



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, December 21, 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	Joe Hogue, Police Lieutenant
Kathy Payne, City Recorder	Matt Molden, Police Officer
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder	Jamin Coy, Police Officer
Crystal King, Communications Officer	Brandon Haflich, Police Officer

OTHERS

Jim Coleman Ben Tiscareno
Brady Preheim Lynne Pettit
Family and Friends of Brandon Haflich

CALL REGULAR SESSION TO ORDER – 7:05 p.m.

There were technical difficulties with Zoom the first few minutes of the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE OFFICER BRANDON HAFLICH

Lieutenant Joe Hogue introduced new Police Officer Brandon Haflich. His wife, McKenna, pinned his badge. Council welcomed Officer Haflich.

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

- ◆ Gene Hester, Judge Advocate for Veteran of Foreign Wars and Andrew Niemi, Lower Columbia Engineering. Gene showed a rendering of the next proposed phase for the Veterans Memorial Plaza at McCormick Park. Pedestals and flags will be installed for each branch of the military. The pedestals will match what exists now. They are requesting the City cover the cost of concrete and work to install them. Andrew added that they would be happy to work with a City representative to review the proposal.

Mayor Scholl said that they do have a standard for flagpoles. He thinks the City could help with the concrete.

Councilor Chilton is in support of it. She wants to have Parks and Public Works review it. Council President Morten agreed.

Mayor Scholl said it looks awesome. He's sure Public Works can help with it.

There was no objection from Council to support it.

Gene requested a contact person. Public Works Director Zaher and Associate Planner Dimsho’s cards were given to Gene.

Council President Morten showed a diagram of the proposed location.

- ◆ Tina Curry.
 - Holly Haebe, with CERT, reported that over 100 pounds of broken glass was cleaned up from the Waterfront property by private citizens walking by on October 23.
 - Robert sweeps Cowlitz Street between Strand and First Street every morning.
 - Thanked Holly and Evie, who have retired from CERT.
 - Thanked Council for giving her the opportunity to do the tourism contract.
 - Shoutout to Public Works for all their work to make things happen.
 - Christmas Ships went really well this year. They got lucky with the weather again.

- ◆ Brady Preheim. Thanked Council President Morten and Mayor Scholl for their vote against appointing Charles Castner to the Planning Commission. Unfortunately, he was appointed anyway. He understands Councilor Topaz's vote because he tends to lie for what he wants. He was surprised by Councilor Chilton's comment by saying that it was not in their wheelhouse. He was most disappointed by Councilor Birkle. He basically said he didn’t read his email. What is the process to make sure everyone on the Council reads their email? How many other emails have been missed? Charles lied to the Planning Commission. His wife admitted to lying, but he said that wasn’t true. The City has an Ethics Policy. What do you do when their first action violated it? It's not acceptable. He's not trustworthy.

ACCEPT ABSTRACT OF VOTES FROM NOVEMBER 8, 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

1. November 8, 2022 General Election Results for City of St. Helens

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Council President Morten to accept the Abstract of Votes from November 8, 2022, General Election. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

PROCLAMATION

2. City Council Election Results from November 8, 2022 General Election

Mayor Scholl read the proclamation into the record.

WHEREAS, at a General Election held in the State of Oregon on November 8, 2022 in the City of St. Helens, Oregon, the candidates for office of City Mayor and two Councilor positions were submitted to the voters, and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of St. Helens has received the results of said elections and has found as follows:

MAYOR	TOTAL VOTES CAST
Rick Scholl (incumbent)	4,651
Stephen R. Topaz	1,196
Miscellaneous Write-Ins	45

COUNCILOR POSITIONS (2)	TOTAL VOTES CAST
Mark Gundersen	2,687
Jesse Lagers	709
Brandon Sundeen	2,783
Steve Toschi	1,989
Michael Zienty	352

Miscellaneous Write-Ins

78

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scholl, Mayor of the City of St. Helens, do hereby proclaim at the General Election held November 8, 2022, the following:

1. Rick Scholl was re-elected to the position of Mayor.
2. Mark Gundersen was elected to the position of Councilor.
3. Brandon Sundeen was elected to the position of Councilor.

