

# City of St. Helens

## CITY COUNCIL

Regular Session Minutes

March 16, 2016

**Members Present:** Doug Morten, Council President  
Keith Locke, Councilor  
Susan Conn, Councilor  
Ginny Carlson, Councilor

**Members Absent:** Randy Peterson, Mayor

**Staff Present:** John Walsh, City Administrator  
Jon Ellis, Finance Director  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director  
Terry Moss, Police Chief  
Sue Nelson, Public Works Engineering Director

<b>Others:</b>	John Brewington	Amanda Renner	Nicole Thill
	Howard Blumenthal	Rick Scholl	Sam Bake
	Josiah Pense	Kane Denakis	Cory Wilkerdorf



**7:00PM – Call Regular Session to Order** –Council President Morten

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Council President Morten

### **Proclamation**

### *World Down Syndrome Day* *March 21, 2016*

**WHEREAS**, there are an estimated 6 million people with Down syndrome in the world today; and

**WHEREAS**, people with Down syndrome deserve fundamental human and civil rights and yet, in many countries, people with Down syndrome are still not afforded those rights; and

**WHEREAS**, despite dramatic increases in lifespan and intellectual ability in the U.S., there is still much work to be done regarding the rights to equality, inclusion, education, medical care, research and support for people with Down syndrome in the U.S. and abroad; and

**WHEREAS**, starting with Singapore in 2006, the date March 21 has come to represent 3 copies of chromosome 21 (hence 3-21) and has developed into a movement to celebrate and value people with Down syndrome around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, groups, such as the Northwest Down Syndrome Association, support, educate and connect individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the communities in which we live and promote research to enrich the lives of individuals with Down syndrome; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Helens, Oregon joins the United Nations and more than 190 other countries in celebrating and valuing the lives and equality of people with Down syndrome.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Doug Morten, Council President of the City of St. Helens, do hereby proclaim March 21, 2016, as "WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY" in St. Helens, Oregon, and commend its observance to all citizens.

**Invitation to Citizens for Public Comment**

♦John Brewington. The St. Helens Kiwanis has decided to expand the parade this year by adding a carnival on the waterfront property, a street dance on Friday and Saturday night and vendors on Strand Street. The fees are about \$120. He is requesting the Council waive those fees. He would also like Council to consider helping out financially with security for the event. The dates are June 16-18. The carnival may begin on Wednesday.

City Administrator Walsh asked John to elaborate on the request for security. John explained that vendors will be there for three days, and will most likely be spending the night. He would like to see security there overnight and police presence during the beer garden.

John is planning for country music on Friday and old-time rock and roll on Saturday night. They would like to use the Veneer property for parking during the events. The parade plans to end on S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street and exit through the Veneer property and up to Plymouth Street. Council President Morten suggested the parade turn from Plymouth Street to Old Portland Road on an earlier side street. That intersection is dangerous and hard to see. John will look into that and can post signs indicating the parade exit.

Chief Moss would like to sit down with the Kiwanis and Public Works to discuss their needs.

♦Howard Blumenthal. There is a camas meadow along the fence line at the sewage treatment plant, where S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Plymouth Street intersect. A four wheeler recently cut through there. He asked if that area could be protected by placing some large rocks there.

Council President Morten asked Howard to work with Public Works Operations Director Sheppard.

Council President Morten offered extra credit to any of Mr. Meeuwsen's students who offer testimony or ask questions.

♦Kane Denakis. He asked about the status of sidewalks on Gable Road.

Public Works Engineering Director Nelson explained that Gable Road, in front of the high school, belongs to the County. The City and County jointly applied for a grant to put in sidewalks, widen the road and add bike lanes. They received the grant. The County is working with ODOT on the permits now. Construction should begin in 2017 or 2018.

♦Josiah Pense. There are no busses for students who live within one mile of the school. There was discussion at a meeting he recently attended to form walking groups for areas without sidewalks. He asked what the status is.

Councilor Carlson recalled seeing discussion about walking groups as well. She believes that was generated by the school.

Josiah asked if there is a light planned to go in by Red Apple. That is also a dangerous area for

students walking. Nelson reported that she looked into the cost for flashing light signs. It would cost about \$17,000 just to buy the signs. We don't have that in our budget. She reached out to the School District to see if they have funding or know of any grants. They don't have funds available but were going to research to see if they could find safety grants. She has not heard back from them yet. ODOT is helping them as well.

Councilor Carlson suggested students and parents attend School Board meetings to talk about these concerns as well.

Josiah said he has a cousin that attends Lewis & Clark Elementary School. He sees kids running across the street in that area. It's not safe.

Chief Moss told Josiah that the City participated in a project a few years ago called Safe Routes to School. The School Superintendent has reached out for information about that project. They will continue to work on that. Council President Morten added that the Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission was formed as a result of the Safe Routes to School project.

♦Cory Wilkerdorf. There are a lot of potholes on Old Portland Road, near the marina. He recently popped a tire on one. Can those be filled?

Nelson believes those are in the County. She will take a look and notify the County if it's in their jurisdiction.

♦Sam Bake. There are potholes on Pittsburg Road, past Trenholm. It is in the County but he does not know how to get ahold of them.

Nelson told Sam the County Road Department could be reached at 503-397-5090. Their office is located next to the Humane Society.

### **Ordinances – First Readings**

A. **Ordinance No. 3205:** An Ordinance Amending St. Helens Municipal Code Chapter 8.24 Regarding Rules and Regulations within the Off-Leash Area of McCormick Park  
Council President Morten read Ordinance No. 3205 by title for the first time. The final reading will be held at the next regular session.

