

City of St. Helens
Consent Agenda for Approval

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Presented for approval on this 3rd day of March, 2021 are the following Council minutes:

2021

- Work Session, Executive Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated March 3, 2021

After Approval of Council Minutes:

- Scan as PDF Searchable
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COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

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
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Rachael Barry, Government Affairs &
Project Support Specialist

Mouhamad Zaher, Public Works Director
Bill Monahan, City Attorney
Mike De Roia, Building Official
Sue Nelson, City Engineer
Crystal King, Communications Officer
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Alex Tardiff
Natasha Parvey
Susana Hensley
Heather Karrik
Brady Preheim
Rainier Chamber of Commerce

CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.

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

- ◆ Michelle Damis (received via email). *December 2019, we relocated to St. Helens to our forever home on the River. After living in the Portland area most of our lives with short stints in Boston and San Francisco we were ready for a true community. We certainly found one, even in a pandemic I have met more people here than anywhere else we have ever lived. St. Helens is a true gem, and I intend to see it stay a gem while absorbing the growth and change that is at our doorstep. St. Helens is growing; it is going to change. We need to be ready; we need to be proactive. It can be done in a way that enhances our community and helps us all thrive. I was recently asked to join the Committee for the new Public Safety Facility that is so desperately needed. I was incredibly impressed by the research and planning that has gone into this project, and I was proud of the considerate and thoughtful debate that the committee engaged in.*

*Our gem of a city deserves a proper facility for our officers, our residents, victims, and more. I do not have the space to go into all the aspects that are urgently important here, so I encourage you to visit the website and read all the plans and attend any virtual community meetings you can. The cost of **not** having a proper facility far outweighs the modest proposal presented. I intend to not just LIVE in St. Helens but to THRIVE here.*

DISCUSSION TOPICS**1. South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Semi-Annual Report - *Alex Tardiff & Heather Karrik***

1:02 p.m.

Chamber Board President Alex Tardif, Administrative Assistant Heather Karrik, and Vice President Susan Hensley were in attendance to give their report.

- Annual meeting was held last week. City Administrator Walsh and Government Affairs & Project Support Specialist Barry were both in attendance. They talked about the past and future for the Chamber. They ended the year with about \$5,000 in net operating income.
- Plan to hire a part-time executive director this year, which Heather will help supplement.
- Plan to begin an educational program this year to help meet the needs of businesses.
- Plan to begin a business incubation center to help those who want to start a business.
- Planning a 100-year Building Celebration this year. The event will likely be held in September. They will be seeking approval from the City to close McNulty Way for a street party.
- The entire Board is new, and the executive director was let go last year due to the pandemic. They have been working hard to make the Chamber sustainable for the business community.

Council President Morten is excited about the Chamber bringing the community together. He thanked them for their work.

Mayor Scholl admires the resilience of the Chamber and small businesses. He looks forward to supporting the Chamber in September. He suggested working with Emmert Motors to use their covered area. The Chamber awards was very successful, until the pandemic disrupted it.

Councilor Birkle is glad to see the Chamber revitalized. The timing is good as SHEDCO is being revised. The Christmas Bazaars held at the Chamber was a good idea this year. The owner of Vanderwall's recently mentioned the desire to have an event in the Houlton area. He is glad to see the Chamber is proposing an event. Alex added that they hope to borrow a trolley that can transport visitors from Houlton to downtown and back. They have a lot of big plans for how it will work.

Councilor Topaz informed Alex that he spoke with some retired train masters at the Chamber several years ago. They said there were some old train signs and fixtures in the attic. Alex will check on that.

Councilor Chilton is excited to hear more about the event.

Alex thanked the Council and looks forward to working together.

Chamber Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month from 3-5 p.m. Meetings are held via Zoom and open to the public.

2. Review Proposed Amendments to Non-Represented Job Descriptions

1:14 p.m.

City Administrator Walsh reminded the Council that this is carried over from the last work session. The old and proposed job descriptions are included in the packet.

Councilor Topaz reviewed his comments:

- The City Recorder job description does not include adequate minimum requirements if that position had to be replaced right now.
- He wants drug testing to be required for all positions.
- He wants most people to be trained in CPR.
- He is upset that there is no mention about military education.
- He questioned the amount of weight that can be lifted. The Police Department lists 150 pounds but that does not match federal rules.

- He wants everyone to have a physical. They do not have to pass it, but he wants to know the limitations his personnel would have.