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to accept the Election Results from November 8, 2022, General Election. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

ORDINANCES – Special Reading

- 3. [ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VOTER APPROVAL] Ordinance No. 3288:** An Ordinance Declaring a Two-Year Temporary Ban on Psilocybin Service Centers and the Manufacture of Psilocybin Products

Mayor Scholl read Ordinance No. 3288 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to acknowledge the voter approval. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

RESOLUTIONS

- 4. Resolution No. 1971:** A Resolution to Set 2023 City Public Meetings and Holiday Closures Schedule for City of St. Helens Council, Boards, and Commissions

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1971 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Chilton and seconded by Council President Morten to adopt Resolution No. 1971. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT - Increase in various fees on Universal Fee Schedule**

Resolution No. 1972: A Resolution Adopting a Universal Fee Schedule, and Superseding Resolution No. 1954

No public comment.

Mayor Scholl read Resolution No. 1972 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to adopt Resolution No. 1972. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE

6. Extension of Agreement with Jonathan J. Ellis for Municipal Finance Services
7. Extension of Agreement with Soltronox LLC for Operation of ATM at 277 Strand Street
8. First Amendment to Agreement with Pauly Rogers and Co., PC for Financial Auditing Services

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '6' through '8' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

APPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

9. Reappoint Paul Barlow and Lynne Pettit to the Parks and Recreation Commission

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Birkle and seconded by Councilor Chilton to approve '9' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE

10. Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes dated October 10, 2022
11. Planning Commission Minutes dated November 8, 2022
12. Library Board Minutes dated November 14, 2022
13. Amended Parks and Recreation Commission Bylaws

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Topaz and seconded by Council President Morten to accept '10' through '13' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Scholl, Council President Morten, Councilor Birkle, Councilor Topaz, Councilor Chilton

CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

14. Council Work Session, Executive Session, Special Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated September 21, 2022
15. Council Work Session, Executive Session, and Regular Session Minutes dated October 19, 2022
16. Animal Facility Licenses
17. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

Motion: Motion made by Council President Morten and seconded by Councilor Topaz to approve '14' through '17' 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...

- It was a great evening at the reception. He thanked staff members for all they did. He will always remember it. Comments made warmed his heart.
- Thanked Tina Curry for her work and contributions. He's very proud of her.
- He may not always agree with Brady but he's always here. It would be nice if every citizen would do that.
- He's going to miss the Council members a lot.

Councilor Topaz reported...

- The Library is a people place. They have been discussing what happens when the weather gets bad. They need to start thinking about it more.

Councilor Chilton reported...

- Public Works is amazing. They are lucky to have Public Works Director Zaher and Engineering Manager Darroux. The attention to detail and saving the City money shows it's more than just a job to them.
- Christmas is coming and they are getting ready for the snow.
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Councilor Birkle reported...

- Attended Story Time yesterday. The Youth Librarian wasn't feeling well, but the Library Director was interacting, singing, and reading with the little ones.
- Looking forward to the cold weather. He hopes to lace his ice skates and find a frozen portion of Dalton Lake.
- Acknowledged Council President Morten. He will be missed. He is very approachable. He appreciates his demeanor and ability to reflect on issues. Morten was very supportive when he ran for Council. It's been a pleasure serving with him. He is a hero to the community.

MAYOR SCHOLL REPORTS

- Good Public Works report. Zaher has worked hard to get buy-in and cut costs. He is very proud of the job he has done. He's important to the operation, genuinely caring, and driven by ethics.
- It's going to be weird without Council President Morten on his right side. It's been six years. They've talked more over the last few years when they became co-liaisons and became friends. They've been through a lot together. They'll do their best to continue his legacy. They have a great staff. He will be missed.
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
- Told Councilor Topaz to reach out to him anytime he has concerns.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN – 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

Rick Scholl, Mayor