

City of St. Helens City Council

Regular Session Minutes

November 7, 2018

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: John Walsh, City Administrator
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Joe Hogue, Police Lieutenant
Sue Nelson, Public Works Engineering Director
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Jacob Graichen, City Planner

Others:	Tara Anderson	James Willard	Cade Duarte
	Madi Flores	Karli Cupp	Daniel Suon
	Regan Hastings	Avery Gatlin	Brady Bates
	Kaylee Ruff	Ben Torres	Connor Koelzer
	Karen Oyler	MaKinzie Nelson	Chad Miller
	F. Brandon	Gretchen Witt	Destinee Ryder
	Jacob Ercey	Christopher B.	Art Leskowich
	Kruze Katzenmeyer	Elizabeth Gonzalez	Weston Miller
	Alex Miller	Maddie Fuller	Shauna Harrison
	Chris Marsh	Steve Topaz	

- 1) **Call Regular Session to Order - 7:00 p.m.**
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3) **Visitor Comments - Limited to five (5) minutes per speaker**
 - ◆ James Willard. He lives at the corner of Cowlitz and Strand. There is not enough parking with both apartment complexes there. Code Enforcement has started giving tickets to vehicles parked longer than two hours. There are over 40 residents and only 19 parking spaces. He asked if there is a residential parking pass exempting them from parking limits.

Discussion of parking options. The businesses have also complained about lack of parking because people living in the area are parking there all day. Council reminded James that there is unlimited parking available across from the theater. It was the consensus of the Council to not issue parking tickets the rest of this week to give them time to look into it. Mayor Scholl will contact the building owner.

- ♦ Destinee Ryder. Distributed copies of emails and social media correspondence from Finance Director Brown. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet. Destinee asked what the hours are for Finance Director Brown.

Mayor Scholl responded that he is salary. Destinee went on to ask what the social media policy is for staff during work hours. Mayor Scholl is not aware of one. Destinee suggested they look into it. It's ridiculous what employees post on social media during work hours. Requesting minutes was a simple Google search. She addressed Brown about bullying and asking questions on social media. No one on the Council has requested meeting minutes from her and she's the SHEDCO secretary. Mayor Scholl told Destinee to address the Council and not Brown. Brown tried calling and emailing with no response. Social media was the only way he was able to make contact with SHEDCO for copies of minutes.

Destinee said she has come to Council multiple times to try to work together. They are written into each other's bylaws and goals. The Council allowed an outsider to come in and create so much of a friction that she's now angry at the City because neither one is benefitting the community. Mayor Scholl argued that he gave SHEDCO an opportunity two years ago to bypass the person mentioned and come directly to the Council and they chose not to. After a recent Planning Commission meeting, Scholl talked to SHEDCO Chair Al Petersen about the drama needing to stop and Al responded that it's not going to. Scholl attended several SHEDCO meetings and the only one from the Board who attended was Al. The meeting locations are not advertised.

Destinee said that nonprofits are not required to provide copies of meeting minutes. Finance Director Brown read a response from the attorney about the meeting minutes. She is correct about nonprofits not having to provide meeting minutes. However, there is an exception because they are providing a government function in lieu of the government, based on the bylaws she read earlier. Minutes have to be provided to the City because of the affiliation. Destinee argued that they are not affiliated. Scholl argued that she earlier stated that they are.

Councilor Carlson talked about perception and ethics. Council needs to look into the social media policy. She hopes they can still have good conversations in the midst of disagreement. Councilor Conn agreed with having civil discussions.

Discussion ensued about the relationship between SHEDCO and the City. Destinee presented a study conducted by the State of Oregon Mainstreet Program. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet. They are not trying to hurt the City. They're following their bylaws.

Destinee spoke about her children last time she addressed the City. There was an email from a City event planner to Kimberly Brown's agent saying that Destinee only volunteers so her children can meet celebrities. David is no longer here because he feels disrespected sitting in here. Mayor Scholl said the event planner does not speak for the Council. Destinee said Tina treats everyone horribly. It's not acceptable. It was printed in the Spotlight. Mayor Scholl questioned how it got printed in the Spotlight. It was a confidential correspondence between the City and Kimberly's agent. It never should have been made public. City Administrator Walsh pointed out that the agent sent it to the Spotlight.

