

City of St. Helens

Consent Agenda for Approval

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Presented for approval on this 16th day of March, 2022 are the following Council minutes:

2022

- Work Session, Special Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated March 2, 2022

After Approval of Council Minutes:

- Scan as PDF Searchable
- Make one double-sided, hole-punched copy and send to Library Reference
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COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Wednesday, March 02, 2022

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Doug Morten
Councilor Patrick Birkle – 1:08 p.m.
Councilor Stephen R. Topaz
Councilor Jessica Chilton

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Brian Greenway, Police Chief

Joe Hogue, Police Lieutenant
Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner
Crystal King, Communications Officer
Bill Monahan, City Attorney
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Claire Catt	Adam Olsen
Brady Preheim	Thomas Peck
Amy Bynum	Jeff Humphries
Brian Varrichione	Susana Hensley
Hailey Iverson	Jak Massey

CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER – 1 p.m.

Mayor Scholl announced that Councilor Birkle will be a few minutes late and is excused the rest of the school year.

VISITOR COMMENTS - Limited to five (5) minutes per speaker

- ◆ Claire Catt, United Way of Columbia County. She thanked Council for supporting their grant application for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program. More than 600 kids, ages zero to five, are signed up in the School District area. They are receiving monthly books from the Dollywood Foundation. United Way of Columbia County is responsible for signing kids up, outreach, enrollment, and fundraising. Today is National Read Across America Day and a perfect time to share the opportunity for more people to sign up.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Semi-Annual Report

Chamber Vice President Susana Hensley, Chamber Board Member Hailey Iverson, and new Member Relationship Manager Jak Massey was in attendance to review the report.

- Reviewed Board members. Encouraged a City representative to fill one of the vacant roles.
- Hired a part-time Member Relationship Manager and part-time Grant Writer
- Reviewed networking and sponsorship events
- Membership increased 12% in 2021
- Visitor Center Support Proposal

- 50% of the inquiries are local or tourism related
- It's important to have someone there but Jak is only in the office about 15 hours a week
- Requesting support from the City for a dedicated staff person to be able to stay open longer hours
 - Pay \$15/hour
- \$18,600 to fund the position for a year

Council President Morten thanked them for the report. In the past, the Visitor Center has changed its space. The building is one of the first things people see as they enter town. Do they have a proposal for upgrading the appearance of the building? Susana responded that the building was updated around 2015. The Chamber is supported by the members. They haven't discussed improvements with the Visitor Center. The Chamber members have been supporting the Visitor Center. Unfortunately, they don't have the funds to make those improvements. Jak added that they have cleaned up the parking area and added signage. They will continue to clean up the area. They recently made improvements to the lighting for security.

Councilor Chilton suggested they meet with staff to discuss the proposal. Staff can report back to Council.

Councilor Topaz asked if they are open on Saturday. Jak said not normally unless there is an event. Their hours are 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Councilor Topaz asked if they have been in contact with the Mainstreet Program. Susana responded that Mainstreet is an active Chamber member and they have attended events.

Councilor Birkle apologized for missing the first part. He agreed with Councilor Chilton's suggestion for them to meet with staff. It is something to begin planning and an opportunity to look at what tourism funds are available to support it. He supports the ongoing dialog and accessible presence on the highway.

Mayor Scholl is impressed with their work and getting back to normalcy. He suggests requesting the same from Columbia County. The City has been doing a lot with the Mainstreet Program. In 2016, the City contributed a lot to the Chamber. He asked if they received Covid Relief grant funds. Susana said they did look at them but didn't qualify for some of them. Jak confirmed they are meeting with the County next week. Mayor Scholl pointed out that it is the South County Chamber of Commerce. They should also be requesting the same from Scappoose. Hailey said the Chamber serves South County, but the Visitor Center is St. Helens focused. Jak pointed out that most people walking into the building don't realize there are other cities involved.

Consensus of Council for the Chamber to follow-up with Walsh. Councilor Chilton suggested they collaborate with tourism, since a lot of their calls are likely Halloweentown and 13 Nights on the River related.

2. Public Safety Facility Update - *Matt, Brian, & Mackenzie*

Finance Director Brown introduced Mackenzie consultants. They reviewed the presentation. A copy is included in the archive packet for this meeting.

