

# City of St. Helens

## CITY COUNCIL

Regular Session Minutes

July 19, 2017

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

**Staff Present:** John Walsh, City Administrator  
Matt Brown, Finance Director  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director  
Jacob Graichen, City Planner  
Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner  
Neal Sheppard, PW Operations Director  
Sue Nelson, PW Engineering Director

**Others:** Nicole Thill                      Steve Topaz                      Lorelei Juntunen  
Garrett Stevenson                      Antonia Doggett                      Carmin Dunn  
Jim Wilson



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

**Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Scholl**

### **Invitation to Citizens for Public Comment**

♦ Antonia Doggett. She works at the St. Helens Marina. There is a serious problem with transients living on boats at the docks.

- St. Helens used to be a boating destination and now the boaters and yacht clubs don't want to come here anymore. They've tried talking to the City about it but nothing happens.
- There are three sunk boats in the channel. They were stripped and parts sold.
- Have seen boats towed and left at Sand Island or on the channel.
- The Sheriff's office says they can't do anything because of the 14 day dock limit. This is going to run off everyone else.
- There is a dumped sail boat on Sand Island with no registration.
- Transients are charging people for rides to the island and the Marina staff goes to pick them up because there's no other way back.
- The bathrooms on the island were vandalized last year.
- The intent of the docks is for boaters to enjoy coming to St. Helens and not be harassed, intimidated, and worry about leaving their boat to be ransacked.
- Gas is being siphoned and stolen.
- Boaters do not feel safe.
- Enforcement should be required.
- You have to nip this in the bud now or you'll lose the waterfront.

Staff explained that you are allowed up to 10 days in a month but only five consecutive days.

Antonia encouraged staff to follow-up when warnings are given. These transient boaters consider themselves to be pirates.

Public Works Operations Director Sheppard has spoken with the State Marine Board about the problem. The transients are coming from Portland. It is being handled by the State Police but it's obviously not solving the problem.

Council President Morten is glad that Antonia is here to talk about this. It has to be fixed and Council has the power to do so. He directed staff to work with Antonia, Brad, the Police Chief, and the Sheriff to come up with an Ordinance to fix this.

Council thanked Antonia for reporting the problem.

♦Carmin Dunn. She attended the last meeting about the proposed subdivision. She asked if the Council has brainstormed ideas to ensure that greenspace in developments and sidewalks on Vernonia are not forgotten.

Councilor Locke said it has been discussed and is a priority.

Carmin talked about the awesome stuffed animal sleepover at the Library. She hopes they continue to do that.

### **Deliberations**

**Applicant:** City of St. Helens

**Request:** Approval of St. Helens Urban Renewal Plan

Mayor Scholl said this is a good thing and a step in the right direction. It's a long-term plan and will take time.

Councilor Locke said the timing is good for this now.

Council President Morten agreed with the timing. He likes the flexibility. The accusation of not trusting the Council is false. This process has included community input and positive feedback.

Councilor Conn believes that the open process and good leadership has really helped.

Councilor Carlson appreciates Walsh's effort to include the public from the beginning. That's why there is minimal questions today.

City Administrator Walsh agreed that a lot of work has been done to get to this point. It has built trust from the affected agencies. A concern was raised about the makeup of the Board. The Board was created in 2008. The makeup simplifies the meeting and decision process. He does agree that it's important to have the stakeholders remain close.

**Motion:** Upon Conn's motion and Morten's second, the Council unanimously moved to adopt the St. Helens Urban Renewal Plan.

### **Ordinances – First Readings**

- A. **Ordinance No. 3217:** An Ordinance Making Certain Determinations and Findings Relating to and Approving the St. Helens Urban Renewal Plan and Directing that Notice of Approval be Published

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3217 by title for the first time. The final reading will be held at the next regular session.

### **Resolutions**

A. **Resolution No. 1793:** A Resolution to Appoint a Presiding Municipal Court Judge  
Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1793 by title. **Motion:** Upon Locke's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 1793. [Ayes: Locke, Carlson, Conn, Morten, Scholl; Nays: None]

B. **Resolution No. 1794:** 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. 1794 by title. **Motion:** Upon Locke's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 1794. [Ayes: Locke, Carlson, Conn, Morten, Scholl; Nays: None]

### **Award Purchase of Parks Mower to Chinook Sales & Rentals**

**Motion:** Upon Morten's motion and Conn's second, the Council unanimously awarded the purchase of the parks mower to Chinook Sales & Rentals in the amount of \$11,969.00.

### **Award Contract for 2017 HMAC Overlay & Paving Project to TFT Construction, Inc.**

**Motion:** Upon Morten's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously awarded the contract for the 2017 Hot Mix Asphaltic Concrete (HMAC) Overlay & Paving Project to TFT Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$367,388.56.

