

# City of St. Helens

## City Council

Regular Session Minutes

March 4, 2020

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

**Members Absent:** Councilor Keith Locke

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

**Others:** F. Brandon

1) **Call Regular Session to Order - 7:00 p.m.**

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

3) **Visitor Comments**

No visitor comments.

4) **Ordinances - Final Reading**

4.a Ordinance No. 3249: An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property at 58865 Firlok Park Street

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3249 by title for the final time. **Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously adopted Ordinance No. 3249. [AYES: Carlson, Topaz, Scholl, Morten; Nays: None]

5) **Ordinances - First Reading**

5.a Ordinance No. 3250: An Ordinance Adding a Historic Resource (Building) to the Designated Landmarks Register and Amending St. Helens Municipal Code Section 19.20.030

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3250 by title for the first time. The final reading will be held at the next regular session.

5.b Ordinance No. 3251: An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property Located at the End of Windy Ridge Drive, Also Described as Parcel 2 of Partition Plat No. 2002-13

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3250 by title for the first time. The final reading will be held at the next regular session.

6) **Resolutions**

- 6.a Resolution No. 1875: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of St. Helens Adopting a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the St. Helens Police Association

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1875 by title. **Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 1875. [AYES: Carlson, Topaz, Scholl, Morten; Nays: None]

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

- 7.a Extension of Contract with Hasa, Inc. for Sodium Hypochlorite at the WWTP  
7.b Contract Payments

Question. Council President Morten asked what the sodium hypochlorite is used for and if it's stored on City property. Interim Public Works Director Nelson responded that it's stored on site in bulk. It is used for disinfection of the primary effluent before it goes into the secondary lagoon.

**Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously approved '7a' and '7b' above. [AYES: Carlson, Topaz, Scholl, Morten; Nays: None]

8) **Appointments to Boards/Commissions**

- 8.a Appointments to Boards and Commissions

No appointments to Boards or Commissions.

9) **Consent Agenda for Approval**

- 9.a Council Work Session, Public Hearing, Regular Session, and Special Session minutes dated January 15, February 5, and February 12, 2020  
9.b Ratification of License Agreement with Special Entertainment Events, Inc. for Luminight Lantern Festival  
9.c Declare Surplus Property - Public Works  
9.d Declare Surplus Property - City Hall  
9.e OLCC Licenses  
9.f Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Question. Councilor Topaz does not see the need to ratify the license agreement when it was already signed on February 24. He does not recall it being approved at a Council meeting. There has been no public discussion about the project. Discussion ensued.

**Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously approve '9a' and '9c' through '9f' above. [AYES: Carlson, Topaz, Scholl, Morten; Nays: None]

Mayor Scholl reported that they were all notified of the change in location. They all liked the project but didn't like the location in McCormick Park. Walsh added that purchasing rules allow up to \$75,000 for city administrator decisions. The issue of backdating is not uncommon. They sometimes need to do that to move things forward before the next meeting.

Councilor Topaz has concerns about the health and safety. Mayor Scholl understands the need to be cautious. Extensive screening to protect our citizens needs to be done. Walsh pointed out that the contract is the responsibility of the owner. If they can't follow through, the City gets the money back.

Discussion ensued. Councilor Topaz wants to see it on a work session to allow public comment. Council President Morten wants to know when a decision was made in front of the public. It was discussed during executive session. The decision was made by Walsh.

**Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Morten's second, the Council approved '9b' above. [Ayes: Carlson, Scholl, Morten; Nays: Topaz]

10) **Mayor Scholl Report**

- There is a lot of building and development going on.
- The Violette's Villa apartment complex is almost done. They are requesting temporary occupancy for two of their buildings at the end of March.
- A Council Goal is to serve citizens better. There is room for growth. He gets more done with collaboration and working as a team. They owe it to the citizens to move the big projects forward and look at departments that need improvements. He would like the Council to be more collaborative. They have gotten better at being courteous with one another.

11) **Council Member Reports**

Council President Morten reported...

- Had a productive outcome from the Goal Setting meeting. It led to the request to look at projects from staff and Council. He began working on that right away.
- He requested a list of priorities from Parks & Trails Commission Chair Carmin Dunn:
  - complete Godfrey Park updates
  - bench on Nob Hill Park overlook
  - urban trail
  - 5th Street trail
  - fence dog park at Grey Cliffs Waterfront Park
  - chuck-it kiosk at McCormick Park
  - splash pad at Civic Pride Park
  - new play equipment for McCormick Park and Campbell Park
    - hoping to win the Blazers MODA Assist program to help with McCormick Park improvements
  - new bleachers on 6th Street
  - signage for native species at Dalton Lake Botanical Gardens
  - maintenance for poison oak, ivy, and scotch broom removal at Botanical Gardens
- He added priorities of his own:
  - add a float to the pilings at Grey Cliffs Waterfront Park to launch canoes
  - have Public Works clean up in front of the Chamber of Commerce and put up service group signs

Councilor Topaz reported...

