

City of St. Helens

City Council

Work Session

August 15, 2018

Members Present: Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Doug Morten
Councilor Ginny Carlson
Councilor Susan Conn

Members Absent: Councilor Keith Locke

Staff Present: Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Crystal Farnsworth, Communications Officer
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
John Walsh, City Administrator
Sue Nelson, Public Works Engineering Director
Neal Sheppard, Public Works Operations Director
Brian Greenway, Police Chief
Riki Thompson, Municipal Court Clerk
Amy Lindgren, Municipal Court Judge

Others:	David Sazer	Greg Ziel	Howard Blumenthal
	Lonna Lee	Willow Bill	M. Mikloff
	Nancy Whitney	Marc Shultz	Winn Shultz
	Simon Date	Ken Forcier	Patrick Trapp
	Kannikar Petersen	Nicole Thill	Julie Thompson
	Al Petersen	Steve Topaz	

1) **Call Work Session to Order - 1:00 p.m.**

2) **Swearing In of New Police Chief Brian Greenway**

Municipal Court Judge Amy Lindgren swore in new Police Chief Brian Greenway. Welcome aboard, Chief Greenway!

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

- ◆ Ken Forcier. He supports displaying the Flying Eagle canoe as public art. He would like to honor the children who helped carve the canoe by recognizing them with their first name and first initial of last name.
- ◆ Nancy Whitney. She talked about the hazards of the fence on Strand Street. It's removal is necessary for the survival of the trees. Someone is paying \$3,000 every six months for rental of the fence. [Public Works Operations Director Sheppard interjected and said the only fence being rented is during the Festival of the Fairies.] Nancy suggests taking down the fence, clearing it out, and replace with cement barriers. People have to walk down the middle of the street to get to the gate.

- ◆ Willow Bill. He talked about the Willow Ranger project that takes place in northern Nevada. It is currently sponsored by the governor and consumes nearly 45,000 children. Their names are signed on public artwork spanning 65 miles up and down Highway 395. It's added to each year. No one steals it or vandalizes it.
- ◆ Kannikar Petersen. She served the City Council with a summons.
- ◆ Steve Topaz. He has a question for Finance Director Brown. On July 1, 2017, the Governor signed HB2950, giving St. Helens \$1,544,500 to redo and update the Veneer property and redevelop the Portland Harbor by moving sludge from the Harbor. How much of that money has been spent and how much is in reserve? And what has it been spent on?

Finance Director Brown responded that he will need time to research and can have those numbers available at tonight's meeting. City Administrator Walsh added that that was a request for funding. It did not get funded.

- ◆ Jerry Belcher. He is a member of the Parks and Trails Commission. The subcommittee is proposing an urban trail. They've run into an issue that has to be resolved. The Parks & Trails Master Plan includes an overview of 18 different trails. They are proposing to add a St. Helens historic riverfront district trail of two loops. There are different trail classifications. He talked about the issue with a possible easement obstruction on S. 3rd Street. They are requesting an attorney review section three of Ordinance No. 3163 and give advice for the urban trail. Trails are important to the community.
- ◆ Howard Blumenthal. He talked about the complication with the right-of-way issue on S. 3rd Street. He is very much in favor of walking trails and encouraged the City to add to them.

4) **Discussion Topics**

4.B Request from Willow Bill Regarding a Plaque in Columbia View Park

A copy of the request is available in the archive meeting packet.

- ◆ Lonna Lee. Her two grandsons, Clayton & Elijah Wuolett, helped make the Flying Eagle canoe. Clayton had the honor of helping paddle the canoe to St. Helens as part of the Lewis and Clark commemorative. He told her that he left a boy and came back a man. They have both helped restore the canoe and paddle it on the Mississippi River.
- ◆ Mark Shultz. Two weeks ago he had an experience he will not soon forget. His son's band, Silver Hill, played a benefit at Running Dogs Brewery. Afterward, they took a ride in the canoe around Sand Island. He strongly recommends making the Flying Eagle a permanent fixture in St. Helens. He envisions a case down by the waterfront made of thick acrylic plastic with a plaque identifying it. In the summertime, it could be opened up and available for people to ride it.
- ◆ Willow Bill. He attended the Parks Commission meeting to request their support to place the canoe and case in Columbia View Park. They would like it to include the names of children on the wall who helped build it. He pointed out the eagles on the Wauna Federal Credit Union.
- ◆ Howard Blumenthal. He has done a few sessions with Willow Bill and has helped with carving the canoe. It makes you have more appreciation of what Lewis and Clark went

through. It's an outrageous thing to paddle. It's one of the most beautiful things around. He would like to see it to have more public exposure and more time on the water.

