

MINUTES
CITY OF STEVENSON COUNCIL MEETING
August 12, 2021
6:00 PM, City Hall and remote

Those attending in-person were required to wear facemasks regardless of vaccination status and practice distancing.

Information in parentheses after the agenda item references the 2021-2022 council goals the item relates to. Items with an asterisk (*) have been added or modified after the initial draft publication of the Agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PRESENTATION TO THE FLAG: Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending: Mayor Scott Anderson; Councilmembers Dave Cox, Robert Muth, Amy Weissfeld, Annie McHale, Paul Hendricks. Staff in attendance: City Administrator Leana Kinley, Community Development Director Ben Shumaker. Others attending included City Attorney Ken Woodrich. Public attendees: Ann Leuders, Ed Feeley, Rick May, Curt Gray, Pat Rice, Hannah Joy and others unidentified.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: *[The Mayor may add agenda items or take agenda items out of order with the concurrence of the majority of the Council].*

- a) * 8/10 changes include: Addition of Public Comments received (item 4a), Addition of Discussion of Oath of Office (item 6a), Addition of Sheriff's Office Report (item 7f), Addition of Voucher information (item 9)
- b) ** 8/11 changes include: Addition of Public Comments received (item 4a)
- c) *** 8/12 changes include: Revision of the mask requirement, Addition of Public Comments received (item 4a), Addition of Executive Session (item 12a).

3. CONSENT AGENDA: *The following items are presented for Council approval. [Consent agenda items are intended to be passed by a single motion to approve all listed actions. If discussion of an individual item is requested by a Council member, that item should be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately after approval of the remaining consent agenda items.]*

- a) **Liquor License Application** - 77 Cork & Tap Bistro located at Hotel Stevenson
- b) **Liquor License Assumption** - 54 40 Brewing Company assuming the license of Andrew's Pizza
- c) **Water Adjustment** - Bruce Nissen (meter No. 804500) requests a water adjustment of \$147.55 for a water leak which they have since repaired.
- d) **Water Adjustment** - Rock Creek Assisted Living (meter No. 706100) requests a water adjustment of \$169.33 for a water leak which they have since repaired.
- e) **Minutes** of July 15, 2021 Council Meeting.

MOTION to approve consent agenda items a-e made by **Councilmember Weissfeld**, seconded by **Councilmember Hendricks**.

- **Voting aye: Councilmembers Muth, Weissfeld, McHale, Hendricks, Cox.**

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: *[This is an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Council. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. The Mayor may extend or further limit these time periods at his discretion. The Mayor may allow citizens to comment on individual agenda items outside of the public comment period at his discretion.]*

- a) *****Public Comments – City Administrator Kinley** read aloud three comments at the request of a concerned citizen, Stephanie Cleary, and Laura Paxson regarding Councilmember McHale’s decision to remain seated during the Pledge of Allegiance at the July 2021 City Council meeting. She noted in the meeting packet there were additional written public comments on the subject received ahead of the noon deadline on the council meeting date and requested to be included in the packet.

Following the reading of the comments **Mayor Anderson** noted under the provisions of the first Amendment in the Constitution it is within an individual’s right to choose whether to stand or recite the Pledge.

>Ann Leuders stated she appreciated **Councilmember McHale** had stood during the pledge that evening.

Councilmember McHale explained she had been caught unawares at the July 2021 City Council meeting regarding recitation of the Pledge, as she has a separate oath she offers in its place.

5. SITUATION UPDATES:

- a) **COVID-19 Update - Mayor Scott Anderson** provided an update on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mask mandates are returning. No occupancy restrictions have been declared. He and representatives from other counties with low vaccination rates attended a meeting with Governor Inslee. It was noted that potentially the numbers may be incorrect due to people receiving vaccinations in other states and the data is not synchronized or shared. Information sharing agreements with Idaho and Oregon are being finalized.

>Ed Feeley asked about actual mandates from the Governor’s office. **Mayor Anderson** none had been made official as of the meeting date but were likely to be issued soon.

>Ann Leuders stated Governor Inslee’s perception of Skamania County performing poorly regarding vaccinations was due to personal choice.

