

City of St. Helens City Council

Regular Session Minutes

December 5, 2018

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
Jacob Graichen, City Planner
Sue Nelson, Public Works Engineering Director
Brian Greenway, Police Chief
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

Others:

Daniel Serres	Trinity Monahan	F. Brandon
Ron Schlumpberger	Rick Scholl	Jenn Farrington
David Belden	Sherry Belden	Ansley Semsun
Annie Christensen	Elaine Kelley	Nicole Thill
Morris Malakoff		

1) **Call Regular Session to Order - 7:00 p.m.**

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

Moment of silence for President George H.W. Bush

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

- ◆ Jenn Farrington. She thanked the Council for speaking up for the community at the Port of Columbia County meeting. She feels very proud of our community. She appreciates how many people spoke earlier today. She expressed her opposition of the increased oil trains. She lives a couple hundred feet away from the railroad tracks. She's concerned about the safety of her three year old daughter. She hopes the Council will be at the Port meeting next Wednesday.
 - ◆ Trinity Monahan. Stated for the record that he is here testifying on his behalf and no other roles he's involved in. He is a member of the Columbia City PTO. They had a booth at the Spirit of Halloweentown event. The School District pays for a booth and they allow groups to sign up as a fundraising opportunity. Limitations were put on selling water. They were very careful not to bring it in this year. He had interactions with an event representative and
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asked her why it was restricted. The response was that they could have done it if they paid an additional \$200. There is nothing in the contract about an upcharge or additional cost to sell something. There is something in the contract that says you can't sell things without permission. The conversation was odd and very disingenuous.

Event Coordinator Tina Curry explained how the water sales work. Stephanie Patterson is the vendor coordinator. Last year, there were several people who wanted to sell water. The City and Humane Society partnered last year to sell water and hot cocoa. The Humane Society had a different opportunity this year. To offset the loss of revenue, they decided to allow the vendors to sell it for a fee. Stephanie sent numerous emails to the vendors with that offer. That message was likely not conveyed from the School District representative. Tina did give them the opportunity to sell popcorn since the Rotary Club was not there that day and all the supplies were available.

- ◆ Elaine Kelley. She lives in Warren and serves on the Board of the Oregon Conservancy Foundation. It's an organization that is very actively opposed to the oil trains and the reduction of restrictions. She read her opposition into the record. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet. Public safety, environmental threats, and climate change are some of her biggest concerns.
- ◆ Annie Christensen. She spoke to the Council earlier today. A group gathered on the sidewalk after the work session today. A lot of evidence was presented. They really want the Council to voice their "no," whether that's through a resolution or a letter.

Councilor Carlson confirmed that they have instructed staff to draft a letter that expresses their concerns. Discussion ensued.

- ◆ Dan Serres, Conservation Director with Columbia River Keeper. He is opposed to the oil trains. He spoke about his experience with the Moser train derailment. It released over 40,000 gallons of oil. The fire burned for 14 hours. The school had to be evacuated, homes were evacuated, the City ran out of water, etc. He thanked Council for speaking up. He gave a copy of other city's resolutions written in opposition of oil trains. A copy is included in the archive meeting packet.

4) **Deliberations - Street Vacation - Portions of N. 8th, N. 9th, and Wyeth Streets (Scholl/Schlumpberger)**

Mayor Scholl stepped down as he is the applicant for this street vacation. Council President Morten took over running the meeting.

Councilor Locke declared that he has visited the site. This seems to be a logical solution to help develop that area. It's a good thing.

Councilor Conn declared she also visited the site. The public interest is served by giving a way to develop the property that otherwise could not be.

Councilor Carlson agreed with the staff report. It meets the needs of the neighbors and public.

Council President Morten reported that this has been a long, fair and open process. He has not spoken with Ron Schlumpberger or Rick Scholl about this proposal. He spoke to the League of Oregon Cities attorney about ethical dilemmas and there are none in this case. The mayor in

this case is just a citizen. That area was looked at as development to be mined. This will put an end to that. City Planner Graichen reviewed the history of that bluff. Graichen pointed out that Mayor Scholl had to get signatures of consent from neighboring property just as any other applicant would be required.

Motion: Upon Locke's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously approved the street vacation with option three as written in the staff report; adding that the City reserves the right to revisit the decision if actual topographic or other information shows something different. [AYES: Carlson, Conn, Locke, Morten; Nays: None]

Mayor Scholl returned to the meeting.