City Recorder Payne reported that only safety sensitive positions can be drug tested. It is included in the job posting. It does not need to be in the job description. Councilor Topaz responded that he does not want someone like Assistant City Administrator Brown taking his money and leaving for Mexico. Payne reported that Brown cannot be tested because he is not in a safety sensitive position.

Mayor Scholl pointed out that Veteran's Preference Points are applied to veterans. Councilor Topaz clarified that he was talking about military education and not points.

Walsh added that there is a zero-tolerance policy in the Personnel Policies. They have the ability to test safety sensitive positions upon hire and randomly.

Brown declared that he would appreciate a city councilor not referring to him as a drug addict. Councilor Topaz responded that there needs to be a background of why a decision was made. The fact that the law does not allow them to force him to take a drug test is much important than whether or not he was a drug addict. They needed an example of why and why not. He told Brown to not feel embarrassed. Brown told Councilor Topaz that he is flirting on a fine line of another grievance. He needs to be careful.

Mayor Scholl asked Councilor Topaz to respect the staff. He can use a hypothetical name for examples.

Councilor Chilton asked if performance reviews are done? Mayor Scholl said yes. Councilor Chilton said that 360 reviews are done at her job to allow co-workers to review each other. Does the City do that? Mayor Scholl and Payne both said yes.

Walsh said that minimum standards for lifting is governed by federal ADA standards. Some expectations are required but they also need to be as accommodating as possible.

Councilor Birkle appreciates Payne's work on this. He is glad to see the alignment with actual job assignments. He would like to see a flow chart of job positions.

Councilor Topaz would like to see a chart showing who has authority over staff. Does the Council have authority to fire someone for stealing money, or can only Walsh do that? Mayor Scholl said it could be the Council but usually it starts with the supervisor. Walsh is the only one that Council has authority over. Walsh added that Council may need to authorize an internal investigation.

Councilor Topaz disagreed with some of the job descriptions. He would like all police to coordinate with other agencies. Who is responsible for coordinating in the event of an accident? Mayor Scholl said there is an Emergency Response Team at the County. Councilor Topaz wants to see that mentioned.

Mayor Scholl appreciates the work done by staff reviewing every job description. Payne clarified that it is only the non-represented group. The other job descriptions will come later.

3. Strategic Action Plan Updates

1:31 p.m.

City Administrator Walsh reported that they are in between a lot of projects right now.

4. City Administrator Report

1:31 p.m.

- St. Helens fared well during the snow event challenges. There are still people without power in other areas. He thanked the Public Works staff.
- Moving along with the Riverwalk and 1st Street and Strand Street extension projects. They have had several meetings with the consultants.
- Working on the parallel track for project funding with the State.

- Receiving the additional funding from the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department for the Riverwalk.
- Public engagement for the central waterfront is progressing. They are working with a film crew to produce a short documentary.
- The Public Safety Facility has had ongoing good work. It will create the physical space needed, open doors for grant funding, and assist with recruiting and retaining officers. There is a big expense with training new officers at the academy.
- A wetland consultant is currently looking at the St. Helens Industrial Business Park property. He has met with PGE about the infrastructure.
- Improvements have been made to Community Development processes. Building is up 500%. Additional staff and improvements are helping things move faster. Council should tell him if they hear differently from community members.
- COVID relief funds were required to be used by the end of the year. There is supposedly another wave of funding coming for local governments.
- Typically begin talking about events and fireworks now. He heard from Western Fireworks but was not sure how to respond. It is not a tourism funded event.

Mayor Scholl said it will be hard to get community partners financially. He loves 4th of July and celebrating America's Birthday. Vancouver has already cancelled. He wants to move forward.

Councilor Chilton said the citizens love the fireworks show. She would love to hear about ways to make it happen. Mayor Scholl said they have to pay a \$7,500 nonrefundable deposit for the fireworks by the end of March. They could do a smaller show this year. Walsh said the tailgate party seemed to fundraise the most money.

Councilor Topaz asked about the Governor's rules on spacing and meetings. Walsh said they had a 250-person cap at Halloween. It is hard to predict this year. They could postpone to not lose the deposit.

Councilor Birkle asked if they could provide a chart with timelines. If conditions are met by March 1, they could move on to the next step. Walsh could provide that.

Discussion about shooting fireworks. Mayor Scholl suggested moving it to the Waterfront property and sell parking. Unfortunately, you would not see it from the park. At \$20 each, 500 vehicles would be \$10,000 to pay for the fireworks.