- Currently reviewing the floor plan
- In production mode with staff
- Construction documents to be completed in December 2022
- Begin Land Use process in July 2022
- Site prep in summer 2022
- Begin construction in March 2023
- Project Completion in May 2024
- Reviewed proposed site plan
- Reviewed proposed floor plan
- Reviewed exterior

Mayor Scholl asked what the budget is for the rough grade permit. Adam responded that they are still working on that. They were originally trying to coordinate that with the Industrial project. It was about \$250,000 for the fill from another site. But now they are looking at using the fill brought to the site.

Councilor Topaz said the design is terrible. It started as a police station but now is anything but a police station. They are reducing police station space. They talked about an exit to Old Portland Road, but it is gone. They need to be able to exit quickly. It should only be police and court there. Mayor Scholl pointed that they can't identify what's in some of the areas because of police security. Councilor Chilton added that police personnel have attended every meeting to assure that their needs are being met. Councilor Topaz argued that for now it's fine but does not accommodate growth.

Brown explained that it's a Public Safety Facility. It will open a lot of space at City Hall. Having IT there is necessary for security purposes. Councilor Topaz disagrees. IT will be four times their current size in the future. This is good as built. He is looking down the road five years. The police don't have as much horsepower as the other parts of the City. They're the ones who will have their space taken away. People have not cared about the police, and they won't have civilian support to protect their space in the future. Councilor Chilton disagreed. They will have lots of civilian support. Council President Morten said that Councilor Topaz is always looking ahead to the future. They're not likely to outgrow the facility in five years, but possibly in 10-20 years. The new location can be expanded in the future. The current building cannot be expanded.

Brown said that Mackenzie was part of the Needs Assessment, which looked out 20 years and projected a need for a 19,000 sq. ft. building. They made revisions to project a 50-year building at 22,000 sq. ft. He talked about the additional space for future growth. This space was specifically chosen because of the expandability and flexibility of the space.

Councilor Birkle asked if there was ever direct access to Old Portland Road. Brown showed on a map an area they could have put it, but it would create a difficult turn with the apartment building there now. They have added a secondary access that also serves as a walking trail. They are hoping for grants to continue the trail to connect to downtown.

Councilor Birkle agrees that having IT services there is beneficial if it becomes an emergency command center. The design reflects a lot of thought and diligence. Mayor Scholl agreed with Councilor Birkle. Mackenzie has worked on other police and fire buildings. He requested they keep it a clean landscape as shown in the rendering.

Council President Morten talked about safety being a priority.

Councilor Topaz said they have overlooked the security of an arrested person. Right now, their facility has a garage but it's not in the proposal. He emphasized the need to get to Old Portland Road quickly. Chief Greenway said the intent is that officers are not dispatched from the station. They are dispatched from their vehicles in the field. They want them in the community. They don't want them in the station. Seconds do matter. That is a leadership, rather than design issue. Councilor Topaz agreed, but there will be a time they need to move quickly.

Councilor Chilton talked about the flex space. The multi-use space could save money and space in the police station. It made a lot of sense.

Mayor Scholl confirmed that there is still a secure room for people to get to safely and wait for an officer to show up. He likes the design and timeline.

Council thanked Mackenzie consultants for their presentation.

3. Police Department Semi-Annual Report - *Chief Greenway & Lt. Hogue*

Chief Greenway and Lieutenant Hogue reviewed a PowerPoint presentation. A copy is included in the archive packet for this meeting.

- Reviewed police personnel
- Received 17,131 calls for service in 2021
 - "Suspicious circumstances, person, or vehicle" is the most common type of call
- 591 adult offenders were arrested in 2021
 - Use of force was only used 3.7% of the time
 - The most common type of force was takedowns
- 2,131 traffic stops in 2021
 - 442 citations were issued
 - Most are only given a verbal warning. They may just be having a bad day.
 - Officers don't "police" every day, they "people" every day
- 522 reports were taken by detectives in 2021
 - The average for detectives is eight
 - 217 child abuse investigations
 - 38 search warrants were issued for child pornography
- 89% community approval rating
- 21 Exemplary Service Awards were presented in 2021
- Officer McKenzie McClure was the first female officer certified in DWI Detection and SFST Instruction
- 2022 Goals
 - Reduce crime and traffic accidents
 - Requesting an increase in staffing. Created a long-term plan yesterday to provide a high level of service.
 - Maintain 90% community approval rating
 - Continue public safety facility project

Councilor Topaz said he heard good things about hiring Officer McClure. He is glad to hear there is a priority for prevention over persecution. It makes for a better police force. He recently saw one officer carrying a nine-inch binder full of information for a report. Greenway said they will be transitioning to a new records management system to reduce workload and increase access to data. With the new facility, they will be exploring additional clerical support, so they don't have detectives creating trial binders.

