

City of St. Helens City Council

Regular Session Minutes

September 4, 2019

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
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Sue Nelson, Interim Public Works Director
Joe Hogue, Police Lieutenant
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

Others: F. Brandon
Adam

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

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

No visitor comments.

4) **Resolutions**

4.a Resolution No. 1863: A Resolution Establishing Drop Box Rates and Superseding Resolution No. 1828

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1863 by title. **Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Topaz's second, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 1863. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Morten, Topaz; Nays: None]

5) **Award Bid/Contract**

5.a Painting Contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to Carolyn Jenkins
Painting in the Amount of \$14,000

Interim Public Works Director Nelson explained the need for the painting. A copy of the request is included in the archive meeting packet.

Motion: Upon Carlson's motion and Locke's second, the Council unanimously approved '5a' above. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Morten, Topaz; Nays: None]

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

- 6.a Managing Oregon Resources Efficiently (MORE) Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon Public Entities for Exchange of Resources and Services
- 6.b Second Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement with Columbia County for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Services
- 6.c Contract Payments

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

7) **Consent Agenda for Approval**

- 7.a Work Session, Executive Session and Regular Session Council Minutes dated August 7, 2019
- 7.b Community Development Administrative Assistant Job Description
- 7.c Accounts Payable Bill Lists

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

8) **Mayor Scholl Reports**

- Met with Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici today. They visited the Waterfront property and reviewed the BUILD grant application. Bonamici is excited about the opportunity.
- Asked Nelson about the status of Kittleson drawing plans for the St. Helens Street and S. 1st Street intersection. Nelson responded that they are not drawing plans. She returned the draft scope of work to Kittleson on Friday. It didn't quite describe all the elements they were looking for. She hopes to have it at the next meeting.
- Moving forward with the sidewalks on N. Vernonia Road. Discussion ensued about trees in the area. Some will be left but some will need to come out.
- The Gable Road project is behind schedule. Nelson added that they ran into problems with rock. They're making good process. The County is the lead agency.
- There is a lot happening with Planning in the City; new businesses, residential building, etc.
- Welcome back to school, kids.
- Last day for Chinook fishing is tomorrow.
- Shared a story about Sand Island. A gentleman who has lived here over 50 years was able to visit the Island for the first time this weekend because of the free shuttle.

9) **Council Member Reports**

Council President Morten reported...

- Happy to see we'll have sidewalks on both sides of N. Vernonia Road. Nelson added the mid-block crossing that will be installed as well to access the park.
- Gable Road is very exciting. He has been stirring the pot about Gable Road and safe passages since he's been on the Council. Nelson said the City and County have both been applying for grants to conduct the project.
- Working on defining "Friends of Parks" groups in the Parks and Trails Commission. Staff created an informational flyer based on feedback.
- Visited Sand Island this past weekend. The only negative feedback he received was the need for water on the Island. Brad Hendrickson is working on that and solar power. There is no charge for getting to the Island. Scholl asked if the shuttle is seasonal. Morten asked about that and sounds like they'll plan it by ear. They'll watch what the

weather does. Topaz added that he spoke to Brad as well. Brad said that a lot of the same people have returned or heard via word of mouth.

- Talked to Parks staff to see how things were going. They had a concern about a person planting flowers in the tree planters. They are soaking up water and now the trees aren't doing well. He thought it was volunteers but it's being done by a person who is charging businesses. That's City property and they shouldn't be doing that. Carlson said they should be able to find out who's doing it from an adjacent business. The movie theater and title company are likely some of their customers. They are just flower pots and not the tree planters.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- The Sand Island conversations have been great.

Councilor Carlson...

- This Friday is the first football game. The band will be performing. Wear all white.
- Thursday is the JV football game.

Councilor Locke reported...

- No reflection on Nelson, but he would like to make the Public Works Director position permanent. He hopes she will apply for it.

Motion: Locke moved to direct staff to open the position for Public Works Director.

Discussion. Councilor Carlson compared it to the Police Chief position and it being due process. She wants to see it as a public process, and wants the position to be permanent and not temporary.

Council President Morten said he and Mayor Scholl, who oversee Public Works, made a verbal agreement for Nelson to take over as Interim Public Works Director for a period of six months. He would like to wait for that timeline to pass. Mayor Scholl would like to give her time to complete the projects list and evaluate her.

Councilor Locke withdrew his motion and wait for the six months to be up. Council President Morten requested he wait until the first of the year.

Discussion ensued. Councilor Carlson expressed that she has not seen the projects lists or goals. Council President Morten pointed out that project lists are included in Nelson's reports. Mayor Scholl confirmed that they haven't chosen projects to evaluate her on. Mayor Scholl would like to hold a retreat to talk about projects as well as Council disciplinary action. They need to make sure the funding is available before selecting projects. Nelson mentioned that needs and projects were selected in the budget process.

Councilor Topaz said that other qualified people need the opportunity to show they are qualified. He has not seen the job description. Walsh responded that every position has a job description.

Discussion of when to hold a Council retreat. Consensus for Wednesday, October 9, at 3:30 p.m.

10) **Department Reports**

Lieutenant Hogue report...

- Nothing to report.

Interim Public Works Director Nelson reported...

- A nursery on Sauvie Island donated native plants to the Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park.

Finance Director Brown reported...

- Nothing to report.

Deputy City Recorder Scholl reported...

- There is something wrong with the video recording. Only audio is broadcasting. The video is black. It should be fixed next week.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- Spoke with Brad Hendrickson at the Marina. He is happy to come to City Council with a report of Sand Island. There has been positive feedback from boaters. The Island is clean.
- Congresswoman Bonamici talked about the good things happening in the community. There is a diversity of housing, community development, economic development, the Recreation Program, etc. It was a nice visit.

11) **Other Business**

12) **Adjourn** – 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:



Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder



Rick Scholl, Mayor