Mayor Scholl talked about it being a circle. He talked about the bigger projects the City has going on. He doesn't have time to keep trying to fix the SHEDCO connection. He apologized to Destinee. He thought she was coming in representing SHEDCO. He appreciates nonprofits.

Destinee respects the Council. One step in the right direction would be recognizing what SHEDCO has done. She would like their app added to the website. They have asked Council to come when awards are won and they don't show up. We need to show the community we're working together. Mayor Scholl talked about relationships being give and take. He showed up and wasn't even acknowledged. He has a lot going on. He suggested a break from each other. She's willing if City staff would stop questioning them.

- ◆ Gretchen Witt. She wanted to make it clear that she is no longer part of SHEDCO. She urged Council to form a social media policy for their employees. She would not allow her employees to do what was done on company time.

Mayor Scholl apologized for associating Gretchen with SHEDCO.

Gretchen hates the fighting and wants to end the drama. It's a great idea for the City and SHEDCO to take a break. She wants to be seen as someone who has moved on.

Finance Director Brown pointed out for the record that the letterhead in emails is in response to a question from Al Petersen.

- ◆ Shauna Harrison.
 - Congratulations to those elected.
 - This has been an interesting night.
 - Suggested arbitration for the City and SHEDCO to move on in a functional manner. Spirit of Halloweentown suffered greatly because of the strain.
 - Need to hold employees and contractors to a higher standard. Involving children should be grounds for dismal or ending a contract.
 - She would like someone to look into the possibility of having rural areas vote for City officials. She's going to do some more research and report back.
 - She talked about the need for parking permits where there is little off-street parking. People could pay a nominal fee.
 - The cross talk during visitor comments can be beneficial but the Council needs to help visitors stay within the five minute limit. It's about everyone working together. She expressed her disappointment with how the City and SHEDCO communicated.
- ◆ Art Leskovich. He attended a meeting a couple years ago and suggested the Council keep their options open for repurposing the lagoon. He would like to see the presentations Walsh has been conducting offsite. He encouraged the students in attendance to get involved, do research, and make their own decisions. The lagoon project will cost a lot.

Mayor Scholl clarified the size of the property.

- ◆ Steve Topaz. Suggested the City be audited by a third party; including finances, departments, and projects, etc. The County recently found someone pocketed money because they didn't have an auditing system.

Councilor Locke responded that an audit is done every year. It's posted online.

4) **Resolutions**

- 4.a Resolution No. 1831: A Resolution Adopting a Universal Fee Schedule, and Superseding Resolution No. 1829

Motion: Upon Carlson's motion and Conn's second, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 1831. [Ayes: Conn, Scholl, Carlson, Morten, Locke; Nays: None]

5) **Approve and/or Authorize for Signature**

- 5.a Emerald Meadows Subdivision Final Plat Pending Receipt of Performance Bond
- 5.b Enterprise Fleet Management – Master Equity Lease Agreement, Amendment to Master Equity Lease Agreement, Maintenance Agreement, Maintenance Management and Fleet Rental Agreement, Phillips 66 Card Application, and Consignment Agreement
- 5.c Grant Contract Documents for OBDD Brownfields Redevelopment Fund \$100K

City Planner Graichen amended '5a' to read, "Emerald Meadows Subdivision Final Plat Pending Receipt of Performance Bond Before the Issuance of Building Permits for Lots within the Subdivision."

Motion: Upon Morten's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously approved '5a' through '5c' as amended.

6) **Appointments to Boards/Commissions**

- 6.a Appointments to City Boards & Commissions

Council President Morten pointed out that several boards and commissions have vacancies.

7) **Consent Agenda for Acceptance**

- 7.a Library Board Minutes dated September 18, 2018

Motion: Upon Conn's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously approved '7a' above.

8) **Consent Agenda for Approval**

- 8.a Council Work Session, Special Session, Regular Session, and Executive Session Minutes dated October 17, 2018
- 8.b Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Upon Morten's motion and Conn's second, the Council unanimously approved '8a' through '8b' above.