The Council held a brief discussion regarding whether to postpone an upcoming training on diversity due to COVID-19 caseloads. **City Administrator Kinley** will check with the presenters regarding contract changes, and with the school district for re-scheduling purposes.

- b) **Sewer Plant Update (1)** - **City Administrator Leana Kinley** presented the update from **Public Works Director Karl Russell** on the Stevenson Wastewater System and the Compliance Schedule. There have been problems associated with bulking and staff is working to correct the issue. There have been no violations. The moratorium currently in place will expire in October 2021, and the Council will need to determine in September if they want to continue it.

Stevenson's WWTP received an Outstanding Performance Award from the Department of Ecology for 2020. This was the first year the plan was operated in-house and a number of improvements took place. The SIU's (Significant Industrial Users) have also helped by reducing their waste streams and effluent loads. It was agreed to notify the SIU's and thank them for their efforts. A press announcement will also be released. The Council expressed appreciation to **Public Works Director Karl Russell** and the public works crew for their work.

City Administrator Kinley explained changes to the construction schedule planned for the collection system improvements for the wastewater treatment plant.

6. COUNCIL BUSINESS:

- a) ***Discussion of Oath of Office and Pledge of Allegiance** - The minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting where council discussed the Pledge of Allegiance was included for information (item 8a). Reciting the Pledge is not a requirement and the chair of the meeting may include the Pledge if desired after calling the meeting to order. A copy of the current Oath of Office and council Rules of Procedure were also included to aid in the council discussion. Several Councilmembers explained the historical context of the Pledge, noting for many years Stevenson City council meetings never included it. **Mayor Anderson** initiated it when he first took office. It was later discussed and decided as a council to not make the Pledge of Allegiance a requirement.

For the record **Councilmember McHale** read her individual service oath aloud, to wit, "I pledge allegiance to this community, the residents of the City of Stevenson and to this council as it considers liberty and justice for all."

>Pat Rice asked **Councilmember McHale** for an apology over a matter regarding an alleged issue on Facebook over the Pledge. **Mayor Anderson** related the Council meeting was not the forum to address the subject.

- b) **2022 Budget Calendar** - **City Administrator Leana Kinley** presented the calendar for adopting the 2022 budget by year end for council review and discussion. It was agreed to hold a workshop on the budget on November 8th from 6 to 8 p.m. She answered questions regarding the annual audit exit meeting, noting it would likely be towards the end of September before she had any answers from the state.

- c) **Approve Feeley Short Plat Deferral Agreement (6) - Community Development Director Ben Shumaker** presented the agreement for deferral of frontage improvements for the Feeley Short Plat for council review and consideration. He explained the waiver agreement and further clarified the timelines.

MOTION to approve the agreement for deferral of frontage improvements with Edward J. Feeley as presented made by **Councilmember Weissfeld**, seconded by **Councilmember Hendricks**.

Voting aye: Councilmembers Muth, Weissfeld, McHale, Hendricks, Cox.

- d) **First Reading-Latecomers Ordinance (1 & 4) - City Administrator Leana Kinley** present and explained the enclosed ordinance revising the city code regarding Latecomer's Agreements due to changes in state law for council review and consideration. City Attorney Woodrich presented further information on the statutory requirements.

No motion was made and the ordinance moved to a second reading on September 16th.

- e) **Discuss Noise Control Ordinance - City Administrator Leana Kinley** presented a staff memo about amending SMC 8.08 regarding noise control for council review and discussion. She explained the options available. Following a short discussion, it was decided to align the ordinance as closely as possible with the Skamania County noise ordinance to support the efforts of law enforcement. Removing the Russell Street (train horn) references, checking on the need to limit overnight truck idling, including truck engine braking, and encouraging an initial talk with neighbors or noisemakers prior to involving law enforcement was agreed to.

- f) **Discuss Camping in Public Places Ordinance (10) - City Administrator Leana Kinley** presented a memo regarding a proposed ordinance on camping in public places for council review and consideration. Councilmembers took part in an extended discussion in which a number of concerns and points were expressed, including individual rights, events and causes affecting homelessness, equity, current housing costs, and the need to connect people with health and safety support services. It was agreed to work with Washington Gorge Action Programs to get their advice in developing alternatives.

