

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF STEVENSON COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 17, 2022**  
**6:00 PM, City Hall and Remote**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER/PRESENTATION TO THE FLAG:** Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., led the group in reciting the pledge of allegiance and conducted roll call.

Attending: Mayor Scott Anderson; Councilmembers Dave Cox, Michael Johnson, Kristy McCaskell, Annie McHale, Paul Hendricks.

Staff attending: City Administrator Leana Kinley, Community Development Director Ben Shumaker, Public Works Director Carolyn Sourek, City Attorney Ken Woodrich.

Public attendees: Anne Keesee, Katie Simpson, Betty Simpson, Chuck Oldfield, Robert Muth, Mary Repar, and other members of the public.

2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

- a) **3/15 changes include:** Addition of Planning Commissioner Recommendation for Appointment (item 7c); Addition of Shoreline Management Program Documents (item 7e); Addition of Sheriff's monthly report (item 8a), Addition of Housing Programs Report (item 8d); Addition of Planning Commission Minutes (item 8e); Addition of Vouchers (item 10a)

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The following items were presented for Council approval.

- a) **Water Adjustment** - Tom Pochardt (meter No. 506560) requests a water adjustment of \$351.28 for a leak which they have since repaired.
- b) **Water Adjustment** - Robert Ehrgood (meter No. 612100) requests a water adjustment of \$54.75 for a leak which they have since repaired.
- c) **Liquor License Renewals** - Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Stevenson Farmers' Market
- d) **Minutes** of the February 17, 2022 regular council meeting and the March 1, 2022 special council meeting.

**MOTION** to approve consent agenda items a-d was made by **Councilmember Johnson**, seconded by **Councilmember Hendricks**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Cox, Johnson, Hendricks, McCaskell, McHale**.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

5. **PRESENTATIONS FROM OUTSIDE AGENCIES:**

None.

## 6. SITUATION UPDATES:

- a) **Sewer Plant Update (1) – City Administrator Kinley** presented an update on the Stevenson Wastewater System and Compliance Schedule. She provided information on changes in bid submission dates, work schedules for construction projects and planned road closures along Loop Road.

The city has received a \$2.5M federal grant for wastewater projects and she is working on acquiring the funds. Future upgrades to the plant may be possible use of funds.

The Department of Ecology paid a visit to the WWTP and was encouraged with the positive changes in place. Lifting the administrative order was discussed.

## 7. COUNCIL BUSINESS:

- a) **Ratification of Contract with Aquarius Technologies LLC** - City Administrator Leana Kinley presented the contract with Aquarius Technologies for the procurement of Fine Bubble Diffusers at the wastewater treatment plant for council review and ratification as discussed at the February 17, 2022 council meeting.

**City Administrator Kinley** noted the details in the contract were now in place. As part of the agreement the City will pay the sales tax for Aquarius on purchases.

**MOTION** to ratify the contract with Aquarius Technologies, LLC in the amount of \$83,600 with sales tax of \$6,437.20 to be paid by the City for a total cost of \$90,037.20 as presented was made by **Councilmember McCaskell**, seconded by **Councilmember Hendricks**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Cox, McHale, Johnson, Hendricks, McCaskell**.

- b) **Approve Interlocal Agreement for Facilities Maintenance Services** - **City Administrator Leana Kinley** presented and provided details on an interlocal agreement with the City of Stevenson, the Port of Cascade Locks and the Port of Skamania to provide facilities maintenance services for council consideration.

**Kinley** noted it has been difficult to recruit personnel, and this agreement would essentially create a facilities maintenance position shared between the three agencies. More discussions are planned to finalize details. No motion was called for as the agreement is not complete.

- c) **Appointment of Planning Commissioner** - **Community Development Director Ben Shumaker** presented Anne Keese as the Planning Commission's recommendation to fill the vacant seat on the Commission. She introduced herself and provided details on her interests and reasons for wanting to serve on the Commission.

**MOTION** to appoint Anne Keesee to Planning Commission position #1 was made by **Councilmember McHale**, seconded by **Councilmember Hendricks**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Cox, McHale, Johnson, Hendricks, McCaskell**.

- d) **Second Reading - SR Zoning Code Amendments - Community Development Director Ben Shumaker** presented and explained the staff memo and ordinance regarding requested zoning code amendments in the SR district for setback caveats for council consideration.

**Mayor Anderson** invited audience members to speak. He advised it was not a public hearing.

>Mary Repar, Robert Muth and Chuck Oldfield spoke or provided written comments against passage of the ordinance. Robert Muth suggested variances were the better tool to use for changes to land usage.

>Anne Keesee, Betty Simpson, Katie Simpson and other members of the public spoke in favor of amending the zoning rules to change where sheds could be located on properties. Many pointed out the lots had been created prior to utilities coming in, and they were requesting the SR district zoning be aligned with others in the area to provide flexibility regarding setbacks.

**Community Development Director Ben Shumaker** provided information on which property owners were notified of the potential change. He pointed out the revision, if adopted, would also include a prohibition on the use of self-storage units.

After additional discussion took place, the following action occurred:

**MOTION** to approve ordinance 2022-1180 amending the Stevenson Zoning Code (Stevenson Municipal Code title 17); relaxing restrictions on the siting of small accessory structures and prohibiting self-storage units in the SR Suburban Residential district was made by **Councilmember Hendricks**, seconded by **Councilmember McCaskell**.

Voting aye: **McHale, Johnson, Hendricks, McCaskell**.

Voting nay: **Councilmembers Cox**.

- e) **Second Reading - Shoreline Master Program Amendments – Community Development Director Ben Shumaker** presented and explained the required and recommended changes to the Shoreline Master Program as submitted by Ecology (see council packet for February 17, 2022 for detailed information.) The Planning Commission made a recommendation at their March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting to have the City Council adopt the SMP's updates.