Walsh invited Event Coordinator Tina Curry to talk about the event. Curry reported that 500 cars is more than double what they have had in the past at \$10 a carload. She talked about some of the community activities held on 4th of July that cost additional money. It is a financially difficult year to obtain sponsorships but thinks they could probably get around \$5,000. People may not spend \$20/carload.

Mayor Scholl suggested shooting smaller shells. He asked Curry if she could bring a proposal back to Council. Councilor Birkle suggested Curry work with the Chamber of Commerce and SHEDCO as well. He understands that Spirit of Halloweentown was different this year by blocking the Plaza and charging admission. However, he heard complaints from residents that access to downtown was limited during certain hours. He hopes they take that into consideration.

Councilor Topaz asked about shooting the fireworks from a barge. Mayor Scholl replied that it is much more expensive to shoot from a barge. It is cheaper for Public Works to bring in sand and have smaller shells that are shot from the Waterfront property. This is a community event, and the City has to secure the funding.

Discussion of raising funds for fireworks.

Councilor Chilton suggested sending a survey to citizens. Mayor Scholl agreed with asking how citizens feel about having it this year. Would they pay \$20 to tailgate for the show to occur? Would they prefer

to shoot fireworks on Saturday, July 3? Curry will work with Communications Officer King on a social media survey.

Councilor Topaz brought up the regulations added since 9/11. Mayor Scholl responded that there is a requirement for pyrotechnicians to have clearance through the ATF.

Council was in support of fireworks if it can be funded and follow rules.

- The Luminights Festival is postponed to next year.
- Sand Island is an asset to draw visitors.

Curry reported on new activities that can be held distanced.

- Sandcastle competition on Sand Island. Award-winning builders will build them on Wednesday, August 11 and then it will open for the public August 13-15. There will be free shuttle service to access Sand Island. She will work with restaurants to create picnic baskets.
- Zorb Ball at the 6th Street Park all summer long. Families will be eight feet apart. She is working with the Public Works Director and Parks staff to not take up the whole park. People can walk from 6th Street to 1st Street to shop and eat.
- 13 Nights on the River will be moved to the Waterfront property. They will use a stage they already own, and tailgating will be six feet apart. There are already some sponsors. She anticipates that they will not be able to obtain a liquor license. People can donate to the event, but there will not be a fee required to attend.

Council President Morten asked if it is possible to do a kite festival throughout the summer. It could be a competition for people who fly their kite the most over the summer. It would not require someone to oversee it and people could do it anytime and anywhere. Curry said they are actually working on a Kite Club now. The City owns about 50 kites that people will be able to check out and return from a locker with a special code. There has been quite a bit of interest. She has a plan to encourage people to come to town and distance. Councilor Topaz pointed out that there are some deadly areas to fly a kite on the Waterfront property.

- Council is invited to attend the St. Helens Connect retreat this weekend.

OTHER BUSINESS

2:24 p.m.

Councilor Topaz wants an accounting of tourism to show exactly how much is being spent and for what. It is time for an audit of the whole system. The Tourism Director has a continuing contract with an office in City Hall. They need to be more transparent.

Mayor Scholl appreciates that this keeps coming back. He reminded Councilor Topaz that this is an item for the regular session Council report. Mayor Scholl suggested he work with another councilor if he wants to add it to the agenda. There needs to be two councilors supporting it.

ADJOURN – 2:27 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

Rick Scholl, Mayor

City of St. Helens
CITY COUNCIL

Executive Session Summary

February 17, 2021

This meeting was held electronically via Zoom.

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

Staff Present: John Walsh, City Administrator
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Bill Monahan, City Attorney with Jordan Ramis PC

Others: None



At 2:31 p.m., Mayor Scholl opened the Executive Session pursuant to the ORS numbers listed below and then gave Council roll call.

- **Real Property Transactions, under ORS 192.660(2)(e)**
 - Update on the Purchase and Sale Agreement for 2625 Gable Road.
 - Update on potential purchase of Boise property off Sykes Road.
 - Update on potential acquisition of Dalton Lake from ODOT, which we currently maintain.
 - Update on property located on Ross Road.
 - Update on the Millard Road property.
 - Update on potential RV park on City property.
 - Update on Sand Island and acquisition of DSL-owned portion of the Island.

- **Consult with Counsel/Potential Litigation, under ORS 192.660(2)(h)**
 - Update on Cascades Tissue litigation.
 - Update on Comcast franchise agreement negotiations.
 - The City Attorney reminded Council members about harassment laws and how elected officials are held to those laws as well as employees.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.



ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

Rick Scholl, Mayor



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

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
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Mouhamad Zaher, Public Works Director
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Brady Preheim Kelly Merritt
Natasha Parvey Autumn Oliver
Scot Stockwell Heidi Oliver
Jaime Smith

CALL REGULAR SESSION TO ORDER – 7 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Scholl recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- ◆ Brady Preheim. (received via email and read into the record) *Al Petersen is a BIG FAT LIAR. At the February 3, 2021 Council work session, I criticized the City Council for proposing to sign an MOU with SHEDCO. Mr. Petersen responded to my comments by calling me a liar, and then stating on the public record that he had contacted Ms. Stuart, and that she was in full agreement with the SHEDCO transition. This is a BIG FAT LIE. I spoke to Ms. Stuart on February 9, 2021 at 1:52pm and she informed me that she had not spoken with Mr. Petersen since BEFORE her presentation to the City Council on September 16, 2020.*

I remind the Council of the recommendations made by Ms. Stuart at your September 16, 2020 work session (not in October or November as Mr. Peterson stated). In her verbal comments, Ms. Stuart, at around 38:42 into the meeting stated that ALL board members need to resign, and start with a clean slate, these are her words not mine. She stated that at least three times during her presentation. She then said that of the board members that have NOT term limited out, could be part of the City/SHEDCO group to recruit new board members, and could apply to be on the board again, with the City's approval.

AFTER a new board is created, and SHEDCO fixes their transparency issues and releases their minutes and financials to the City, an MOU with City funding for a paid main street coordinator

could be arranged. AGAIN, AFTER the current corrupt SHEDCO board is replaced, and documents provided. Having an MOU BEFORE is like the City trying to build a house, and you start with the roof instead of the foundation. Of course, I would not put that past the City.

The business community is a small one and we talk. There is not a business member in St. Helens that does not know about the corrupt practice that awarded the two Main Street grants to applicants for which Al was the architect. It is also widely known that Sommers Financials' application was not even considered. It really did not matter, as the outcome for the "contest" was corruptly predetermined.

I would also like to point out the first grant was LOST because of SHEDCO's incompetence. Unlike what Mr. Petersen would like you believe; the grant is given to SHEDCO for the benefit of El Tapatio. Any failure to use the grant are at SHEDCO's feet. Now, here we are coming up on two years for the theater grant, and so far, nothing has been done. Had his grant been given to KW or Sommers, it would have been used, as both of these businesses have already completed their projects. I love the theater and hope they use the grant. But another failure here not only reflects badly on SHEDCO, but it also reflects badly on the City and the Main Street program. These are wasted dollars we cannot afford to lose.

Finally, I would like to state for the record that I am many things, but a liar is not one of them. It would be wise for freshmen councilors to do their homework before they open their mouths and make themselves look like an incompetent fool. If I can spend the time to call Ms. Stuart, why can't you? If this is a job you do not want or have the time for, resign. The city council is one of the few in the entire state that gets a salary. It is time you earn it.

Mayor Scholl corrected Brady's statement to say that the MOU requires them to start giving the City copies of their minutes and treasurer reports. Al Petersen stated that they are having a hard time getting board members right now. He encouraged people to join the Board. They can have up to nine members.

- ◆ Kelly Merritt, representing Next Renewables. They are building a renewable diesel facility at Port Westward. He was hired to assist with community relations. He previously worked at the Beaver Generating Plant for PGE 20 years ago. He was there for nine years and then went national with Enron, which moved him to Texas. He has since been trying to find ways to come back to the Clatskanie area. He was a very active member of the community when he lived there in the 1990s. This project is near and dear to his heart because he has looked at multiple projects to bring jobs to Clatskanie and Oregon. He has been building hydrogen zero admission power plants, major solar power plants, and all new technologies around the world. This is the first one of three that he has seen try to move to Port Westward that he thinks is a good fit. Product is moved in and out by boat. He talked about the renewable diesel process and permitting. He looks forward to bringing jobs to the community.

Council President Morten welcomed Kelly. What are the biproducts and how are they dealt with? Kelly responded that the solids and bleaching clay go back as a filtrate by truck or rail to either the landfill or another beneficial use.

Discussion ensued about the process.

- ◆ Jaime Smith. She has questions about the property purchase. What is the property being purchased for and where will the funds come from to purchase it?

Mayor Scholl asked for Jaime to wait for the property public comment period on the agenda.

