



# COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, November 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

Brady Preheim	Vanessa Wallace
Grace Howard	Jada Stewart
Bridget Caton	Alianna Clark

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Brady Preheim. They can't afford the proposed police station and he doesn't think it is needed. The Riverfront project is going to cost a lot of money. The former Finance Director said the City will be out of money in three years and they will have no reserves. If that's true, they need to be cautious. What happens if they run out of money? He doesn't know what happened to Matt Brown, but people don't get fired for no reason. He made a half million error in a public meeting. Something had to go away to come up with the funds for a Youth Librarian. What was it?
- ◆ Tina Curry.
  - She will be giving a tourism report in a couple of weeks.
  - Christmas decorations start going up next week. Public Works has been very helpful.
  - Christmas Ships is December 10.
    - There will be music, fire, alpacas, and Santa.
    - Wild Currant will provide a meal for the Christmas Ships.
    - The tram will be running around with lights and Christmas music.
  - Looking forward to Christmas cheer.
  - Staff went above and beyond to help with Spirit of Halloweentown.

### ORDINANCES – *Final Reading*

1. **Ordinance No. 3287:** An Ordinance Amending the St. Helens Municipal Code Chapter 12.04 Regarding Sidewalk Maintenance and Liability

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3287 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to adopt Ordinance No. 3287.

Discussion.

Mayor Scholl talked about street trees and causing damage to sidewalks.

Council President Morten said it makes a difference what type of trees they plant. The trees provide shade. They need to take recommendations from arborists about trees that have roots that grow down. Containers are great for flowers, but not as much for trees.

Councilor Chilton wants to take into consideration the trees that are already being taken care of.

Councilor Topaz talked about the rock that makes it difficult to plant trees in some places.

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

### **APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE**

2. [RATIFY] Agreement with Otak, Inc. for Project Management Services related to Public Safety Facility Project
3. Access and Utility Easement Modification with Pam Rensch for Chase Road
4. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement with GMP Consultants for Finance Director Recruitment Services

**Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '2' through '4' above.

Discussion.

Council President Morten requested an update for the Chase Road Easement Agreement. Mayor Scholl explained that it is an extension of the existing easement.

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL**

5. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Council President Morten to approve '5' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

### **WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS**

**Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to allocate opioid settlement funds to the City for opioid use prevention, treatment, and recovery strategies. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

### **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Council President Morten reported...

- Agreed with Brady Preheim that trash cans are needed in parks during events and when they anticipate large crowds. At other times, people just dump their household garbage in those cans. They have started using cans with smaller lid openings to make that more difficult. Mayor Scholl would like more cans on the Waterfront property during the 4th of July tailgating.

**Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Mayor Scholl for Parks staff to bring in additional trash cans during events and when they anticipate large crowds. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

- It was a great Waterfront Groundbreaking Ceremony today. He is so glad to see that things are starting. He envisions great things for the future of St. Helens.
- He met one of the County staff members at the groundbreaking ceremony who talked about including the parking lot behind the Courthouse as part of the Riverwalk process. City Administrator Walsh explained that there will be a connection at the top of the dock gang plank that you can connect to Columbia View Park or towards the County side without going into the parking lot. Council President Morten went on to say that the County representative wanted to move the parking lot back to widen the pathway for a trail and picnic tables.
- He asked if he needs to come back for the next Urban Renewal meeting.
- He is involved in a process of doing land acknowledgements for the Friends of Timberline Lodge. It acknowledges the Indigenous people who lived here before Lewis and Clark. There was a village across the river of over 1,000 inhabitants. It was the Challapata Village. There was also a nation of tribes who lived near Millard and Ross Road. It's been fascinating learning the history. Student Vanessa Wallace asked if they could get some to speak about that at the school. Council President Morten suggested Les Watters. He runs the Columbia County Museum Association. Councilor Birkle also suggested contacting the Grand Ronde Tribe and Confederated Tribes of the Siletz.

A student from the audience asked if there would be any meetings held at the high school in the future. Mayor Scholl said they have done meetings in the auditorium in the past. They can discuss scheduling one there again.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- They are conducting a background check for the Youth Librarian and have a tentative start date of November 22.
- The Police Chief made a presentation to high school students about becoming police officers or public servants. He spoke with School Superintendent Scott Stockwell about the possibility of starting a Student Corp or Cadette Corp for that kind of program. The school recently brought in industrial business representatives to highlight vocational programs.

Councilor Chilton reported...

- Police gave a great report today.
- Hoping to have a new Police Officer on board soon.
- She is appreciative of our police force.
- Excited and proud to be a part of the groundbreaking ceremony today.
- Busy with election season. She is looking forward to seeing what happens next week.

Councilor Birkle reported...

- He left Buccini Hall during the Día de los Muertos celebration tonight. It's a day Hispanic and Latinx celebrate the memory of their loved ones. There was great food and a mariachi band. They hope this is the first of many more of these events to express their heritage.
- November is National American Heritage month. At the last meeting, Council President Morten talked about a statement recognizing the people who lived here. He would like to reach out to the representatives of the Grand Ronde Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, and the Chinook. The Riverfront walk will also acknowledge the history.
- Attended the Children's Fair at McBride Elementary School this year. It was great to have it again.
- Recognized the high school students in attendance. He asked if they have any questions. Student Vanessa Wallace asked what they can talk about during public comment. Council said it can anything. It's an opportunity to be heard. There was discussion of bringing back the Youth Council. Mayor Scholl talked about what the Council does and explained meetings and City processes. They want to hear from citizens.

**MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS**

- The groundbreaking ceremony was great today. They adopted the Urban Renewal under his leadership when he first started. It is finally coming to fruition. This is the future of St. Helens. The Riverwalk is a good thing for the city.
- Election season is in full swing.
- The Community Grant process will be opening soon. He would like to ask recipients to volunteer at one of the communities' events, such as Citizens Day in the Park, 13 Nights on the River, Spirit of Halloweentown, or the Halloween parade. Councilor Topaz suggested using high school students to help at events. Student Vanessa Wallace said she is the Environmental Club President and believes they would be interested in helping. Mayor Scholl appreciated that and asked her to talk with Club members and report back. Council concurred with adding the volunteer commitment to the grant application.

Councilor Topaz talked to the students about the problems with young kids during 13 Nights on the River. The best control with young people is other young people. They would appreciate help with that. Discussion of involving students with events.

**OTHER BUSINESS****ADJOURN – 7:56 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

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Kathy Payne, City Recorder

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Rick Scholl, Mayor