Compensation Plan for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020

Mayor Scholl read Resolution Nos. 1885 - 1889 by title. **Motion:** Upon Locke's motion and Morten's second, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution Nos. 1885 - 1889. [Ayes: Locke, Carlson, Topaz, Morten, Scholl; Nays: None]

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

- 5.a Contract Payments

Motion: Upon Carlson's motion and Morten's second, the Council unanimously approved '5a' above.

6) **Appointments to Boards/Commissions**

- 6.a Appoints to City Boards & Commissions

No appointments to boards/commissions.

7) **Consent Agenda for Acceptance**

- 7.a Library Board Minutes dated March 9, 2020

Motion: Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously accepted '7a' above.

8) **Consent Agenda for Approval**

8.a Work Session, Executive Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated May 6, 2020

8.b Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously approved '8a' through '8b' above.

9) **Mayor Scholl Reports**

- It has been a stressful few days working with the Police Department regarding the protest. He has never had so many concerned citizens reach out to him about safety. He is very happy with the Police Department for all the work they put into being prepared.
- COVID is still happening, which is a big reason they had the meeting tonight. There was a public hearing and resolution for a grant to receive \$150,000 for our County.
- He encouraged anybody listening to reach out to Connect St. Helens. It is a great program that focuses on bringing community together.

10) **Council Member Reports**

Council President Morten reported...

- He was impressed and encouraged with what he saw with the youth this afternoon. Council says the Pledge of Allegiance before every meeting. Those kids are taking the "liberty and justice for all" statement seriously. He was very much interested in seeing that in our small city. To him, it came alive. He thinks everyone was quite responsible with how they handled themselves.
- Friday is graduation for the St. Helens High School seniors. This has been a tough year and he is proud of them. He is so happy to see the partnership with the school and City.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- She agreed with previous comments. She is glad that the protest was peaceful. She is sad that she missed attending with tonight's meeting conflict but is enjoying all the photos being shared.
- She has been visiting local businesses to inform them about grant opportunities.
- The Youth Council did cleanup and plantings on the waterfront last weekend. Thank you to Means Nursery for donating flowers and Scappoose Bay Watershed Council for donating native plants. She looks forward to more projects with the Youth Council this summer. They are missing the social opportunity.
- The Food Bank was unable to do their Empty Bowls fundraiser. The crafts people are still making the bowls and selling them online to benefit the Food Bank.

Councilor Locke reported...

- The spring burning season was cancelled this year due to COVID. He suggests allowing it for a 16-day period. People still must get a permit and verify it is a burn day.
Motion: Upon Locke's motion and Topaz's second, Council unanimously approved rescheduling the 16-day burn period per the fire department's schedule.
- He and Council President Morten reviewed about 15 Public Works Director job applications today. They would like to pass on their recommendations to Walsh and Payne. Council President Morten encouraged the rest of the Council to review those applications as well. Mayor Scholl acknowledged that he would like to review them since it is his department.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- Grants are available right now for the kayak landing at Grey Cliffs Park. He also found out that the process to get a launching permit is about 18-24 months. The permit costs between \$900-1,500. There is a list of agencies that are involved with making decisions.
- He read the preliminary report on the lagoon from Maul Foster.
 - They said the river only goes up and down two feet. That is important to note because there is a seasonal shift of 20 feet.
 - They did not check the DOGAMI maps. They did verify with their borings that the landslide area is in place. They pulled up wood from the borings and said the landslide area is still active.
- Working on sneeze screens for the Library. He is waiting to hear back from Public Works about materials.
- Judy Thompson is organizing the ringing of the bells on the 4th of July.

11) **Department Reports**

Interim Public Works Director Nelson reported...

- Asked Councilor Topaz to clarify what he needs from Public Works. Councilor Topaz said he needs to talk to Roger about the sneeze guard for the Library because a long piece will be needed. Nelson said she will check on the status. She said plexi-glass is on backorder right now.

Library Director Jeffries reported...

- The work continues in the Columbia Center. They have had electricians in the building the last three days. They have primarily been pulling data lines and doing electrical work for handicap door openers, as well as working on the hot water heater for the sink. Two staff data lines are being dropped into the Armstrong Room. Staff has worked out a nice plan for offering curbside service from that room.

Assistant City Administrator Brown reported...

- Today's work session agenda included a discussion regarding field reservations. Community members are waiting to reserve fields. They had discussed at the last meeting that the parks are open, but they would not accept reservations. Mayor Scholl pointed out that Phase II allows for ball field use, as well as recreation program uses. Consensus of Council to allow for field reservations in Phase II, following State guidelines.
- A cleaning RFP was done. Two responses were received. The current provider did not pursue the RFP. The contract ends June 30, but Payne is going to see if it can be extended. One company has dropped out. The other company sent a bid that was much higher than expected. He approximates that a part-time or even a full-time employee could perform the work at a lower rate. Discussion ensued. Consensus of Council for staff to discuss this at their next manager's meeting and return to Council with a decision.

City Recorder Payne reported...

- Nothing to report.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- He responded to Councilor Topaz's kayak landing project. There is a commercial moorage there. There is no dock, but the pilings are still there. There is a plan to build there. Today, we received a notice of funding opportunity for non-motorized facilities,

- such as that.
- Today's work session agenda included a discussion about lifting the emergency declaration. He understands the desire to get back to normal. However, the consequences of doing that makes us ineligible to receive funding from FEMA and other sources. We can still move towards getting back to normal. He recommends checking in on it at every meeting.
 - The Columbia View Park bathrooms are open now. They do have sufficient PPE. They are reviewing the cleaning chemicals. It is extensive labor and results in other things not getting done. They may need to reallocate resources.
 - Congratulations to the St. Helens High School Seniors. He hopes the festivities go well on Friday. Mayor Scholl added that County Commissioner Heimuller complimented the City for our efforts in helping with the graduation.
 - He briefly read the guidance for Phase II opening today but was unable to listen to the news conference. Mayor Scholl asked him to review how those changes will affect the City.
 - Thanked the Mayor and Council for continuing to hold tonight's meeting. It is the annual meeting to adopt the budget and resolutions.

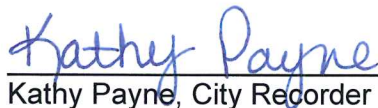
Mayor Scholl reminded citizens to be kind to one another. The City is doing what they can to ensure safety.

12) **Other Business**

13) **Adjourn – 7:57 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:


Kathy Payne, City Recorder


Rick Scholl, Mayor