



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Jessica Chilton – via Zoom
Councilor Patrick Birkle
Councilor Mark Gundersen
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Suzanne Bishop, Library Director
Tina Curry, Contracted Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Brady Preheim
Jennifer Massey
Mercedes Massey
Brianna Gaston
Adam St. Pierre

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VISITOR COMMENTS – *Limited to three (3) minutes per speaker*

◆ Brady Preheim.

- He is here to correct something said about tourism. Council didn't mention the tax dedicated to only tourism. Contracted Event Coordinator Tina Curry takes that \$120,000 and turns it into about \$1.2 million. All departments should do that. The locals don't pay it. It's paid by visitors staying in hotels. He is opposed to a public safety fee with ticket costs. If she says adding a fee is a bad idea, they should believe her. He resents those fees when he sees them. Everything will be up for negotiation again when her contract ends. Tina brings in revenue to the community.
- There was an article in today's Chronicle complaining about the ethics. He doesn't see the issue and doesn't understand it. However, he does think Council should sign it as well.

◆ Jennifer Massey, President of Nonprofit organization.

- She is bothered that not all the Council members say the Pledge of Allegiance.
- She is a huge supporter of tourism and can't wait to see it grow. Her understanding is that 10% of the profits go back to the General Fund. Why can't that fund public safety? They don't plan on going away until there is adequate staffing and safety. How do they

bring more people when they don't have appropriate staffing? Everyone is in support of tourism. They are not in support of not having public safety. The first 13 Nights on the River had disturbances. Police were blamed because there are not enough officers and they couldn't be there. The City needs to look at private security. Tourism and Waterfront seem to be the priorities. Last Halloween, there was a threat assessment done. What are they doing about it? She and her organization will keep coming until there is a resolution to increase police.

- ◆ Adam St. Pierre. There were not enough officers to work the Kiwanis Community Parade. They asked for volunteers but no one wanted to give up the little bit of family time they have. They are working 60-70 hours a week. Columbia County Sheriff's Office was going to send four people, but he heard there was only one person with a ride-along. Should they take people off 911 service for the parade? How big do they want to grow these events? He recommends taking 10% from event ticket sales and putting it back into public safety. They need to reinvest to keep events safe. Will it become a burden of the taxpayers? They love tourism but want to see some funds go into law enforcement. They are representing a large group of people.
- ◆ Brianna Gaston. Officers are working overtime to fill patrol shifts. They don't want to fill extra shifts for events in addition to that. As a wife, she knows what it's like to have her husband working a lot of overtime. It's especially hard when you have young kids.

Mayor Scholl talked about filling the one open position. They are looking at using Urban Renewal funds to fund Administration positions to free up General Fund money to fund a police officer position.

Jennifer talked about the outstanding Public Records Requests and sharing the results with the community. They are using the information received to help answer questions they get from the public.

Councilor Birkle explained that it is his Constitutional right to not say the pledge. He still stands and is respectful. He flies a flag on national holidays, respects it, and affirmed to uphold the Constitution. Jennifer appreciates that but it is also her Constitutional right to express her concerns.

City Administrator Walsh invited Jennifer to come in and talk. Jennifer appreciates that. There is a lack of communication and she just wants to be transparent.

- ◆ Tina Curry. She confirmed that 10% of all ticket sales goes back to the City's General Fund. They can't possibly predict if something will happen at an event. It can still happen even if police are there. She would prefer this conversation not be had in public. It could inspire people to act.

ORDINANCES – *Final Reading*

- 1. Ordinance No. 3292:** An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property at 35046 Maple Street

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3292 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Ordinance No. 3292. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

- 2. Ordinance No. 3293:** An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property at 35082 Maple Street

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3293 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Ordinance No. 3293. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

3. Ordinance No. 3294: An Ordinance to Annex and Designate the Zone of Certain Property at 58927 Firlok Park Street

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3294 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to adopt Ordinance No. 3294. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

4. Ordinance No. 3295: An Ordinance to Change the Name of Mill Street as Located Along the South Side of Lot 8, Block 10, City of St. Helens, to Wapama Way

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3295 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to adopt Ordinance No. 3295. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

5. Ordinance No. 3296: An Ordinance Amending the St. Helens Municipal Code Chapter 12.20, and Adding Chapter 12.22 Regarding Camping on Public Property

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3296 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to adopt Ordinance No. 3296.

Amended Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to amend Section 12.22.020(1) "Camping" or "To" Camp" means to establish a Campsite either through occupation or storage of personal property on any location of City Property for more than 24 consecutive hours," by changing it from 24 to 48 consecutive hours.

Discussion.

Councilor Birkle believes this gives more grace to the people impacted and will be less likely to have litigation. Councilor Sundeen agreed. Mayor Scholl pointed out that Scappoose is 12 hours.

