

# City of St. Helens City Council

Work Session

April 4, 2018

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

**Members Absent:** Councilor Ginny Carlson

**Staff Present:** John Walsh, City Administrator  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Matt Brown, Finance Director  
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director  
Jacob Graichen, City Planner  
Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner  
Tina Curry, Event Manager

**Others:**

Herb Bailey	Mitzi Ponce
Chelsea Paschke	Darryl Swan
Joe Wonderlick	Erik Jensen
Lea Tillotson	Beth Pulito
Steve Topaz	Julie Thompson

- 1) **Call Work Session to Order - 1:00 p.m.**
- 2) **Visitor Comments - Limited to five (5) minutes per speaker**
  - ♦ Erik Jensen, local sculptor. He proposed an idea to erect a statue of Lewis and Clark's Newfoundland dog, Seaman. He asked what the process was for the art on the Highway. He also asked what the ground is like on the Waterfront property.

Councilor Conn and Library Director Jeffries explained the art funding and Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Councilor Locke said the ground near the river is predominantly fill. City Planner Graichen said a geotech report would be needed to know the full extent of what is there.

- ♦ Steve Topaz. He talked about toxic waste leaving the Armstrong plant. If we have a toxic waste dump here, St. Helens would be required to have an insurance policy to guard against the toxic waste failing and flowing into the river. Do we have an insurance policy if the cooling lagoon failed?

City Administrator Walsh responded that the City has a general liability policy, which would cover that.

- ◆ Beth Pulito, Amani Center. They are holding a race on April 21. She is here to answer any questions the Council has about the Street Closure application.

There were no concerns from the Council. It is on tonight's agenda for approval.

3) **Discussion Topics**

3.A Proposed Rates Increase for Garbage & Recycling Services - Hudson Garbage

Herb Bailey and Joe Wonderlick of Hudson Garbage were in attendance to speak about the recycling crisis. Recycling materials are sent to China. Last summer, China dramatically changed the quality standards of what they accept. It has been a major disruption with sorting. The increase in costs have affected all of the west coast. They are proposing to pass their increased cost on to rate payers.

Council encouraged Hudson Garbage to increase public education of accepted recycling items.

3.B City of St. Helens/St. Helens School District Recreation Collaboration - Matt Finance Director Brown reviewed the proposal. He distributed a draft summer schedule of activities, draft intergovernmental agreement, and a draft survey for citizens to respond with what types of programs they would participate in. The City and School District share a goal to create a better community. The recreation collaboration would help them work together. Associate Planner Jenny Dimsho applied for a \$25,000 grant through the Ford Family Foundation to partially fund the first year and the proposed part-time staff member. He hopes to hear back by May.

Council President Morten invited Brown to speak to the Parks Commission about the proposal at next week's meeting.

3.C Letter of Request from Greater St. Helens Park and Recreation District  
Finance Director Brown reviewed the letter he received from the Greater St. Helens Park and Recreation District. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet. They are requesting reconsideration of the utility bill charges.

After discussion, the Council was in concurrence to continue discussions with the District, emphasizing the need to change their name. At this time, Council President Morten and Mayor Scholl are not in favor of giving up Civic Pride Park.

3.D Discussion Regarding Property on Millard Road - Mayor Scholl  
City Planner Graichen reviewed the zoning map and allowed uses. Based on surrounding zoning, he recommends rezoning it from Public Lands to Moderate Residential (R7) or General Residential (R5).

Council President Morten expressed his safety concerns with traffic turning from Millard Road onto Highway 30. Graichen reported that ODOT does have a plan to install a traffic signal at that intersection.

Councilor Locke asked if this zone change could be done simultaneously with the Kaster Road zone change. Graichen urged against them being done at the same time.

3.E Review Bid Invitation for Timber Sale - John  
City Administrator Walsh reviewed the bid invitation. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet. Council concurred.

4) **Department Reports**

4.A Administration / Community Development Department Report

Library Director Jeffries reported...