**MOTION** to approve ordinance 2022-1181 concerning the Shoreline Master Program comprehensive update and periodic review required by RCW 90-58.080 was made by **Councilmember Cox**, seconded by **Councilmember Johnson**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Cox, McHale, Johnson, Hendricks, McCaskell**.

#### **8. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- a) **The Skamania County Sheriff's monthly report** for February 2022 and the report on "...training provided, to include hours of training and title of training..." for 2021, as outlined in the agreement, was presented.
- b) **Skamania County Chamber of Commerce report** of activities in the prior month.
- c) **Financial Report** - The Treasurer's Report and year-to-date revenues and expenses through the prior month were presented for council review.
- d) **\*Housing Programs Report** for services provided in Skamania County by Washington Gorge Action Programs.
- e) **\*Planning Commission Meeting Minutes** for December 13, 2021, February 14, 2022 and the March 7, 2022 Special Meeting.

**Councilmember Cox** requested the Sheriff's Office provide the City Council with a 2022 training schedule to ensure a comprehensive legislative update is included on new laws that affect Washington state's law enforcement agencies. Information on mental health support, de-escalation techniques and diversity training were asked to be included.

#### **9. CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS:**

- b) **\*Mayor Anderson** moved the order of the agenda to present the new **Stevenson Public Works Director Carolyn Sourek**.

**Carolyn** introduced herself and provided a brief history of her education and experience. She noted the road closures along Loop Road will only be during the day.

- a) **Ben Shumaker, Community Development Director**  
He thanked the Council for adopting the SMP, noting it was a massive amount of work and he was glad to see it finalized.

He advised there will be a need to update the Comprehensive Plan and sections of the zoning code use tables to align with the new SMP requirements. He will be presenting the updates to the Planning Commission to initiate the changes. Another item the Planning Commission will be reviewing is setback rules in the public use and recreation district. Currently the Planning Commission is looking at a request submitted in 2019 to amend the current Comprehensive Plan. Covid-19 delayed the work. There are eighteen areas that are being reviewed and he demonstrated examples of the 'dot' process being used. Once the scope is narrowed down the Planning Commission will invite public engagement and review.

The Planning Commission vacancy was filled tonight. A new vacancy has recently opened with the resignation of Commissioner Mike Beck.

Development review/pre-application discussions are taking place.

**c) Leana Kinley, City Administrator**

She announced Dave Bennet has submitted his resignation from the Boundary Review Board, so recruitment will be taking place to find a replacement.

Pushback of contract bid acceptance timeline for the WWTP may result in a special Council meeting in April after the regular Council meeting. Getting all the documents in, reviewing the bids and then awarding the bid is taking time.

A section of the new sidewalk on Russell St. by the Post Office is deteriorating. A temporary fix will be provided, with a full panel repair done when weather allows.

April 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for applications for summer interns from University of Washington. The city will apply again.

She has sent out a Doodle poll regarding a meeting on the Bridge of The Gods presentation. A date and time will be determined once enough people respond. She will also send a poll to Council members to plan a retreat.

The City of Stevenson, the Skamania County Sheriff's Office and the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce will be offering a presentation to individuals and businesses victimized by false and negative reviews online. The presentation will take place on either April 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 7<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 p.m.

A local homeless encampment was recently cleaned up using a contractor selected from a list provided by Washington State.

**10. VOUCHER APPROVAL:**

- a)** \*February 2022 payroll and March 2022 AP checks have been audited and are presented for approval. February payroll checks 15823 thru 15828 total \$88,188.59 which includes EFT payments. March 2022 AP checks 15829 thru 15889 total \$182,026.73, which includes EFT payments. The AP check register with fund transaction summary was attached for review.

**MOTION** to approve vouchers as presented was made by **Councilmember McHale** seconded by **Councilmember McCaskell**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Cox, McHale, Johnson, Hendricks, McCaskell**.

**11. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Mayor Anderson** provided information on the following:

April 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the next annual city clean-up day from 9 a.m. until noon. The Stevenson Downtown Association is overseeing. The city of Stevenson will provide a truck and two employees to help. \$10 food vouchers will be provided for volunteers.

The Streatery 2.0 is returning. Stevenson High School students will make the tables again. Higher quality wood will be used for the fencing surrounds.

MSTCI (Main Street Tax Credit Incentive) program provides Business & Occupation (B & O) tax or Public Utility Tax (PUT) credits worth up to 75% of the contributions given by local businesses that pay B & O tax to officially designated downtown revitalization initiatives in Washington State.

**Councilmember Cox** reported communications he had recently with Skamania County Commissioner Hamlin and County Public Works Director Elsea regarding additional water testing for the seepage occurring along Rock Creek Drive. PWD Elsea is reportedly apprehensive about spending additional money on testing due to the possibility other contaminants may be present resulting from homeowner activities the county has no control over. It was agreed to contact the County Commissioners office to determine what decisions are being made.

**Councilmember McHale** asked for information on re-scheduling diversity training.

**City Administrator Kinley** noted a meeting regarding utility services was also needing to be scheduled. Timing of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training to align with school calendars was discussed. **City Administrator Kinley** will check with the facilitation team regarding availability.

**Ben Shumaker, Community Development Director** advised the Planning Commission was interested in holding a joint meeting with the City Council to discuss affordable housing. It was agreed a joint meeting would be worthwhile. A meeting date and agenda will be determined later.

**12. ISSUES FOR THE NEXT MEETING:**

None presented

**13. ADJOURNMENT** - Mayor Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

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Scott Anderson, Mayor

Date