>Curt Gray, Rick May and Ann Leuders offered comments and information regarding the issue.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS: The following items were presented for Council review:

- a) **Skamania Chamber of Commerce** activities for July 2021.
- b) **Minutes** from the 7/12/21 **Planning Commission** meeting.
- c) **Financial Report** - City Administrator Leana Kinley presented the Treasurer's Report and year-to-date revenues and expenses through July 2021. **Councilmember Muth** asked for and received clarification on the location of sewer/water revenues.
- d) **City Administrator Leana Kinley** and city staff presented updates on city projects in process.
- e) **Risk MAP Project Update** - An update on the Skamania County Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) project was included for information. This project includes updating the

current 'paper only' flood maps last approved in 1986 to an interactive GIS map to better determine exact risk locations. Outreach is planned for public input as well as to owners of properties impacted by changes.

f) * **Skamania County Sheriff's** July, 2021 report for activities within Stevenson city limits.

8. CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS:

a) **Ben Shumaker, Community Development Director** - No report was provided.

b) **Karl Russell, Public Works Director**

- Rock Creek lift station and the storm drain projects have been pushed back a year. The storm drain has been cleared of the obstruction, so there should no further problems with water backing up on Rock Creek this winter. A permit from the Corps of Engineers still has to be received to do the in-water repair work during the summer season.
- No updates were available on the street tree preservation plan. Tags on trees are part of the maintenance plan being developed.
- Road striping and crosswalk painting will take place towards the end of August.
- Annual right of way maintenance is being performed.
- Several water main breaks have been repaired.

c) **Leana Kinley, City Administrator**

- Expecting to hear from auditor soon.
- Stevenson Downtown Association representative was not available to provide a report regarding ARPA funding and business support. They will present at the September meeting.
- Bridge of the Gods may have weight restrictions lifted sooner than anticipated. More inspections are taking place.
- Event signage for entrances to Stevenson was discussed. The US Forest Service is updating Scenic Area signs, the City plans to use same infrastructure. A policy and process to determine sizes of signs and scheduling/space sharing will be developed.
- City staff is reviewing records for potential disposal.
- **Mayor Anderson** provided an update on the work the summer intern is doing on downtown parking.
- **Councilmember Weissfeld** asked for and received information on an item in the Sheriff's Report regarding windsurfing.

9. VOUCHER APPROVAL:

a) *July 2021 payroll & August 2021 AP checks were audited and presented for approval. July payroll checks 15304 thru 15308 total \$100,734.26 which includes EFT payments. August 2021 AP checks 15309 thru 15359 total \$161,476.41 includes EFT payments and checks. The AP check register with fund transaction summary was attached for review.

MOTION to approve the vouchers as presented made by **Councilmember Hendricks**, seconded by **Councilmember McHale**.

- **Voting aye: Councilmembers Muth, Weissfeld, McHale, Hendricks, Cox.**

>Hanna Joy asked permission to speak and read a letter expressing her concerns about **Councilmember McHale's** stance on the Pledge of Allegiance.

10. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember McHale provided information on a meeting she and **City Administrator Kinley** had with Skamania County Under Sheriff Bond regarding mental health services, the community response team, and officer training. Traffic enforcement and school safety efforts were also discussed. The contract between the City and the Sheriff’s Office will need to be revised to include new requirements put in place by Washington State.

11. ISSUES FOR THE NEXT MEETING: *[This provides Council Members an opportunity to focus the Mayor and Staff’s attention on issues they would like to have addressed at the next council meeting.]*

No issues were identified.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a) ***Council convened in Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate. Council entered Executive Session at 7:46 p.m. for 10 minutes and came out at 7:56 p.m. At 7:56 the session was extended for 5 minutes, and came out at 8:01 p.m.

Following the executive session, the Council discussed the First Street Overlook Project. **Community Development Director Shumaker** provided background information on project changes and final details with WSDOT. Due to the changes, additional construction costs that are not reimbursable will be \$340,000. The consensus from the Council was to shelve the project.

13. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Scott Anderson, Mayor Date