

City of St. Helens

CITY COUNCIL

Regular Session Minutes

October 4, 2017

Members Present: Rick Scholl, Mayor
Doug Morten, Council President
Keith Locke, Councilor
Ginny Carlson, Councilor

Members Absent: Susan Conn, Councilor

Staff Present: John Walsh, City Administrator
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
Terry Moss, Police Chief
Neal Sheppard, Public Works Operations Director
Sue Nelson, Public Works Engineering Director

Others:	Doug Knight	Sharon Coggsell	David Kirby
	Kellie Smith	Kathleen Grant	Cole Snider
	Jenn Massey	Daniel Morris	Mike Roso
	Mike Norris, Jr.	Steve Palmer	Michael Palmer
	Claire Catt	Darold Sandberg	Barbara Lines
	Garrett Lines	Tammy Maygra	Laura Byrd
	Dean Lemire	Loryn Thurman	Kendra Vandercook
	Leslie Contreras	Chris Ostling	Jenny Rudolph
	Serena McCurdy	Desiree	Leah Tillotson
	L. Goodwin	Brian Vaerewyck	Shannon Vaerewyck
	Patrick Birkle	Greg Jensen	Tiffany Smith
	Ryan Laird	Heather Oliver	Gretchen Williams
	Kim Clendenin	Sherrie Ford	Annie Slighter
	Heather Moar	Jaelyn Wallace	Michelle Caso
	Shannon Lazorick	Chip Hermelin	Stephanie Daur
	Carston Williams	Kim Puyear Cabrera	Jeff Fulk
	Craig Reesor	Terry Stewart	Jubilee Beatley
	Jamie Bush	Matthew Pyon	Thomas Young
	Mario Lerma	Stephanie Zielaskowski	Kristine Lambert
	Larry O'Connor	Geri Noble	Debbie Loomis
	Robert Cole	Mitzi Ponce	Brady Preheim
	Dennis Sullivan	Susie Wilson	Doug Stokes
	David Thorp	Shawna Harrison	



7:00PM – Call Regular Session to Order – Mayor Scholl

A moment of silence was held in honor of the victims in the Las Vegas shooting.

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Scholl

Motion: Upon Morten's motion and Locke's second, the Council unanimously agreed to have deliberations on the Sugary Sweetened Beverage Tax during the regular session.

Visitor Comments

♦Tammy Maygra. Commented on how poorly the City prepared for the sugar tax public forum. They should have anticipated a big crowd and moved the venue to an accommodating space. People had to stand outside and couldn't hear. The room was way over the fire marshal capacity limit. It's a safety issue and no one seemed concerned. The City should set a better example.

♦Shawna Harrison. She implored the Council to view the Chronicle's voting poll for the tax. An overwhelming number of citizens are opposed to it.

Deliberations

Sugary Sweetened Beverage Tax

Councilor Locke pointed out that this is part of the process. Too many nights they sit here with no one in attendance. People can come and talk to the Council at any of their meetings or call them. He encouraged people to get involved. He suggested delaying the tax and investigate the health concern as a state-wide issue. At this time, he can't vote for it.

Councilor Carlson has two children. She was diagnosed with cancer and was informed by her oncologist that sugar is the leading cause of the type of cancer she has. However, she's a fifth generation Oregonian and agreed that the only way Oregon accepts a tax is by the vote of people. It's not up to five people to decide what 14,000 will pay.

In the absence of Councilor Conn, Council President Morten declared that she is a "no" vote.

Council President Morten thought tonight was excellent. Addressing Tammy's concerns about the capacity, they will try to anticipate that in the future. The process to be heard is important. He visited most businesses and not one of them were in favor of the tax. Based on that, he cannot vote in favor of it.

Mayor Scholl made it clear that it was his choice to not attend the public forum. He pointed out that the "Greater St. Helens Parks & Recreation District" line item on taxes has nothing to do with the City of St. Helens. It funds Eisenschmidt Pool. However, the parks need more funding and this tax was one idea. He is opposed to the tax.

Motion: Upon Locke's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously turned down the proposed soda tax and not continue research.

Mayor Scholl thanked everyone for coming. The town is growing and he encouraged them to get involved.