Council President Chilton is concerned that it increases it to five days. Councilor Birkle understands. He believes that more time is helpful for someone already in an unstable position. He has heard that 24 hours is already being challenged. They can consider the 24 hours to be objectionably reasonable, but it's based on what is objectionably reasonable to those impacted, which is the houseless. Council President Chilton can see that, but then why not six days? Where is the line? Councilor Sundeen has been looking at other cities. No two are the same. A little extra grace makes them that much safer. Councilor Gundersen prefers to stay at the 24 hours. They can find somewhere else to go. If they can't get it done in four days, what's an extra day? It should be plenty.

Mayor Scholl hears the compassion. There's a State mandate that can be scary. He understands both sides but would prefer to keep it where it's at. Community Action Team (CAT) said there are 700 houseless people in St. Helens. Measure 110 did not help. Officers cannot arrest where they used to. Now it's just a referral. Oregon is number 48 in addressing drug addiction and nearly dead last in mental health assistance. The governor did thank him for working on this. He's hopeful to make traction at the State level.

Vote for Amended Motion: Yeah: Councilor Birkle and Councilor Sundeen; Nay: Council President Chilton, Councilor Gunderson, and Mayor Scholl

Vote for Original Motion: Yeah: Council President Chilton, Councilor Gunderson, and Mayor Scholl; Nay: Councilor Birkle and Councilor Sundeen

Councilor Birkle stated for the record that he does not believe anyone voting in favor are any less humane than him. For him, it comes down primarily to offering grace and being less of a target.

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

6. Agreement with ABC Transcription Services, LLC for Transcribing Council Minutes
7. Donation Agreement with St. Helens II, LLC for Donation of Real Property

8. Extension of Agreement with Jonathan J. Ellis for Financial Services
9. First Amendment to Agreement with Mackenzie Engineering, Inc. for Infrastructure Design Work for the St. Helens Industrial Business Park
10. Extension of Agreement with Mark Comfort for Clean-up of Various Properties inside City Limits
11. Extension of Agreement with Mason, Bruce & Girard for Forestry Management
12. Extension of Agreement with Richard Oberdorfer for Pro Tem Judicial Services
13. Agreement with Scappoose Bay Watershed Council for Maintenance and Improvement of Natural Areas on City-owned Properties
14. Amended Agreement with Otak CPM for Project Management of the Public Safety Building Project

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Birkle to approve '6' through '14' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

APPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

15. a. Reappoint Ellen Jacobson to the Library Board
- b. Appoint Brian Long to the Parks and Trails Commission

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '15' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

16. Library Board Minutes dated May 8, 2023
17. Parks and Trails Commission Minutes dated May 8, 2023

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '16' and '17' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

18. Council Minutes dated May 3 and 17, 2023
19. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '18' and '19' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Chilton, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Sundeen

WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

None

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Chilton reported...

- Walked with the City and American Heritage Girls in the Kiwanis Community Parade. She had a great time with the Flying Eagle canoe.
- Citizens Day in the Park is on Saturday. She is excited to be there.
- Shoutout to Aces St. Helens Girls Softball 14U Tournament Team. They are traveling to Albany this weekend for the State Tournament with hopes to come back as state winners. Thank you to Spirit of Halloweentown for sponsoring them.
- Adult softball starts this week.
- Fair is coming up. She will miss the July 19 Council meetings while she's there for Senior Day with Avamere.

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- Parks Division
 - Mowing a lot
 - Keeping fields looking good
 - Resignation on Parks & Trails Commission
 - Welcomed Brian to the Parks & Trails Commission
 - Parks & Trails Commission hosted a work party at Dalton Lake
 - Working on the Urban Trail in St. Helens
 - Parks & Trails Commission will be at Citizens Day in the Park
 - An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Scappoose Bay Watershed was on tonight's agenda. He asked for the Parks & Trails Commission to be included in that in the future.
- Police Department
 - Thanked the police for all they do to keep the community safe
 - Congratulations and welcome to Officers Anderson and Sprinzl
 - Met with Police Chief Greenway and Lieutenant Hogue yesterday. They shared good ideas about using available resources to continue keeping the community safe.
- Looking forward to Citizens Day in the Park

Councilor Gundersen reported...

- Resignation on Planning Commission
- Excited about the Architectural Design Standards Committee. There are a couple Commission members he would like to see involved on that Committee.
- Glad to be done with HB 3115
- Looking forward to Citizens Day in the Park
- Apologized for missing the Kiwanis Community Parade. He had a prior commitment.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- Met with Library Director Bishop last week to get up to date. They have great programs going on for children and adults, including the Summer Reading Program. Staff is working to open the Makerspace limited hours.
- Acknowledged Pride Month. Council has acknowledged nondiscrimination and welcome to all people. He hopes they continue to recognize that. St. Helens is welcome to all people.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- Citizens Day in the Park is on Saturday. It includes a car show, live music, vendors, disc golf, etc. It's a good event for the community that staff has taken it to a different level.
- There is no first meeting in July
- Have a Happy 4th of July!
- The Waterfront Redevelopment is moving along
- There are a lot of activities downtown on 4th of July
- He appreciates staff and working on solutions to fund police. He looks forward to having an Urban Renewal meeting to discuss funding.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN – 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

Rick Scholl, Mayor