Councilor Topaz said the Union mentioned three new officers. He suggests between five and seven. It's a lot cheaper for them to request than crime in the community. Greenway confirmed that thefts and burglaries have increased. It's likely due to the measure that decriminalized certain amounts of narcotics.

Councilor Chilton is curious about the solution. Walsh said they hear the needs for equipment, staffing, and a facility. They are trying to balance it with all the other City programs. Greenway said he can talk to Council individually. Nothing is for certain. The union is happy, and he is happy. It comes at a cost. They appreciate the support.

Mayor Scholl was glad to see the officers and their support for each other.

Greenway said that Hogue does the budget. He's heard every year that they don't have the money. Now the Council is listening and is more in tune with what is happening.

Councilor Birkle is glad to see the conversation about the need for additional officers being done publicly. It's important for the community to understand. He recently did a ride-along with Officer Coy. He told him about the 39-page report for a search warrant. He and all the other officers are doing good work. The Oregon State Senate passed and sent a Bill to the House for traffic enforcement changes. Greenway confirmed that 16 measures came out of the legislation session in 2021 that affected policing. Training

and implementing the law changes wears on their service ability. They have two officers in the National Guard, who they could potentially lose to what is happening Ukraine and Russia. That will impact their ability to provide services.

Discussion of the need to update the staffing study.

Mayor Scholl asked if there is federal funding for fraud and child pornography cases. Greenway said not for staffing, but they will provide training and equipment needed to prosecute those cases.

Mayor Scholl congratulated Corporal Dustin King for being awarded Employee of the Year. City Recorder Kathy Payne was the runner-up.

4. Review Loan Documents for Special Public Works Fund - *John*

Walsh reviewed the resolution on tonight's agenda. A copy is included in the archive packet for this meeting. It is for an interim loan for three years and three months. The interest is only 0.6%. It would give them the ability to complete the streets, utilities, and riverwalk project. The total amount could change.

There is an Intergovernmental Agreement in the packet between the City and Urban Renewal Area (URA) that addresses the commitment of funding between each other. Associate Planner Jenny Dimsho added that they meet with legal counsel next week to finalize the contract and verify it is following all the legal requirements. They will need to have an URA meeting the same day the Council authorizes the contract.

5. City Administrator Report - *John Walsh*

- No Executive Session today
- Council Goals will be reviewed at today's 5:30 p.m. Special Session
- There is a meeting tomorrow with Columbia County elected officials at the Community Center
- The Riverwalk RFQ is out right now
- There is a joint meeting with Planning Commission on March 16 to talk about the streets and utilities project, and surrounding property
- The Library Director position was reposted, and they have already received 13 applications. Is there another Councilor who would like to review the applications, along with himself and Councilor Topaz? Councilor Birkle agreed to review the applications but can't commit to the interview process.
- He serves on the LOC Board. Their next meeting is April 20, during the LOC Spring Conference. He requested to be excused from Council meetings that day. Council excused him.
- LOC is going through a strategic planning process right now. He's honored and privileged to participate in it.
- Work on the Industrial Park is moving forward. They are engaging with PGE on the substation power issues.
- Responsible Boating Committee
 - Meets next Tuesday
 - Kiosk is here and ready to be installed
 - Code amendments being reviewed now
 - Met with Sheriff Pixley yesterday and marine deputies to discuss enforcement
 - Discussing Harbor Master/Dock Master duties with St. Helens Marina staff
- Challenging year for the budget
 - Public Safety Facility
 - Police Department needs
 - Inflation of labor rates
- Working on the Capital Improvement Plans for utilities can Capital projects
 - Utility rates
 - System Development Charges



COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION

Wednesday, March 02, 2022

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Doug Morten
Councilor Patrick Birkle
Councilor Stephen R. Topaz
Councilor Jessica Chilton

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Rachael Barry, Government Affairs Specialist
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

CALL SPECIAL SESSION TO ORDER – 5:34 p.m.

MISSION

The City of St. Helens' mission is to provide quality, effective, and efficient service to our citizens.

- Develop and preserve the highest possible quality of life for our residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Provide a safe and healthy environment within a sound economic framework.
- Provide leadership which is open and responsive to the needs of the community and works for the benefit of all.