Ordinances – Final Readings

- A. **Ordinance No. 3218:** An Ordinance Amending St. Helens Municipal Code Chapters 15.04 and 15.20 Relating to Oregon State Building Codes and the Code for Abatement of Dangerous Buildings

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3218 by title for the final time. **Motion:** Upon Locke's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously adopted Ordinance No. 3218. [Ayes: Locke, Carlson, Morten, Scholl; Nays: None]

- B. **Ordinance No. 3219:** An Ordinance Relating to the Universal Fee Schedule and Parking Fines, Amending St. Helens Municipal Code Sections 2.32.030, 3.16.020, 5.08.140, 10.04.240, 12.32.030, 15.08.100, and 10.04.380

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3219 by title for the final time. **Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Morten's second, the Council unanimously adopted Ordinance No. 3219. [Ayes: Locke, Carlson, Morten, Scholl; Nays: None]

Ordinances – First Readings

- A. **Ordinance No. 3220:** An Ordinance to Amend the City of St. Helens Comprehensive Plan Map for Certain Property from the Light Industrial (LI) Designation to the General Residential (GR) Designation and the Zoning District Map from the Light Industrial (LI) Zone to the Apartment Residential (AR) Zone

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3220 by title for the first time. The final reading will be held at the next regular session.

Award Contract for Old Portland Road Bridge Barrier Repair Project to Semling Construction, Inc. for \$6,250

Motion: Upon Locke's motion and Morten's second, the Council unanimously awarded the contract for the Old Portland Road Bridge Barrier Repair Project to Semling Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$6,250.

Approve and/or Authorize for Signature

- A. Contract with Semling Construction for Old Portland Road Bridge Barrier Repair Project
B. Contract Payments

Motion: Upon Morten's motion and Locke's second, the Council unanimously approved 'A' through 'B' above.

Consent Agenda for Acceptance

- A. Library Board Minutes dated August 22, 2017

Motion: Upon Locke's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously accepted 'A' above.

Consent Agenda for Approval

- A. Street Closure Request
B. Accounts Payable Bill List

Motion: Upon Carlson's motion and Locke's second, the Council unanimously approved 'A' through 'B' above.

Council Reports

Mayor Scholl reported...

- It was good to see a lot of people here tonight. The City has a lot going on right now. He, Morten, and Walsh met with State Treasurer Tobias Reed today. They talked about the waterfront redevelopment.
- Looking forward to Spirit of Halloweentown. He encourages everyone to come out and enjoy the activities.

Council President Morten reported...

- He attended the League of Oregon Cities Conference. He went to a session that dealt with the homelessness. He gained ideas and resources. He also attended a session lead by the Health Authority about sugary drink taxes.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- She is excited about Spirit of Halloweentown and participating every weekend. The Youth Council is busy planning the Halloween Dance, October 21. It's for 7-12 grade students.
- She struggles with the public forums because she takes everyone's feelings personally. It's important to remember that it's part of the process.

Councilor Locke reported...

- He walks through town every day. He has noticed that the splash pad in Columbia View Park is still going. He recommends setting a start date of June 1st and a stop date of September 30th. After discussion with staff, council concurred with those set dates but agreed to leave it to the discretion of the Public Works Operations Director in the case of a heat wave.

Department Reports

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- Complimented the Council on the Public Forum. It was well ran.
- Halloween is well upon us. It's bigger and better than ever. Great photo ops are being added on the Waterfront property. He thanked staff for all of their work. The event schedule can be viewed at www.discovercolumbiacounty.com.

City Recorder Payne reported...

- Nothing to report.

Finance Director Brown reported...

- After briefly reviewing the votes from the public forum, closing parks stands out the most. That will be a difficult discussion. He will come back to the Council in November with vote totals and begin discussing how the Council would like to proceed.

Library Director Jeffries reported...

- The Library is hosting a yearlong series on Civics for Adults. The first one was held on September 21. Forty people attended. The next one is February 15.
- The St. Helens Public Library Book Club is being kicked off. It is led by two Library Board members. The quarterly Book Club will be based on a theme, rather than a particular book.

Public Works Operations Director Sheppard reported...

- Kudos to Associate Planner Dimsho for obtaining the grant for the restroom at Grey Cliffs Park.

Brown pointed out the new carpet installed. He gave a huge thank you to Public Works staff for all of their help during the process. It was not great timing with Spirit of Halloweentown. Mayor Scholl recognized how much better it looks in the Council Chambers.

Public Works Engineering Director Nelson reported...

- Acknowledged Brown and all his time that he put into the Sweetened Beverage Tax. It wasn't his idea but he spent a lot of time gathering information for the Council and public.
- Spirit of Halloweentown is looking great. Thank you to Public Works staff for all the time they put into making it a nice event for the community.
- She and Sheppard will be at a Public Works Conference during the next Council meeting.

Police Chief Moss reported...

- Nothing to report.


Adjourn - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:


Kathy Payne, City Recorder


Rick Scholl, Mayor