

# City of St. Helens City Council

Public Hearing Minutes

April 15, 2020

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*This meeting was held electronically via Zoom.*

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

**Staff Present:** John Walsh, City Administrator  
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Brian Greenway, Police Chief  
Sue Nelson, Interim Public Works Director  
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder  
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director  
Jacob Graichen, City Planner

**Others:** Trina Romero-Hash

1) **6:30 P.M. - Open Public Hearing via Zoom**

- 2) **Topic**  
2.A Amendments to the City of St. Helens Floodplain Regulations. Also, a change to the size (increase) of accessory structures allowed without permitting.

City Planner Graichen presented the staff report dated April 7, 2020. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet. There were no ex-parte contacts, conflicts of interest, or bias in this matter. There were no objections from the audience for the Council to make a fair decision. Based upon the facts and findings in the staff report, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval.

The accessory structure amendment proposes to increase the maximum size of accessory structures from 120 to 200 sq. ft. without needing a permit. It will better align with Building Codes.

The floodplain proposed amendments will update the City's Code to meet State regulations that were updated in August 2019.

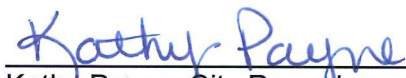
Councilor Topaz talked about flooding during heavy rains between St. Helens Street and Columbia Blvd, and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street. It used to drain through the sewer lines but now doesn't. Now it flows over the sidewalks and into basements. Where is the lagoon measured? Graichen showed the floodplain on a map in relation to the lagoon. Development on the lagoon property will be based on elevation of build. The floodplain regulations are based on river and creek flooding. Street flooding around 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street would not be regulated by this ordinance.

No public testimony was received.

3) **Close Public Hearing – 6:54 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:



Kathy Payne, City Recorder



Rick Scholl, Mayor