- Requested Council waive the public hearing requirement for placement of a small Arts & Cultural Commission bike rack. It is proposed to go in front of the Columbia Feed & Seed, which will soon be the location of the Columbia Pacific Food Bank. Councilor Locke emphasized the need for the donation plaque to specify that it's a bike rack because of its artistic appearance. Council President Morten was opposed to waiving the public hearing requirement.
- Submitted a grant in partnership with Scappoose Public Library. She hopes to hear back in late July.
- She will be hosting representatives from the Dollywood Foundation and the James and Shirley Rippey Family Foundation on Monday, April 16. They will be talking to interested parties in Columbia County about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The program provides one book per month to children ages 0-5. The cost is \$25/month per child. Studies show that kindergartners who have these books in their home are better prepared to read when they begin school. The James and Shirley Rippey Family Foundation is willing to sponsor half the cost for the first three years. Jeffries is looking for additional sponsors to cover the cost.
- The Library holds an annual recognition event for volunteers, Library Board, Friends of the Library, and Library partners. It will be held Friday, April 13.
- The Youth Librarian held the first Make It! 3D Printing & Vinyl Cutting session. It was good to see the team work between participants and high school students. The next session will be held April 9.

Finance Director Brown reported...

- Public Hearing tonight for the supplemental budget.
- Utility Billing is now generating monthly billing. Kudos to staff for their work to make it happen.
- Will present a Court report at the next meeting.
  - RFP's for Judge and Prosecutor are due by April 13.
  - They are in need of court-appointed attorneys. We pay a considerable amount less than Scappoose. He will have more information at the next meeting.
- Attended a bankruptcy court hearing for Bing's Restaurant this morning. Bing's will now be handled by a trustee to liquidate the property. The restaurant could possibly stay open. Brown hopes to see a conclusion and sale.

Events Coordinator Tina Curry reported...

- Responded to the little girl who contacted us about Sally, who lives in Spirit of Halloweentown.
- Considering a campaign to encourage people to send letters to their favorite Halloween characters.
- Festival of the Fairies
  - Tickets available online.

- Received fairy boxes.
- Small fairy doors will be placed around town as part of a scavenger hunt.
- Wauna Credit Union sign to be painted and hung.
- Free event parking on the Waterfront property and tickets to the museum.
- Cleanup is being done on S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street to beautify the downtown.
- Asked Council if businesses can post signs that parking is for customers only.
  - Council concurred as long as they meet sign regulations.
- Waterfront Development postcards have been distributed to downtown businesses.
- Appreciates questions being routed directly to her when someone is unsure of the answer.
- Thanked new sponsors:
  - Running Dogs Brewery
  - Cascadia
  - Port of St. Helens
  - Hudson Garbage – will have recycling stations during 13 Nights on the River.
  - Dino Nobel
- An AirBnB workshop will be held on April 10.
- Requested to move the bike rack that's located in front of Wild Currant over to the free parking area. Council concurred.
- Cascadia Home Loans and Hit Machine will be promoting donations for 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Working on a new area map to hopefully be ready in time for the Festival of the Fairies.
- Talked about an idea for coasters that would be given to yachters when they visited downtown restaurants.

City Recorder Payne reported...

- Council typically does not meet on the first Wednesday in July and August. Do they want to do that this year? Council concurred.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- The downtown merchants have been negatively impacted by the loss of boaters visiting St. Helens due to the transient boaters harassing and stealing from them. Code enforcement has been enhanced. The yacht clubs have been notified. Councilor Locke suggested charging a fee to stay overnight. It would reduce the transient problems. Walsh will return with a proposal.
- Armstrong is closing on May 31. The City will be impacted by local residents losing their jobs, Urban Renewal Agency, utility funds, and the tax base. He's sorry to see them go.
- Serving on two League of Oregon Cities committees. Affordable housing has been a hot topic.
- The Building Official recruitment has been posted and is open until filled.
- The Building Department is very busy right now. They are doing everything they can to move things along.
- Elaborated on the tax process for the AirBnB workshop Tina mentioned.
- Working on grant funding for various City projects. Focusing on the Waterfront boardwalk right now.

5) **Council Reports**

Councilor Locke reported...

- Met with a Cascades representative about the clarifier. The parts should be in next week and hopefully running in May. They are working on site improvements.
- Met with ACSP last week. They are moving ahead.

Councilor Conn reported...

- Arts & Cultural Commission
  - Working on a budget to propose for next year.
  - Aligning their mission with the City's.
  - Making their meetings shorter and more effective.
  - Unanimous recommendation to approve the Veteran's Plaza.
  - Discussed the picnic table painting.

Council President Morten reported...

- Parks Commission has a full agenda for next Monday.
  - Proposal to lease Sand Island for camping.
  - Picnic table painting.
- Six vacancies on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission. He proposes to combine them with the Parks Commission. No objections from Council.

Mayor Scholl reported...


- SHEDCO Clean-Up Day is in April.
- He is receiving positive feedback about the ferry to cross the river.

6) **Other Business**

7) **Adjourn – 3:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:



Kathy Payne, City Recorder



Rick Scholl, Mayor