ORDINANCES – *Final Reading*

1. Ordinance No. 3259: An Ordinance Renewing Solid Waste Drop Box Franchise and Repealing Ordinance No. 3140

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3259 by title for the final time. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Chilton to adopt Ordinance No. 3259. **Voting:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - Purchase of Property at 2625 Gable Road

- ◆ Jaime Smith. She has not seen this on any other agenda. What is the property being purchased for, where is the funding coming from, and how much will it cost?

Mayor Scholl explained that the funding is partly coming from last year's City reserves. The purchase price is \$800,000. It is potentially a future site of a recreation center. They have an agreement with the School District to have an all-encompassed compound for fields, gym, and facilities.

- ◆ Scot Stockwell, St. Helens School District Superintendent. He is in support of the property purchase adjacent to the school district property. The City and School District have a strong partnership. This is a great way to work together and build a stronger community. The property is a great location abutting the high school fields. Having just passed the bond, they will be renovating that whole area. It is a great opportunity to build pathways between the school and recreation center. He envisions all sorts of community events, as well as offering a place for kids to go after school. He is excited about the opportunities and would encourage Council to approve the purchase.

Jaime asked if the bond money is being used for this. Scot said no. Jaime asked if the \$800,000 includes enhancements and Code updates. Assistant City Administrator Brown explained that the \$800,000 is paid by the City. The building, as it is now, can be used as a recreation facility. He does not anticipate any renovations needing to be done at this time. The purchase agreement includes a due diligence period for an inspection to be done to determine if there are any issues, and if the contract needs to be re-negotiated.

Mayor Scholl added that the building includes three classrooms, two offices, a small kitchen, a bathroom, and then another building for the church facility with a larger meeting area with two ADA accessible bathrooms. The building seems to be a very good fit. Hopefully, the school construction class can help them if there are needs. Scot agreed that would be a good partnership.

Scot repeated that no bond dollars will be spent on the subject property. They do plan on adding and improving two baseball and two softball fields with turf fields to use year-round. Soccer fields would be in the outfields for the off-season. He talked about the emergency access this will allow.

Jaime asked if there are plans to continue using the current recreation center. Mayor Scholl responded that they plan to continue using the facility, at least until the proposed facility is ready.

Scot reviewed a picture of the proposed high school property layout.

- ◆ Brady Preheim. Unlike the proposal to tax the Public Safety Facility onto our water bill, he would have voted for the Parks & Recreation \$2 fee. However, he is really concerned about this purchase. The City seems to be spending money like a drunken sailor. First, they purchased the Boise facility, which is nice, and now they want to buy a church. He referenced worshipping at the "Church of Rick." He does not want to see another \$2 fee to purchase the building. He understands that most of the Council are either retired or work for a public agency, except for the mayor. They do not realize how bad this looks. There are lots of small businesses and individuals who are struggling. It is not a good message for the City to keep spending money. It is very bad timing. Citizens should get an opportunity to vote.

Mayor Scholl commented that it is not the "Church of Rick." They do not take this lightly. A lot of work was done behind the scenes to negotiate the price. Kids are feeling unwanted and unneeded. Connect St. Helens will help bring them together to hear their stories. More than ever, they need a recreation program.

Council President Morten clarified that they will not be spending a million dollars to upgrade this facility. It is ready for use. There are parking facilities.

Councilor Birkle introduced his Russian Tortoise, Chewy. When he ran for Council, he used a photo of her hidden inside her shell with the statement that, "he is not going to hide in his shell when it comes time to make difficult decisions." They live in a represented democracy. While there are times when it is appropriate for the citizens to vote on issues, it is not the nature of federal, state, and local government to have citizens vote on every issue. That is why they were elected. He takes issue with the implication that he does not have time to do his job. No one, other than his wife, knows the time he spends after his eight-hour workday and on the weekends to fulfill his duties as an elected official. He agreed there are times that citizens do need to have a vote. He has not made up his mind of whether or not citizens should vote for the Public Safety Facility. If every property purchase were put out for a vote, the City would not go anywhere. He was elected to make hard decisions. This decision will benefit the City long-term. He is in favor of moving forward with the purchase.

Councilor Chilton was initially shocked when she heard about the purchase. However, this is creating a long-term partnership with the School District's new high school facility. She is in support of the purchase with the understanding that they will not be putting money into facility improvements.

Councilor Topaz talked about how St. Helens is changing. It is important to provide facilities for our young people. This was not an easy decision.