9) **Mayor Scholl Reports**

- It was a different meeting tonight.
- Recommends cutting ties completely with SHEDCO. It's a hindrance to bigger projects and a negative perception for both organizations. He has tried working with them. He apologized if he acted unprofessional.
- Christmas Ships will be coming soon. He was approached with a request to shoot fireworks as a memorial to Ed Lokken. They have raised over \$1,200. They have five weeks until the shoot but the order has to be submitted prior to that. Councilor Carlson would like to fill the gap up to \$5,000. Councilor Locke would like all fireworks volunteers to be included in the tribute.

Motion: Upon Carlson's motion and Locke's second, Council unanimously agreed to donate up to \$5,000 for a fireworks shoot on December 8 in remembrance of all fireworks volunteers.

Question from the audience asking if Council members know who is coming to speak. Council said no. It's all a surprise. Councilor Carlson added that volunteers work hard and are passionate about their time.

10) **Council Member Reports**

Council President Morten reported...

- It was a good session that was painful but beneficial.

Councilor Conn reported...

- Nothing to report.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- Veterans Day Celebration at the new Veterans Plaza in McCormick Park at 10:45 a.m. on November 11.
- The Habitat for Humanity house will raise walls on Saturday. A family of five hopes to be in there soon.

Councilor Locke reported...

- Talked about the intersection of St. Helens Street and S. First Street and the intersection of S. First Street and Cowlitz Street. He wants to turn both of those into a four-way stop. He's seen several people almost hit and several accidents at both intersections.

Motion: Locke moved to direct Public Works to install four-way stops at the intersections of S. First Street and St. Helens Street and S. First Street and Cowlitz Street. Conn seconded, noting that it's a safety concern.

Question. Council President Morten asked Public Works Engineering Director Nelson why staff has not moved forward on this in the past. Nelson explained that it does not comply with the adopted Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and does not meet traffic control standards. Signage would be problematic because of the width of the intersection. It is in the master plan when work is done in the downtown corridor area. If Council directs otherwise she will do so, but does not agree that's the correct approach at this time.

Council President Morten asked about the West Street and S. 6th Street intersection being changed recently. Nelson responded that was a previous supervisor and she's not sure how the decision was made or if it complied. Nelson pointed out the geometry is very different there with the street widths.

Councilor Carlson sees the need even if it doesn't fit Code. Discussion ensued. Nelson would want a traffic engineer to come in and design the location of the stop signs because they are abnormal intersections. She approximates it would cost \$25,000. Walsh suggested directing staff to come back with a design proposal.

Vote: Locke, Carlson, Conn in favor; Morten and Scholl opposed; motion carries.

Morten declared that he is opposed because he would prefer a study done first. Council directed staff to work on a plan soon.

11) **Department Reports**

Lt. Hogue reported...

- Nothing to report.

Public Works Engineering Director Nelson reported...

- Nothing to report.

Finance Director Brown reported...

- City Administrator Walsh and City Recorder Payne are working on a new personnel policy. There are social media aspects in the new policy. There is a wavy line of legality of what Council can request from him of what he has done on his personal time. However, he's happy to share any comments he has made. He does post when he has facts and information to give. He does not think what he said was disrespectful. He cc'd Mayor Scholl in all responses to emails.

Mayor Scholl talked about severing ties with SHEDCO. Brown reminded the Council that he is exempt and is working 24/7. Councilor Carlson said sometimes people can feel bullied even when you're not intending to because you're coming from a management position. Scholl talked about the ethics violations by SHEDCO. It created a conflict of interest when a member on the Board created a rendering for El Tapatio that was eventually awarded a grant.

Deputy City Recorder Scholl reported...

- Nothing to report.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- Confirmed that the City does have a social media policy. He supports Brown in his position. As far as a comment made about the Spotlight article involving children, Destinee talked about her kids in a Council meeting. It wasn't made up.
- Columbia River PUD has requested a pay station. It used to be at the St. Helens Credit Union. A pay station is included in their franchise agreement. The PUD would pay for it. Discussion of location and use.

12) **Other Business**

No other business.

13) **Adjourn – 8:53 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:



Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder



Rick Scholl, Mayor