

City of St. Helens City Council

Regular Session Minutes

April 17, 2019

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
Joe Hogue, Police Lieutenant
Mike De Roia, Building Official
Jacob Graichen, City Planner
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

Others:

F. Brandon	Greg Pettit	Lynne Pettit
Shaun Brown	Shauna Harrison	Howard Blumenthal
Elisa Mann	Nancy Ward	Benjamin Tiscareno
Ethan Ralstin	Sidney Greenleaf	Brady Preheim
Ann Morten	Jerry Belcher	Carmin Dunn

1) **7:07 P.M. - Call Regular Session to Order**

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

- ♦ Nancy Ward. She is running for Port Commissioner Position #1. She is here to thank the Council for the role they played during the recent Port hearings over the API issue and the expansion of crude oil into our town. They put a voice to all of the frustrations, gave them credibility, voiced concerns for the community, and themselves. The most important thing was the Council listened to the community and advocated for them. That's not seen very often in the community. She is overwhelmed. It is empowering.

- ♦ Shauna Harrison. Asked City Planner Graichen if our area is rural or suburban.

City Planner Graichen responded that St. Helens is an incorporated City within an urban growth boundary. He would call us urban. But if you're a research student analyzing different areas... Shauna clarified that she sells real estate and there are differentiating views about our area. She will follow-up with Graichen after this meeting.

4) **Urban Trails Subcommittee Presentation**

Parks & Trails Commission Members Jerry Belcher, Carmin Dunn, and Howard Blumenthal were in attendance to review the proposed St. Helens Historic Riverfront Parks Trail to be included in the Parks Master Plan. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet. It is a 2.5 mile double looped trail showcasing six City parks, numerous historical sites, scenic overlooks, and local shops. Review and discussion of the trail ensued. The Commission recommends City Council direct staff to investigate financing options. State of Oregon has money for urban trails. Belcher emphasized that the proposal will make St. Helens a better place to live and visit.

Councilor Topaz expressed concerns about handicap accessibility. He suggested internal loops to make it handicap accessible. Belcher responded that their idea for ADA accessibility is for users to go from one end of the boardwalk on the Waterfront property to Grey Cliffs Park. However, there are numerous areas around downtown to loop. The trail does have steps and is steep in some areas. They need to consider the people who want the rougher terrain as well. Graichen added that this is a supplement of the existing trails in the Parks Master Plan.

Council President Morten has heard “no” so many times to these types of proposals. He’s hoping Council and staff can say “yes” to this Commission’s proposal. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Scholl directed staff to review the proposal from the Parks & Trails Commission and bring discussion back to Council.

5) **Ordinances - First Reading**

- 5.a Ordinance No. 3236: An Ordinance Amending St. Helens Municipal Code Chapter 13.14 Regarding Use of Portable Privies

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3236 by title for the first time. The final reading will be held at the next regular session.

- 5.b Ordinance No. 3237: An Ordinance Amending St. Helens Municipal Code Chapter 3.12 to Modify the Utility Privilege Tax Levied on Utilities Operating in the City Without a Franchise

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3237 by title for the first time. The final reading will be held at the next regular session.

6) **Resolutions**

- 6.a Resolution No. 1843: A Resolution Consenting to the City of St. Helens’ Inclusion in the Columbia County Rider Transit Service District

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1843 by title. **Motion:** Upon Morten’s motion and Locke’s second, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 1843. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Morten, Topaz; Nays: None]

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

- 7.a License & Maintenance Agreement with Columbia County for Kiosk on County Property

- 7.b Contract Payments

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

8) **Appointments to Boards/Commissions**

8.a Appointments to City Boards & Commissions

Motion: Upon Topaz's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously appointed Maggie Clayton to the Arts & Cultural Commission. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Morten, Topaz; Nays: None]

Motion: Upon Morten's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously appointed Lynne Pettit to the Parks & Trails Commission. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Morten, Topaz; Nays: None]

9) **Consent Agenda for Acceptance**

9.a Parks & Trails Commission Minutes dated March 11, 2019

9.b Planning Commission Minutes dated March 12, 2019

9.c Housing Needs Advisory Committee Meeting #3 Minutes dated March 12, 2019

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

10) **Consent Agenda for Approval**

10.a Little Free Library for Campbell Park Donated by Thomas O'Hanlon

10.b Little Free Library for Walnut Tree Park Donated by Lynne Pettit

10.c Cascades Reserve Allocation Annual Adjustment from 86.3% to 79.8%

10.d OLCC Licenses

10.e Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Upon Carlson's motion and Locke's second, the Council unanimously approved '10a' through '10e' above. [AYES: Scholl, Carlson, Locke, Morten, Topaz; Nays: None]

Budget Presentation 2019/20

Finance Director Brown reviewed the list of budget requests that are an increase over the previous year. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet.