ROUNDTABLE - Councilor Top 2 Priorities in Next 2 Years

Councilor Topaz

- Begin conversations with ODOT Road and Rail for a bridge over Highway 30 at Gable Road
- Focus marketing on attracting a major industry here

Mayor Scholl

- Waterfront Redevelopment
- Public Safety Facility

Councilor Chilton

- Public Safety Facility/Needs
- Increase in sports fields

Council President Morten

- Complete Riverwalk Phase I
- Clean up connections/thoroughfares to Riverwalk

Councilor Birkle

- Public safety in general
- Motorized transportation

Discussion of an overpass. Council President Morten suggested from West Street across the highway.

REVIEW OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Draft Goals for 2022-2024

Reviewed draft goals based on community survey responses. A copy is included in the archive packet for this meeting.

Goal 1 – Effective Organizational Structure

- Councilor Topaz wants IT to be a standard and not a goal.
- Mayor Scholl agreed with all of them listed. A sustainable budget is important.
- Council President Morten wants to add an urban trail to the list. Council directed staff to do it, but it hasn't been done yet. Councilor Topaz suggested utilizing volunteers. Government Affairs Specialist Barry explained that it would fit well under Goal 3.

Goal 2 – Community Engagement

- Mayor Scholl pointed out that they were doing a lot more community engagement pre-pandemic.
- Councilor Topaz heard during interviews that a lot of towns were using their library as a community center. He would like to keep the library in mind for community engagement.
- Mayor Scholl talked about the importance of Communications and IT to share information.

Goal 3 – Safe and Livable Community

- Councilor Chilton pointed out that they are working on police funding sources.
- Councilor Topaz wants to connect the Library with Parks & Recreation.
- Council President Morten talked about the urban trail. It will connect six parks. It was pointed out during the work session that a trail from Nob Hill will be connected to the Public Safety Facility and then can connect to McCormick Park. The urban trail can serve as a hub to other trails.
- Councilor Topaz wants to make sure the trails stay safe.
- Councilor Birkle likes that evacuation plans/drills is included to keep staff safe.

Goal 4 – Economic Development

- Councilor Topaz talked about the development behind Starbucks. How will that affect police and transportation? Councilor Chilton said it will be families, seniors, and disabled. It's not necessarily going to be problematic. The traffic issue is going to be a problem. Mayor Scholl suggested they reach out to ODOT. There could be an egress adjacent to Sunset Equipment at Port Avenue and Milton Way. There is a spur back there that would need to be approved by ODOT Rail. Councilor Chilton suggested getting input from City Planner Graichen.
- Councilor Birkle disagreed with attracting one heavy industrial business. It would be good to have discussion about multiple small businesses. Councilor Topaz agreed with that concept. They just need more industrial businesses. Council President Morten agreed with multiple industries to remain sustainable if one goes away.
- Mayor Scholl pointed out that the St. Helens Industrial Business Park property is not ready yet. He suggested crushing the rock on site to use for the Public Safety Facility. It would save a lot of money if that part of the site work was done by Public Works crews. Discussion ensued. City Administrator Walsh said there are some challenges with wetland setbacks. The area Mayor Scholl is referring to is outside of that. Mayor Scholl suggested that it be done this summer. Council directed Walsh to work with Public Works Director Zaher to bring back a plan.

Goal 5 – Long-Term Planning

- Discussion of funding from State resources.

ROUNDTABLE - Councilor Top 2 Priorities Long Term

- Milton Creek Bridge replacement
 - It's been there since the depression

- Part of the framework of the transportation corridor
- Critical evacuation route
- Critical public safety access
- FEMA funding opportunity
- Hazard mitigation opportunity
- Good project for State funds recently released
- Sidewalks
 - SDC driven
 - Community support
 - Need to address sidewalks adjacent to roads that have been raised
- Floating pier for fishing and non-motorized boat launch
 - Working on a grant with ODF&W for Grey Cliffs Park

Barry encouraged the Council to communicate with citizens that they are conducting long-range planning.

ADJOURN – 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

Rick Scholl, Mayor

- There is a high need for City attorneys right now. Jordan Ramis is very busy, which affects the response time for document review. They have not completed the review of the tourism contract.
- Tourism audit has begun
- Staff is busy and stressed. Mayor Scholl acknowledged how busy they are and how proud he is of them.