- ♦ Winn Shultz. He recommends the plaque include history about the canoe in addition to the names.

Mayor Scholl expressed his appreciation of the canoe and the work that's been put into it. The Council has discussed it multiple times. Willow Bill responded that he has heard the Council talk about it for 12 years. That's too long.

4.A Visit from South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Director Simon Date
Simon distributed and reviewed his presentation agenda. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet.

4.C 4th Quarter Communications Report - Crystal
Communications Officer Crystal Farnsworth reviewed her Communications report. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet.

4.D Review Parks Capital Improvement Projects List - Matt
Finance Director Matt Brown reviewed the project list. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet. He will keep the Council updated on the status of projects.

4.E Request from Library for Columbia Learning Center Building Improvements - Margaret
Library Director Margaret Jeffries reviewed her request. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet. Council was in consensus to charge \$15,580 to the Library Building Fund for work associated with exterior painting, lighting, security cameras, sidewalk, and sprinkler test and remediation.

5) **Department Reports**

Chief Greenway reported...

- The grant for CIT Coordinator Brianne Mares expires in September. A request to extend it a year has been submitted.
- Seann Luedke has been selected as the second school resource officer.
- Lemonade with the Law will be held August 28 at Burgerville.
- He is seeking a venue to hold "First Tuesday." He will meet with the public to talk about crime prevention. It's a great way to meet the community and them to meet each other.

Public Works Engineering Director Nelson reported...

- Project out for bid to re-align the 10th Street storm pump station and turn it into a gravity pump station.

Public Works Operations Director Sheppard reported...

- Public Works employee Scott Jauron took a position at the City of Scappoose. That resulted in a job opening.
- A huge oak tree fell and took out powerlines. Power went out for much of St. Helens. Mayor Scholl gave kudos to Public Works and Columbia River PUD staff for acting fast.

Library Director Jeffries reported...

- August has been a month of painting.

- Street striping.
 - Columbia Center exterior painting.
 - Partnership with the Arts & Cultural Commission and 4H to paint a mural behind the Olde School.
 - Painting the book drops will be happening soon.
- The work Youth Librarian Gretchen Kolderup has done with STEM programs is going to be used as a pilot in the tri-county area. Funding is being sought from the State.

Finance Director Brown reported...

- Hope to have a decision next month for new finance software.
- The new judge and prosecutor is working well with staff. It's a nice change.
- NW Regional ESD has contacted the Recreation Program about holding a Parent Café once a month. The Recreation Program would coordinate activities for children while their parents attend current topic discussions. ESD will be providing dinner to families. No objections from Council to sign the contract.
- Have been talking to the School District about an after-school program at Lewis & Clark Elementary School. The school will provide the facility and the Recreation Program will operate the program. It will be a paid service. It creates a dedicated funding source for the program. A part-time employee will need to be hired to provide the service. Council President Morten would like to see registration and fees coming in before hiring someone. Mayor Scholl added that an agreement needs to be in place as well. Brown confirmed that an IGA will need to be signed. Discussion ensued.
- The Recreation Program has been very successful. Repairs need to be made to the FARA building to make it usable for the program. They are looking at grants to fund the repairs. Associate Planner Jenny Dimsho applied for a grant yesterday. He would like to take time to talk to the Council about the future of the program and make sure they're all on the same page. There was discussion about holding a joint meeting with the School Board. Council President Morten emphasized the need to include the public in discussing the funding of the program.

City Recorder Payne reported...

- She and Deputy City Recorder Scholl will be attending the OAMR Conference on September 19, so will not be at the Council meetings. Communications Officer Farnsworth will be covering.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- Welcome Chief Greenway!
- Welcome Simon Date! He looks forward to the new relationship.
- Submitted the BUILD Grant application. It's a \$15 million federal grant to develop the Waterfront property.
- The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) made funding available for communities to update their housing needs analysis. The City's was last done in the 1990's. An application was submitted and approved.
- Participating in the County-wide tourism initiative. Last night's meeting was fairly well attended.
- Event Manager Tina Curry is out of town.
 - The Spirit of Halloweentown agenda is available but is constantly being updated.
 - The parade is back on the agenda.
- St. Helens Auto Center has requested to use the parking area by FARA or the mill for a one-day sale. Council concurred.