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

- 5.a License and Services Agreement with Tyler Technologies, Inc. for Incode Software
- 5.b Exclusive Towing Agreement with Drake's Towing & Recovery
- 5.c Agreement with Kittelson & Associates for St. Helens Street & 1st Street Alternatives Analysis
- 5.d Agreement with Wetland Solutions Northwest, LLC for Services Related to Delineation of Wetland and Riparian Areas on City Owned Property
- 5.e Contract Payments

Motion: Upon Conn's motion and Morten's second, the Council unanimously approved '5a' through '5e' above.

6) **Appointments to Boards/Commissions**

- 6.a Appointments to City Boards & Commissions

Motion: Upon Conn's motion and Carlson's second, the Council unanimously reappointed Bill Eagle to the Budget Committee.

7) **Consent Agenda for Acceptance**

- 7.a Library Board Minutes dated October 16, 2018

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

8) **Consent Agenda for Approval**

- 8.a Council Work Session, Executive Session, Public Hearing, and Regular Session Minutes dated November 7 & 15, 2018
- 8.b Street Closure - for Holiday Activities - December 8, 2018 - Close Plaza Square and Strand Street from Plaza Square to Roythai
- 8.c Accounts Payable Bill Lists

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

9) **Mayor Scholl Reports**

- This weekend is going to be very busy with Donut Day, holiday bazaars, pictures with Grinch, fireworks, tree lighting, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and Christmas Ships.

10) Council Member Reports

Council President Morten reported...

- The Port meeting will be held Wednesday, December 12 at 8:30 a.m. in the Columbia Center Auditorium. He would like the opportunity to read the letter drafted by staff. Walsh confirmed that he will email it to the Council. Discussion of what to include in the letter. Morten wants the Port to give the public the opportunity to be heard. He would like them to hold off on making a decision until studies are done.

Councilor Conn reported...

- Nothing to report.

Councilor Carlson reported...

- She's not afraid to say "no" to expanding the oil at Port Westward. The safety of our citizens has to come first.
- The Oregon Cultural Trust has a lot of money to give out to communities like ours. They will be giving a presentation at the January 24, noon Kiwanis meeting.

Councilor Locke reported...

- This is the 11th year hosting the Christmas Ships dinner for captains and their first mates. It will be held in the Council Chambers from 3:45 – 5 p.m. He requested volunteers to help.
- Wants to let the Port know that they need to be more transparent and listen more to the community. He applauded everyone for speaking up. There will be repercussions from the Port for a while. He pointed out that Portland banned oil trains several years ago. He asked how they're getting through there now.

Youth Council Vishal Christian reported...

- People graduate from Youth Council and leave. A lot of the decisions made in the past are effecting them now. They have a huge pile of reflectors that they're supposed to be selling. They have decided to distribute them amongst the elementary schools.
- He wants to take a more government approach with the way the Youth Council is run. They are pretty disconnected from youth as a whole, representing various schools. They would like to create a link to communicate with the school systems.

Council President Morten asked if Youth Council could report to Student Council. Councilor Carlson respond that she and Locke have reached out to Noelle Freshner, who is the leadership director for the high school. Their leadership has also expressed a desire to have a unified South Columbia County leadership. They are working on dates to collaborate. Vishal has brought an energy to the group that has inspired the membership. Mayor Scholl added that he would like to hold a work session at the high school for students to be involved in.

11) Department Reports

Chief Greenway reported...

- Nothing to report.

Public Works Engineering Director Nelson reported...

- Nothing to report.

Library Director Jeffries reported...

- The Columbia County Museum Association has installed an exhibit in the Columbia Center lobby. It includes antique and vintage toys that will be on display through the month of December. A reception will be held on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the lobby.
- Reference Librarian Brenda Herren-Kenaga formed a genealogy group. The group is called Genial Genealogists. Many of the Museum Association members participate. They meet the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. There were 23 people in attendance at the last meeting.

Finance Director Brown reported...

- A sign is being made for the Recreation Center. It should be up by the end of the year.
- He is also investigating the industrial park sign. He hopes to have a design for review in the next couple weeks. Walsh added that the colors will coincide with the Wayfinding scheme.

City Recorder Payne reported...

- Nothing to report.

City Administrator Walsh reported...

- Reminder for Donut Day, tree lighting, fireworks, Christmas Ships, and Santa on Saturday.
- He will work on drafting the letter to the Port. He will use the adopted resolution as a base and discussion he has heard. He will send it to the Council for review.

12) **Other Business**

- ♦ Dan Serres. The City of Portland actually restricted fossil fuel tanks. They could not deal with trains or pipelines. It's frustrating when you can't say those trains are too dangerous for my town.

13) **Adjourn** – 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:


Kathy Payne, City Recorder


Rick Scholl, Mayor