### **Award Bid for Replacement of Telephone Communications System to Inflow Communications and Authorize City Administrator to Sign Contract**

**Motion:** Upon Locke's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously awarded the bid for replacement of the telephone communications system to Inflow Communications and authorized the City Administrator to sign the contract.

### **Approve and/or Authorize for Signature**

- A. Personal Services Agreement with Clayton Lance for Pro Tem Prosecutorial Services
- B. Personal Services Agreement with Nicholas Wood for Pro Tem Judicial Services
- C. Letter of Agreement with Aha Consulting, Inc. for New Website Design and Development

**Motion:** Upon Conn's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously approved 'A' through 'C' above.

### **Appointments to City Boards/Commissions**

#### **Library Board (4-year terms)**

- Casey Jolissaint is stepping down. Her term expires 6/30/2017.

**Status:** A press release was sent out on November 25 to recruit applicants. We received three applications. A subcommittee interviewed each candidate and recommends Eloise Bates be

appointed.

**Motion:** Upon Conn's motion and Locke's second, the Council unanimously appointed Eloise Bates to the Library Board. Her term will expire 6/30/2017.

#### **Consent Agenda for Acceptance**

- A. Planning Commission Minutes dated February 9, 2016
- B. Arts & Cultural Commission Minutes dated September 22, 2015 and January 26, 2016
- C. Accounts Payable Bill List
- D. Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission Minutes dated November 23, 2015

**Motion:** Upon Carlson's motion and Conn's second, the Council unanimously accepted 'A' through 'D' above.

#### **Consent Agenda for Approval**

- A. OLCC Licenses
- B. Council Work Session, Special Session and Regular Session Minutes dated February 17 and March 2, 2016
- C. Accounts Payable Bill List

**Motion:** Upon Conn's motion and Locke's second, the Council unanimously approved 'A' through 'C' above.

#### **Council Reports**

**Council President Morten** reported...

- Thanked the high school students for being here tonight. Their input is extremely important.
- We discussed putting in an RV park for visitors near the FARA building on Old Portland Road. He asked how the Council's feels about investigating the cost of installing space for 30-40 units. There were no objections from Council.

**Councilor Conn** reported...

- Nothing to report.

**Councilor Carlson** reported...

- She appreciates being included in the chili cook-off.
- Thanked City Planner Graichen for all of his hard work. The Planning Commission has had some busy hearings. They have navigated the cannabis issues well.
- Thanked the Council for allowing the World Down Syndrome Day Proclamation.

**Councilor Locke** reported...

- The Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission talked about the light at Lewis & Clark Elementary School. They are recommending we follow through with a light at the intersection.
- We have improved the parking spots in front of Wild Currant. However, there is still a clear vision issue at the intersection when a large vehicle parks there. He suggests we designate the next first parking spot as "handicap parking." Council President Morten suggested making it a parallel parking spot. Locke said that would help with vision but it would take up about three parking spaces. Councilor Carlson suggested that it be marked "compact only." Nelson will look into different options.
- Putting on his Kiwanis hat, they have named the event John talked about earlier, the St. Helens River Festival. They are planning on carrying 13 Nights over to Friday and Saturday during the weekend of the parade. They are inviting other groups and organizations to participate with an information booth. The Century Ride will also take place on that Saturday.

## **Department Reports**

### **Police Chief Moss** reported...

- Coffee with a Cop will be held Friday, March 25, between 8-9am at Starbucks.
- CIT Coordinator interviews will take place tomorrow and next week.

### **Public Works Engineering Director Nelson** reported...

- Nothing to report.

### **Library Director Jeffries** reported...

- Next week is Spring Break. Lego Play Day will be held Wednesday, March 23 at noon.
- The Last Thursday Art Walk will be held on Thursday, March 31. It is a joint program of SHEDCO, the Columbia Arts Guild and the Visitors Center. They are providing maps beginning at the Courthouse. You have several hours to go from the Courthouse to the Chamber to view art collections. The Library is a stop along the way. One of our Library Board members will have her art on display in the Library.

Council President Morten heard accolades from KOHI commending the City Talk presentation with Jeffries and Conn. Both acknowledged that they were surprised to find that it was fun.

### **Finance Director Ellis** reported...

- The first Budget Committee meeting is Thursday, April 7 at 6 p.m.
- The phone process is moving forward. He reviewed the project timeline.

### **City Recorder Payne** reported...

- Nothing to report.

### **City Administrator Walsh** reported...


- Earlier this evening we had a public forum on the relocation and possible replacement of the gazebo in Columbia View Park. It was good to receive public input. It ties into a larger discussion about the waterfront development. The City has been working on the area-wide planning grant, which is an EPA federally funded grant. The next working committee meeting is March 29 from 3-5pm. There will be an open house held in April.
- An application was submitted for an EPA community wide assessment. They are waiting to receive the results.
- Last week, a TGM grant application was submitted. It continues the transportation design from the intersection of S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, through the Veneer property, up Plymouth Street and back to Highway 30. The Plymouth Street and Old Portland Road intersection comes up repeatedly as one that needs to be improved.
- We are still working with our event planner on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July preparations.

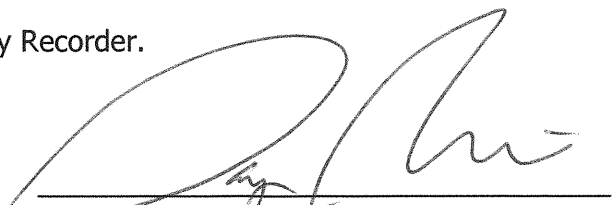
**Adjourn** - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

  
Doug Morten, Council President