6) Council Reports

Councilor Carlson reported...

- Excited about new opportunities.
- The presence of the new Chief has put her mind at ease.
- She and Locke delivered some appreciation goodies to the officers.
- Planning Commission has been very busy this summer.
- The Violette's Villa property is being developed.
- The Youth Council sold more reflectors at Citizens Day in the Park than they have sold at any other event. There are two new Youth Council members who are very shy but they did a good job selling.

Councilor Conn reported...

- They have applied for a CIT grant extension. They just completed their 10th or 11th session. CIT gives instruction on how to safely de-escalate people in mental health crisis.
- The next Arts & Cultural Commission meeting will discuss their future direction as the Chair recently resigned.
- She and Farnsworth attended tourism stakeholder interviews. She looks forward to community tourism and where that leads.
- The Columbia County Suicide Prevention Team has been meeting. They are making efforts to bring sources of strength and additional programs. They will also be participating in the Walk Out of Darkness suicide prevention walk on September 22 at Scappoose Middle School.
- Had a great Citizens Day in the Park. It's a good annual feature. People enjoy it.
- Welcome, Chief Greenway!

Council President Morten reported...

- Had a wonderful Citizens Day in the Park. Thank you to the Council and Mayor for the enthusiasm. It felt good to work together and communicate with the public.
- Welcome, Chief Greenway!
- It was good to hear from Simon.
- Congratulations to Patrick Trapp for his recent appointment to the Port Commission! He would like to continue the positive relationship.
- Public Works has been busy during the hot days.
- Received reports of trees blocking the signs heading north on Highway 30.
- Nancy Whitney brought up a concern about the fence on Strand Street. Public Works Operations Director Sheppard reported that the only fence rented was for Fairyland. The fence along Strand Street was not rented. Replacing the fence with barricades would reduce control during special events.
- Heard complaints about a car parking in the handicap space in front of Big River Bistro. It sits there all day and night and never moves. There's no time limitation. Public Works Engineering Director Nelson received a complaint about that. She clarified that there are two handicap spaces in the area. There is no time limitation on one but there is a time limitation on the other. There are nearby residences that need the handicap spaces. The code enforcement officer will be investigating it.
- Parks Commissioner Jerry Belcher reported on trail connectivity. He requested it be added as an action item for staff to work on. Councilor Carlson would like it to be City-wide and consistent.

- Recommendation from the Parks Commission for the northern end of the Millard Road property to be designated as parks. They recommend the southern portion be zoned mixed use with a care facility and assisted living facility. Trail connectivity is a perfect fit with those uses.
- Finance Director Brown reviewed a parks project list. Morten would like the Council to consider Willow Bill's request with that list. He recommends the Arts & Cultural Commission adopt the canoe as an art object into their inventory. He would like to maintain flexibility for the case to display the canoe. Mayor Scholl was skeptical about moving forward with placement of the canoe until they had plans in place for the Waterfront property. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Scholl reported...

- Had a good time at the Oregon Mayor's Conference. He has ideas to bring back to the Council.
- Citizens Day in the Park was very successful. They had fun even in the rain. He thanked the sponsors: Walmart, Highway 30 Cruisers, Stan's Refrigeration, Skinny's, Chubb's, Safeway, IGA Market Fresh, Sunshine Pizza, Hudson Garbage, Dutch Bros., and Napa. Thank you to the Police Department, Fire Department, and National Guard for attending. He appreciates their contributions. He sees potential for it to grow even more. It was good seeing City officials participating and the Recreation Program coordinating activities.
- It's been an exhausting month.

7) **Other Business**

- ♦ Patrick Trapp. He has had a great relationship working with the City. He was honored to be appointed to the Port Board of Commissioners. He welcomes any comments, concerns, or issues. He informed the Council that the St. Helens Kiwanis Club will have a walking team participating in the Portland to Coast.

8) **Adjourn** – 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:


Kathy Payne, City Recorder


Rick Scholl, Mayor