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

- A. Personal Services Agreement with Cindy Phillips for Judicial Services
- B. Personal Services Agreement with Clayton Lance for Prosecutorial Services
- C. Outcall Notification and Alerting Services Letter Agreement with Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District for Columbia Alert Network System Participation
- D. [RATIFY] Contract with Duke's Root Control, Inc. for Sanitary Sewer De-Rooting Project
- E. Contract Payments

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

### **Consent Agenda for Acceptance**

- A. Library Board Minutes dated April 18 and May 16, 2017
- B. Planning Commission Minutes dated June 13, 2017
- C. Accounts Payable Bill List

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

### **Consent Agenda for Approval**

- A. Declare Surplus Property
  - i. Two Police Vehicles
  - ii. Police Car Light Bars, Sirens and Control Boxes
  - iii. WWTP Equipment
- B. Exclusive Use Permit: Coed Softball @ McCormick Park Fields 1&2, June 6 – October 22
- C. Street Closure: Pride Parade, August 12, Close Milton Way from Dubois Lane to St. Helens Street, Close Columbia Blvd. from Milton Way to 1<sup>st</sup> Street, and Close 1<sup>st</sup> Street from Columbia Blvd. to Cowlitz Street
- D. OLCC License
- E. Accounts Payable Bill List

Discussion. Councilor Locke asked if Coed Softball gets the fields any time they want them during those dates? City Recorder pointed out their designated times.

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

### **Council Reports**

**Mayor Scholl** reported...

- Citizens Day in the Park is August 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11 a.m.
  - car show
  - free food donated by local businesses
  - DJ services
  - 200 free Frisbees
  - other play equipment

**Councilor Locke** reported...

- Reporting for Chief Moss while he attends the International Association of Chiefs of Police Institute for Youth Engagement.
  - Approximately 30 people applied for the police officer position. Twelve candidates will be interviewed on Monday.
  - Waiting for a car purchased during last year's budget to get lights and sirens.
  - Two cars ordered this year are at St. Helens Auto Center.
  - Body cameras arrived last week.
  - Sgt. Molden is on short term disability.
  - Applied for the school resource officer grant.
  - Anthony Boswell will be graduating from the academy soon.
- He got in trouble at the Boise plant today for passing through Cascade's property. He was showing the new tenants the training center and that's the only way to access it.
- Cascade has a new CEO.
- PGE came out to the Boise property yesterday and discovered that the electricity can't be split as it is now. It will take 9 months to a year.
- Council President Morten asked Locke to keep the Council and staff informed about the property.
- Suggested that the Building Official or another staff person take on the duty of compliance officer for the Boise property. Things are disappearing and he has no idea what's happening there.

**Councilor Carlson** reported...

- Planning Commission has had a lot of late nights and reviewed a lot of new development. She appreciates them. They're volunteers and have to make tough decisions for our community.
- Relay for Life is July 29. It's a one-day event this year.
- Columbia County Fair opened today.

**Council President Morten** reported...

- He really liked that the new chair and vice chair reported for the Parks Commission today. Rotating chairs and vice chairs builds leadership skills.
- They heard testimony during the work session and tonight about the need for sidewalks and safe passage. Staff is moving forward on improvements.
- He encouraged communication with kids to volunteer in the park system.
- He received a call from Wayne Weigandt wanting to meet with him. Locke's action is a bad reflection on the Council. It was very admiral that Locke apologized. Morten would like the

Council to write a letter saying those things won't happen again.

- When a decision is made going against the norm, he would like to make sure the entire Council is involved in the decision process.

**Councilor Conn** reported...

- She was in California attending her son-in-law's retirement from law enforcement after 28 years.
- She attended the swearing in of the new District Attorney. She believes he will do a great job.
- The Fair is this week.
- The Library Board just rotated their officers.

### **Department Reports**

**City Planner Graichen** reported...

- He began working here right before the great recession hit. He could see how the activity was with the last boom. It's de ja vu now. He is grateful to have an associate planner.

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

- Thanked Jenny and Lorelei for their great work on the Urban Renewal Plan.

**Public Works Operations Director Sheppard** reported...

- Agreed with Nelson.

**Library Director Jeffries** reported...

- Nothing to report.

**Finance Director Brown** reported...

- He encouraged the Council to watch the two soda tax videos he emailed them, since they didn't work earlier today. They give perspectives from both sides. He also encouraged the Council to research other cities who have a soda tax.
- A study was done reporting how many tickets are written, how many officers we have, and the population. There was one idea to hire an additional officer with the understanding that a portion of their time would be spent more on enforcement, writing tickets, and traffic. Concurrence of Council for Brown to return with more information.

**City Recorder Payne** reported...

- She has been here for over 16 years. She has never seen such quality in our Council, staff, and hiring consultants. We have stellar staff in all departments. Good leadership is important. She is proud to be part of the City.

**City Administrator Walsh** reported...

- Kudos to the Urban Renewal Plan moving forward. It will make great things happen for our community.
- The concern about the docks is fairly alarming but he has heard it before. It's a pretty powerful statement for a yachting club to say they won't come here anymore. The City of Portland is able to clear their docks when the clubs come in. We don't seem to have that same type of ability but would like to pursue that possibility. Council President Morten suggested it be done with permits. Nelson added that the Marine Board does not allow the City to issue permits and reservations for the docks. We are not allowed to make people leave that are legally allowed to be there. Council would like Nelson to approach the Marine Board to see if that's changed in light of recent problems. Discussion ensued.

**Other Business**

Council concurred to hold a soda tax public forum on October 6.

**Adjourn** - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

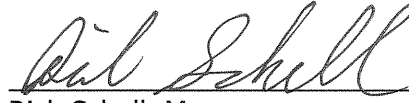


Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:



Kathy Payne, City Recorder



Rick Scholl, Mayor