Councilor Chilton asked about tourism revenue and how it is spent. Is it reviewed during the budget cycle? Council President Morten said yes. Mayor Scholl added that they may need to make decisions before the budget so Tina knows what she can spend on upcoming events. Discussion of tourism revenues. The revenues should cover Public Works, Police, and Administration event expenses. Events should be sustainable. Councilor Topaz asked about hotel taxes for long-term residents at the hotels. Walsh responded that taxes are only received for short-term stays. It has had a negative impact on revenue.

ADJOURN – 3:19 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Cancelled

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

Rick Scholl, Mayor



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, March 02, 2022

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Doug Morten
Councilor Patrick Birkle
Councilor Stephen R. Topaz
Councilor Jessica Chilton

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Judy Thompson
Jane Garcia
Brady Preheim
Serena McCurdy

CALL REGULAR SESSION TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VISITOR COMMENTS – *Limited to five (5) minutes per speaker*

◆ Judy Thompson.

- She recognized E2C Inc. for their commitment to develop tourism in St. Helens. Volunteering last year allowed her to see how much fun visitors have. Tourism is part of their economic development, and she looks forward to the continued investment with E2C Inc. and community partners.
- She is working on the Kiwanis Parade permit and was concerned with the response she received from Chief Greenway. The staffing study done 10 years ago is still not being met. She listed the staffing needs and the adjustments made due to low staffing at the Police Department. Industry standards are two officers for every 500 people at events. She asked why there is no public safety service fee for new development? Why is public safety in the same fund as Library and Parks & Recreation? Life balance for officers is critical. Council needs to act now. Chief Greenway has it covered. He is dedicated and has dedicated officers.

Mayor Scholl asked if there were any concerns about the parade. Judy said they are working out the details.

Councilor Chilton recognized that Chief Greenway gave a report during today's work session. They are working on a plan for additional support. She appreciates Judy's advocacy.

- ◆ Tina Curry, Event Coordinator.
 - Showed banners that will be displayed at the entrance to the Waterfront property at Cowlitz Street. They were designed by Communications Officer Crystal King.
 - They are going to move the pumpkin totem. Does the Council want to put it away or move it to the corner location where the flag used to be? It would give visitors something to take their photo with.

After discussion, there was no objection from Council to put it where the flag was located. They'll move it if there are complaints.

- ◆ Brady Preheim.
 - Comment about the request from the Chamber of Commerce. They had an opportunity to have a paid staff person funded through tourism. They turned it down. He is a former Chair and advocate for the Chamber. They can't just show up and ask for money, but not want to do anything. They chose not to participate in Halloweentown activities, where they could have received tourism dollars. They should receive money from everyone for tourism and not just St. Helens. Is there value having a physical presence year-round? A lot of people obtain information online. He has mixed feelings about the value of a Visitor Center. The building remodel does look great.
 - Glad to see Chief Greenway and he agree. When asked about getting officers in and out of the building quickly, Greenway responded that officers will not be in the building. They'll be in the field. What is the need for a fancy new station if they're not going to be there? Brady agreed with the need for additional officers.
 - Concerned about comments that were made about spending tourism money. They've already spent money for fireworks. It's not a piggybank. The tourism director generated it for tourism. It is not appropriate for other uses. Tina has plans to spend it to make tourism better. Leave the money alone and let her do what she wants to do to make tourism better. Why does she not have a contract? It shouldn't have taken this long.
 - Council is worried about funding for additional officers. They could fund that with all the legal fees they have paid because of Councilor Topaz. Now he has the audacity to ask them to pay his legal fees. They also waste a lot of money when they don't reduce a person's salary after their responsibilities are reduced. It has happened in both Finance and Parks & Recreation.

ORDINANCES – *First Reading*

- 1. Ordinance No. 3281:** An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property Located Southeast of the Intersection of Pittsburg Road and Meadowview Drive

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3281 by title. The final reading will be at the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

- 2. Resolution No. 1947:** A Resolution Determining that Unsafe Structures Exist Upon Properties as Described in Exhibit A and Directing that Notice to Abate the Nuisance be Posted on Said Premises

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1947 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to adopt Resolution No. 1947.

Discussion.

Councilor Chilton asked for clarification on the nuisance. City Recorder Payne explained that the Building Official is requesting they be declared nuisances because their utilities have been shut off. They must have running water for sanitary purposes.