- Asked Nelson if you go through the Marine Board to put up floats at the park. Nelson responded that the Marine Board would be an excellent contact for potential funding. Permits would likely come from the Corp and DSL. She suggests working with the Marine Board for grants, which often includes engineering services as well as assistance with permits.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- Encouraged all abilities accessibility for the docks.
- Youth Council is working on Spring activities:
  - St. Patrick's Day themed Bunco night, March 16
  - Earth Day Cleanup Day in April
  - Family Art night in May
- Talked about the students being sensitive to the virus and their concerns.
- There was a discussion about a ribbon cutting at Utility Billing. She suggested holding an after-hours Chamber event here. It invites local businesses during closed hours.
- There was fire damage at Columbia View Park. When will it be open? Walsh responded that they should open this week.
- Asked about the timed doors at park restrooms. Nelson responded that they are at all the restrooms except for here because of the fire damage.
- Addressed the budget.
  - The Library does wonderful things, but their hours are limited. She would like to discuss extending them on Saturdays.
  - Community impact fees are being collected for cannabis. Where is that money being spent on education?

Council President Morten said that he joined the Chamber of Commerce when he first moved here. He noticed that there was a museum there at that time. It was operated by RJ Brown. He suggested the Chamber Board ask for products from their businesses so people can see what local businesses have to offer. He suggested Councilor Carlson take that to the Chamber. Councilor Carlson said they are moving towards a business incubator. That will give home-based businesses a place to temporarily move their business. There are racks and customer space in there. They are refocusing on membership. They meet on the third Tuesday each month and will bring that suggestion back to them.

Councilor Topaz pointed out that there are a lot of active people in the community who do not have a Library card. He wants to see them get Library cards.

## 12) **Department Reports**

Chief Greenway reported...

- Nothing to report.

Interim Public Works Director Nelson reported...

- Parks & Trails Commission Chair Dunn mentioned the MODA program in her report. The opportunity came up last week. The Trail Blazers have a MODA Assist Program. For every assist the Blazers make in a regular season game, \$10 is donated by the Blazers and \$10 donated by MODA to the winning city for park improvements. Three cities compete for votes to win. A decision was made quickly last week to participate. Voting begins soon. The winning city last year was Baker City and they received about \$33,000. It will go towards the playground equipment in McCormick Park. Astoria and Sandy are the other participating cities.
- They are already mowing. In the past, they hired a summer worker in March. Is it okay to begin recruitment now? Council concurred.
- Councilor Carlson asked about the mower purchase. Nelson reported that it replaces the 21-year-old mower next fiscal year. It's not very dependable anymore.
- Mayor Scholl asked about the surplus property list. Nelson responded that there are two online options. It's more costly to do it ourselves. The City received the full cost of online

auctions, the buyer pays a fee. If we do it ourselves, it costs staff time to do inventory, write descriptions, hire an auctioneer, and get a facility. Mayor Scholl volunteered to do an auction onsite on a Friday afternoon. They can do it as a sealed bid without an auctioneer. He wants to see local people making the purchases.

Library Director Jeffries reported...

- Nothing to report.

Assistant City Administrator Brown reported...

- City Recorder Payne was going to ask about doing away with Concession Agreements. Food trucks on City property give the City a percentage. There is a lot of staff time but very little return. He wants Council's opinion before taking it to the Parks & Trails Commission. Discussion of all the work involved with them. Tina pointed out the need to have insurance. Brown agreed that insurance will still be required. Council President Morten asked for Brown to report the proposal to the Parks & Trails Commission.

Deputy City Recorder Scholl reported...

- Nothing to report.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

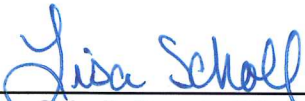
- There is a Department of State Lands lease for the area in front of Grey Cliffs Park. He's not sure if it includes the area around the pilings. He agreed that the Marine Board is an excellent resource. Mayor Scholl suggested a fully accessible fishing dock there.
- Working on improvements to be able to re-open the Columbia View Park restrooms.
- The collective bargaining agreement resolution with St. Helens Police Association went through quietly. He thanked the Police Association for a successful bargaining session and a mutually beneficial contract.
- Community Development Department staff has met to talk about processes to get permits out timelier. They are trying to improve the process.

13) **Other Business**

14) **Adjourn – 8:10 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

  
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Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder

  
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Rick Scholl, Mayor