Mayor Scholl pointed out that children are our future. This is the best investment purchase he has seen since serving on Council. It makes the absolute most sense.

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

2. Purchase of Property at 2625 Gable Road
3. Contract Payments

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Council President Morten to approve '2' and '3' above. **Voting:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

4. Council Special Session, Work Session, Executive Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated January 27 and February 3, 2021
5. Animal Facility Licenses
6. Declare Surplus Property - City Hall Vehicles
7. Amendments to Non-Represented Job Descriptions
8. OLCC Licenses
9. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Council President Morten to approve '4' through '9' above.

Discussion.

Councilor Topaz expressed the need for continued work on the job descriptions. Can the documents be amended further in the future? Mayor Scholl said they can be amended at any time.

Council President Morten was hesitant at how much was included for approval. It was a lot to digest at one time. He would prefer to have one item presented at a time.

Councilor Chilton questioned the Accounts Payable Bill Lists.

- What is E2C? Mayor Scholl responded that it is the event coordinator.
- What does the City get from E2C for \$10,000/month? Brown responded that it is part of the yearly contract for E2C to organize community and tourism events. Mayor Scholl explained how the Budget review will help this make more sense. Councilor Topaz said that is why he asked for more details about the expenses. Councilor Chilton agreed with auditing the cost to find out why the City is paying \$10,000/month for marketing. Brown clarified that it is not only marketing. The Personal Services Contract with E2C is \$10,000/month and renewable annually by the Council. Mayor Scholl added that the City does not pay for anyone hired by E2C. Walsh talked about the tourism revenue that offsets that expense. Tourism revenue is not tax dollars. That money is required to go back into tourism. The two main revenue streams for tourism are hotel taxes and event fees. They cannot spend more tourism money than what comes in. The tourism events bring visitors here to spend money at our shops and restaurants. Councilor Chilton expressed the desire to review it further at a work session.
- City of Portland Lab Services? Mayor Scholl said that is likely testing water.
- Professional services? Brown said that could be attorneys, janitorial services, consultants, etc.

Mayor Scholl pointed out that the City undergoes a very strenuous annual audit.

Councilor Birkle had similar questions when he served on the Budget Committee. He would be interested in knowing if there is an inventory of items purchased for tourism.

Discussion ensued about the perception of what is being done.

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

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

None.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- Congratulations to the Employee of the Year recipients!
- Shout out to Public Works crew for all their hard work! There was a foot of snow and freezing rain on top of that.
- He is looking forward to spring.
- Thankful the Governor lifted orders from Extreme to High for Columbia County. It is nice to be able to sit down in a restaurant and eat.
- He really likes what he does and all the questions that the new councilors are asking.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Morten reported...

- Acknowledged the businesses that have made it through this difficult time. Hopefully, the most difficult time is behind them.
- Before the big storm, he noticed a lot of people using the parks, even in the rain.
- Acknowledged staff and crews. They put a lot of effort into getting through the big storm.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- During the work session review of job descriptions, he talked about checking on the mental drug health of the system. He apologized that it could have been assumed that he was accusing Brown of that. He was using his position as an example. There is a problem with State law and drug testing.
- He spoke about the dredging maps a few meetings ago. The maps were given to Public Works Director Zaher. The purpose of the maps was to show the changes in the Waterfront over time. He talked about areas that need to be cleaned. The Waterfront is complicated.

Councilor Chilton reported...

- Spent time in the snow with her family. She appreciates that the City continues to close part of N. 4th Street for sledding.
- It was good to see people helping people during the snow event.
- It was nice to sit and eat at Plymouth Pub.
- She continues to get comments from people in the community about City projects. There are a lot of great ideas and committed citizens.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- He received a nice gift certificate from his instructional assistant for Plymouth Pub.
- He was glad to be able to go into his favorite restaurant establishment that caters to dogs and their lovers.
- It was fun in the snow.
- He attended the Public Safety Facility Public Forum on Saturday. It was a great presentation. He wants to hear from people. There are many more opportunities for citizens to participate. He wants to hear from citizens and business owners.
- He made a pledge when he ran for City Council, that he would set aside his stipend to create a foundation for environmental preservation in the community. However, with more immediate needs in the community, he is donating his entire stipend to organizations and causes for people who are in need. He will not be keeping any for himself. He does not believe that anyone ran to receive the stipend. It is given in recognition of some of the work they do.
- The Planning Commission welcomed a new member. He is impressed with the Commission's work and viewpoints.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT - 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

Rick Scholl, Mayor