Vote: Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

- 3. Resolution No. 1948:** A Resolution of the City of St. Helens, Oregon Authorizing a Loan from the Special Public Works Fund by Entering into a Financing Contract with the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1948 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Chilton and seconded by Council President Morten to adopt Resolution No. 1948. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

4. Council Minutes:
 - Executive Session Minutes dated February 11 and 16, 2022
 - Work Session, Executive Session, Public Hearing, and Regular Session Minutes dated February 16, 2022
 - Executive Session Minutes dated February 22, 2022
5. OLCC Licenses
6. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Moton: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Chilton to approve '4' through '6' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

None

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Morten reported...

- Judy Thompson had a good suggestion about having System Development Charges (SDCs) in place for police. City Administrator Walsh explained that SDCs are set by the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS). Many jurisdictions add fees on their utility bills for streets, parks, and public safety. They are not able to control the property tax rate, so that is a way to increase revenue for enhanced services. Council President Morten added that SDCs are to allow new residents to pay for growth. He would like to discuss it further.
- Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on March 14.
- Received a call from Kenneth Gates prior to the last meeting. He and Casey Wheeler wanted to meet him at the Food Bank. They were the visionaries in creating the new Food Bank. He toured the facility and was amazed at what it will offer the community. It's in the middle of town. Councilor Topaz added that donating is a good way to be part of the Food Bank.

Council Topaz reported...

- The Hunger Run for the Food Bank is on Saturday. They needed a permit, which they had to pay \$500 for. He was surprised that it couldn't be waived.
- The Elks donated \$8,000 to the Food Bank. The Food Bank thanked them. He would like the Council and newspapers to inform the community about the donation. He suggested the City's Communications staff do something for it.
- Plans have changed in strange ways. When they first started the Riverwalk design, it was 21 feet wide and then it widened to 30 feet for ambulances. When the Veneer property was purchased, there was a Code change that said there was public property about 50 feet wide. Reducing to 30 feet, they lost about 40% of the public ground in the design. The public is not going to be happy when they go from 50 feet to 30 feet.
- He went to the County Tax Office on Monday to find out how much money the marijuana grow operations pays. He found out that the only ground owned by the marijuana group is a 100 foot by 100-foot area, which they pay \$518 per year. The City sold them 8.6 acres. They should be

paying \$19,000 a year. If they pay the rate he pays for his place, they should be paying \$75,000. Most of the ground is City-owned. Is the City preventing the County from getting \$75,000? It needs to be investigated. Multiple buildings were put there so they could get permits. The City has to okay those permits so OLCC can issue those permits. Is that handled by Council or staff? He found out from the County that the office is a year behind in permits.

Councilor Chilton reported...

- She suggested they investigate using timber sale revenue to help fund police. Mayor Scholl said they are already exhausting those funds for the Public Safety Facility. They are spending \$3.6 million from the General Fund. They have given raises and added positions since he started. Councilor Topaz said he has seen fundraisers for new equipment and asked if they could use that mechanism. Walsh added that there are a lot of fiscal policies with one-time funding sources. Right now, those investments are in community and economic development. Mayor Scholl said there is a balance of funding. Police and Public Works are two of them. Councilor Chilton agrees with the need, but feels public safety needs to be priority number one. She looks forward to the police funding discussion and what the timber fund revenues are used for. Council President Morten said he brought up the urban trail during the special session, which is very inexpensive to implement. He agreed that the Police Department needs to catch up with staffing. They are fortunate to have a lot of park volunteers. He supports Councilor Chilton's ideas. Councilor Chilton thinks there will be a lot of support from staff.
- Her family is expanding. She is due with a baby in August and plans on staying very involved.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- It's important to recognize that March is Women's History Month. They are not diminishing men by promoting women. It's important to look at all the important contributions by women.
- He and his wife will be walking in the Hunger Run.
- He and his wife will be training with CERT.
- Planning Commission meeting next week. City Planner Graichen's report in the packet includes a great picture that shows the flight path of the plane conducting the aerial photography.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- It was good to review the goals during the special session tonight.
 - Public Works has been understaffed. They need balance.
 - The timber revenue was spent for the Community Center.
 - There are a lot of listed Capital Improvement projects that likely can't be funded.
 - He supports the Police but there needs to be balance.
- They are working on the tourism contract. The City's contract attorneys are very busy right now.
- He's encouraged about tomorrow's joint meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN – 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

Rick Scholl, Mayor