- Engineer/GIS Tech – Consensus of Council to wait until Public Works Operation Director Sheppard's position is filled. They will review this position again at that time. Council requested City Recorder Payne add Public Works Director discussion to the next work session.
- Development Coordinator – This position would be a project organizer and assistant to Administration, Building, Planning, and Engineering. Consensus of Council to move forward with this position.
- Police – Lt. Hogue reported on the Police Department needs. Consensus of Council to move forward with the Police requests except for one Patrol Officer instead of three.
- Consensus of Council to move forward with the Recreation, Building, and Communication requests.
- Council - Consensus of Council to move forward with increasing the Council Discretionary Funds.

11) **Mayor Scholl Reports**

- The City has a lot going on. The Development Coordinator position is very much needed.

12) Council Member Reports

Councilor President Morten reported...

- The Parks & Trails Commission gave an excellent presentation. He is very excited about promoting our City as a Certified Local Government for grants.

Councilor Locke reported...

- He would like to go into executive session to discuss a tenant on the St. Helens Industrial property.
- Cascades is building another fence between them and ACSP down the middle of a roadway. They did not request permission nor do they have a permit.

City Planner Graichen pointed out that there are easements in that area. City Administrator Walsh will contact the mill manager to discuss the concerns.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- Encouraged by all the public comment today. It was a good process.
- Thanked City Planner Graichen and Lt. Hogue for being here.
- A Mental Health Fair will be held on May 4 at the Recreation Center.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- He is coming up to speed on the Arts and Cultural Commission.

Youth Councilor Christian reported...

- Youth Council is leading a spring cleanup on April 28 behind the County Courthouse. It was formerly organized by another group. They are requesting donations from local businesses but also requested up to \$400 from the Council to cover what is not donated. The Council was in consensus for Youth Council to use up to \$400 from Council Discretionary Funds.

13) Department Reports

Lieutenant Hogue reported...

- Nothing to report.

City Planner Graichen reported...

- Public Hearings for the Riverfront Connector will be held soon.
- The final public meeting for the Housing Needs Analysis will also be held soon, followed by the adoption of the plan.
- Updated the Council on the status of the Wetlands on the St. Helens Industrial Property. Mapping has been done. AKS will be surveying it next. It is moving forward.
- Will be working on the Millard Road hospital property next.

Library Director Jeffries reported...

- Showed the Facebook Puppet competition. The City did not win but Youth Librarian Kolderup and Communications Officer Farnsworth did an excellent job.

Finance Director Brown reported...

- Requested clarification from the earlier work session discussion on Godfrey Park. The Parks & Trails Commission recommended moving forward with the project. Consensus of Council to have Public Works Engineering Director Nelson and Associate Planner Dimsho present at the next meeting for further discussion.

City Recorder Payne reported...

- There is a City appointment on the Columbia Learning Center Board that is vacant and expires at the end of May. She requested the Council be thinking about it and appoint someone to serve at the May 1 or 15 meeting.

Event Coordinator Curry reported...

- She has been looking for ways to include nonprofits in tourism activities.
- The Columbia County Events Facebook page now has over 6,000 likes.
- There have been over 1,200 views of the new hot topics, stories, and interviews.
- Two bunnies were on the streets this last weekend for people to find.
- Hallow Pizza won the \$20,000 business loan.
- Working with City Administrator Walsh on the Travel Oregon report.
- New free community activity that the Recreation Center will be assisting with. It will be held July 13 and 14.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- Notice of Funding Opportunity for the BUILD Grant has been announced. This year it is \$900 million. He is moving forward with the consultants to submit an improved application.
- Continuing to work on the Sand Island camping proposal.
- Continuing to meet with a consultant on the Broadband proposal.
- The RV Park Feasibility Study is underway.
- Met with a local marijuana grower last week. They pointed out the disparity with big versus small. The grower suggested a modification to the marijuana license to be based on a tiered rate of canopy space rather than a flat rate.
- He'll be attending an Opportunity Zone Conference on Friday.
- He nominated himself for the Oregon City County Manager's Board. One of the duties is to help plan and attend the Spring Conference, which overlaps the May 1 Council meeting. Council excused him from the meeting.
- There was a conversation earlier about the Recreation Program. Direction and positive feedback has been fantastic. They need a good plan for long-range planning to keep it going.

14) **Other Business**

15) **Adjourn** – 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:


Kathy Payne, City Recorder


Rick Scholl, Mayor