

City of St. Helens

City Council

Regular Session Minutes

May 6, 2020

This meeting was held electronically via Zoom.

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Sue Nelson, Interim Public Works Director
Brian Greenway, Police Chief
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

Others: Patrick Birkle
Brady Preheim

1) **7:01 P.M. - Call Regular Session to Order**

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

- ◆ Patrick Birkle. He commented about the potential reopening of St. Helens and the measures to consider it. Representative Brad Witt's Town Hall was very informative. There are many good resources available. Columbia County has had very few cases. Rather than being included completely with the metro area, there is a very good possibility that Columbia County will be able to open. He has heard it could open potentially before the next Council meeting. He encouraged the Council to work closely with County government in discussions of reopening.

4) **Ordinances - First Reading**

- 4.a Ordinance No. 3253: An Ordinance Amending the St. Helens Municipal Code Chapters 17.46 and 17.124 Regarding Floodplains and Floodways, and Accessory Structures

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3253 by title for the first time. The final reading will be held at the next regular session.

5) **Award Bid/Contract**

- 5.a Sanitary and Storm Drainage Systems Master Plans Projects to Keller & Associates

Motion: Upon Morten's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously awarded the Sanitary and Storm Drainage Systems Master Plans Projects to Keller & Associates. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Morten, Topaz; Nays: None]

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

- 6.a Access and Utility Easement Modification with Pam Rensch for Chase Road
6.b Agreement with MorePower Technology Group for IT Services
6.c Contract Payments

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

7) **Re-appoint Margaret Jeffries to Columbia Learning Center Board**

Motion: Upon Topaz's motion and Morten's second, the Council unanimously re-appointed Margaret Jeffries to the Columbia Learning Center Board. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Morten, Topaz; Nays: None]

8) **Consent Agenda for Acceptance**

- 8.a Budget Committee Minutes dated April 15 & 22, 2019

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

9) **Consent Agenda for Approval**

- 9.a Council Special Session, Work Session, Public Hearing, and Regular Session Minutes dated April 8 and 15, 2020
9.b New Accountant Job Description
9.c OLCC Licenses
9.d Accounts Payable Bill Lists

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

10) **Mayor Scholl Reports**

- He looks forward to discussing re-opening St. Helens at the next meeting.
- Fishing was tough the other day.
- We are still Columbia County strong, moving forward.
- He looks forward to getting together with the Budget Committee members.
- Wants to move forward with Council Goals.

11) **Council Member Reports**

Council President Morten reported...

- There are so many good things happening on in our city.
- We are fortunate that the positive numbers are down in our city.

Councilor Locke reported...

- Council received an email about speeding on Parkwood Crossing. He passed that on to the Chief. It has been taken care of.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- It was reported in the evening news that the death rate is going up in 25 states.
- Has the report come back from DEQ for the review of Maul Foster seismic testing? Walsh responded that it is in the final format now.
- The Food Bank needs drivers.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- The NAMI Walk has been cancelled due to COVID-19. They are doing a virtual walk. NAMI has been able to donate money to the Food Bank and some of the people struggling mentally. This is a stressful time.
- Empty Bowls, which is an event that benefits the Food Bank, was cancelled. They are selling their pottery online.

12) **Department Reports**

Chief Greenway reported...

- Nothing to report.

Interim Public Works Director Nelson reported...

- Shout out to City Recorder Payne and Deputy City Recorder Scholl. This is National Municipal Clerks Week. They are valuable and appreciated!

Library Director Jeffries reported...

- Nothing to report.

City Recorder Payne reported...

- Thank you, Nelson, and everyone else for their support.

Assistant City Administrator Brown reported...

- The website address has been updated to www.sthelensoregon.gov.
- Communications Officer Crystal King and Government Affairs & Project Support Specialist Rachael Barry have been working on creating a web page for the Council's Strategic Work Plan. He reviewed the page.

Event Coordinator Curry reported...

- Deputy City Recorder Scholl has an action plan for the diploma ceremony. She will be distributing it to everyone involved.
- She asked if additional information could be added to the City's homepage to benefit businesses. She will follow-up with Walsh tomorrow.

Mayor Scholl expressed his appreciation of everything Curry is doing. He asked if she could do a banner from the City congratulating students. Curry said there will be banners, live YouTube broadcast, professional backdrops, and a sound system. They are doing a lot to help make the event successful. She needs the specific wording for any banners requested. Mayor Scholl asked for it to say, "City of St. Helens Congratulates Senior Class of 2020!" Council agreed with paying for it from Council Discretionary Funds. Curry suggested hanging two from the light poles, one as they come in and one as they go out. Council concurred. Curry also suggested the Council video a message to the students. They could play it on a loop from a TV screen in the Plaza.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- League of Oregon Cities (LOC) has been sponsoring a weekly call. They have been discussing reopening strategies. Barry has also been participating in the Regional Economic Recovery Committee. There is a lot of work going into this.

13) **Other Business**

◆ Brady Preheim.

1. He was going to protest about the MorePower contract, but it seems to be a moot point since they voted on it. He did not agree with the way the process was handled.
2. He had heard for years about how unfriendly the City of St. Helens is to businesses. He dismissed it until he received a 10-page packet for his business license. He is used to a half page from Scappoose with no fee.
3. He has heard criticism about how stupid it is to pay for tourism during this time. Now, he found out that Tina has voluntarily furloughed herself. The City has not made it public. It is an opportunity to give kudos to Tina, who continues to do her job without pay, and for the City to show they are not spending tourism funds. It is another opportunity that the City has missed.

Mayor Scholl just found out about the furlough last week. He also informed Brady that he had to complete the same business license application packet for his business. Most of it will not apply to the type of business he is doing. It is only a half-page when he renews annually.

14) **Adjourn – 7:34 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:


Kathy Payne, City Recorder


Rick Scholl, Mayor