

**City of St. Helens**  
*Consent Agenda for Approval*

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Presented for approval on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025 are the following Council minutes:

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2025

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- Work Session, Executive Session, Public Hearings, and Regular Session Minutes dated June 4, 2025

**After Approval of Council Minutes:**

- ☐ Scan as PDF Searchable
- ☐ Make one double-sided, hole-punched copy and send to Library Reference
- ☐ Minutes related to hearings and deliberations get copied to working file
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# **COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Wednesday, June 04, 2025

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## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Jennifer Massey  
Council President Jessica Chilton – arrived at 3:14 p.m.  
Councilor Mark Gundersen  
Councilor Russell Hubbard  
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

### **STAFF PRESENT**

John Walsh, City Administrator  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder  
Matt Smith, Police Sergeant Detective  
Kolten Edwards, Police Detective  
Ashley Wigod, Contracted City Attorney

### **OTHERS**

Brady Preheim	Mitzi Ponce
Steve Topaz	Arthur
Adam	KOIN 6
Joe	

### **CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER – 3:00 p.m.**

### **CLEARING CONFUSION AND SETTING THE FACTS STRAIGHT**

#### **1. Clarification Memo to May 21 Visitor Comments**

Mayor Massey provided clarification regarding the tourism contractor payment of \$200,000 to the City. She explained that Treadway Events, the current tourism contractor, had paid back the City \$200,000 using revenues generated from the 2024 events. The funds were paid from the Wauna tourism bank account to the City's primary operating bank account.

Mayor Massey highlighted the difference between the current and previous tourism contracts, noting that the City now has access to the tourism bank account where all generated revenues are deposited. She detailed that when the current tourism contractor pays back the City, checks are issued via the new Wauna bank account and deposited into the City's primary operating account.

The mayor provided specific details about recent payments:

- A check for \$200,000 was issued on December 6, 2024, from the Wauna tourism account to the City of St. Helens and deposited in the City's primary operating account, posted to the Community Development Fund.
- An additional check for \$14,078.01 was issued on the same date to reimburse the City for staff time used to assist with the Spirit of Halloweentown 2024 events.

Mayor Massey concluded by stating that the remaining revenue generated by the City's current contractor remains in the Wauna tourism bank account and is being used for ongoing tourism events and activities. She informed that this clarification was available in the meeting packet and on the City's website.

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

- ◆ Brady Preheim. Addressed the Council, expressing appreciation for the clarification memo, which he stated verified his previous claim that the repayment was indeed a repayment. He asserted that the City had received no revenue from tourism, highlighting a distinction made in the memo regarding Treadway Events' repayment of \$200,000 and an additional \$14,078.01 for staff time assisting with the Spirit of Halloweentown 2024 events. Preheim criticized the Council's tourism strategies, claiming they had cost the City about \$600,000. He argued that due to these decisions, the City lost out on \$300,000 last year from E2C and could have benefitted similarly this year, suggesting that these revenues could have been reflected in the budget. Preheim expressed skepticism about the projected tourism revenue for the next year, labeling it "smoke and mirrors" and "ridiculously stupid." He doubted the City's claim to generate \$1.5 million, predicting it would not materialize as expected. Regarding the budget, Preheim raised concerns about its dependence on removing a cost-of-living adjustment, which he noted required union consent. He questioned what the Council's plan was if the Union disagreed, speculating on potential budget balancing challenges. On the police chief recruitment front, Preheim was critical of the process's conclusion, suggesting it was predetermined. He discussed the recruitment procedures, in which Sergeant Smith emerged as the highest-scoring candidate. Instead of this outcome, Preheim advocated for the appointment of Chief Hogue, emphasizing that Smith lacked community support, which Hogue held. He criticized Mayor Massey for the recruitment, insinuating corruption due to her alleged mob influence. Preheim implied that despite warnings of a flawed process, the predicted outcome occurred, and he advised the Council to consider community backing when deciding on the police chief. He concluded with a warning against any disappearance of scoring sheets, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Mayor Massey responded, stating that the City does not support or condone the comments made by the citizen. She emphasized the City's commitment to transparency and accountability, and that defamatory and inappropriate remarks would not be tolerated.

- ◆ Steve Topaz. Presented information about the lagoon project. He stated that there was no record of the Council authorizing City Administrator Walsh to make a presentation to the Portland Harbor Superfund in November 2014. Topaz discussed a range of issues related to the project, including the absence of records detailing the Council's approval of St. Helens as a toxic waste site and the lack of documentation from DEQ informing the City of the Boise Mill contamination study prior to the City purchasing the property. Furthermore, Topaz highlighted that DEQ did not permit docks at the Boise Mill to be repaired for the satellite tugboat staging area. He mentioned DEQ's recommendation for a remediation plan that involved removing all dockage from the site and covering the entire shallow water area with activated charcoal. He pointed out significant decisions made by DEQ, such as the announcement to forego channel cleaning from the river to the Scappoose Landing area and leaving contaminated areas along the channel in place, covered. Topaz also brought up concerns about a consulting company's assessment of the potential risks of landslides and liquefaction affecting the sewer line updates and mentioned a significant contrast between this assessment and the map findings, which indicated no problem with the sewer project but did show a major issue with the present lagoon and potential future toxic waste. He was critical of the ongoing funneling of \$20 million from FEMA funds to Moore Foster and ultimately turning the cooling sewer lagoon into a toxic waste zone. He emphasized that no public meeting had been held in the last 14 years to seek citizen approval for this project, and he underscored Columbia County's troublingly high cancer rates as a point of concern. He concluded

by stating that all his points were supported by State records and urged the Council to consider the compiled documentation on this issue.

## **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

### **2. Quarterly Reports from City Departments/Divisions (Informational)**

There was no discussion on this agenda item.

### **3. Chief of Police Recruitment Process - *City Administrator John Walsh***

City Administrator Walsh provided an update on the police chief recruitment process. He reported that interviews were held on May 29, with a panel consisting of two police chiefs from outside communities (Wilsonville and Canby), Sheriff Ryan Pixley, Councilor Hubbard, Walsh himself as a non-voting member, and a member of the St. Helens Police Association.

Walsh announced that Sergeant Smith emerged as the highest-scoring candidate from the evaluation process. He presented two options to the Council: approve Sergeant Smith as the next police chief (contingent upon a successful background check) or decline and opt for an external recruitment process.

Contracted City Attorney Ashley Wigod provided additional context on the recruitment process, mentioning the involvement of the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police in developing the recruitment procedure. She highlighted the expertise of the interview panel and congratulated Sergeant Smith on being the highest-scoring candidate.

### **4. Review Lease with Columbia Learning Center for Makerspace Expansion - *City Administrator John Walsh***

City Administrator Walsh presented the lease agreement between the Columbia Learning Center and the City for the Makerspace expansion. He addressed some confusion about the lease amount, clarifying that it includes the existing lease of \$400 plus the balance for the additional space. Walsh confirmed that the amount is correct and reflective of the budget, and has been accepted by the Columbia Learning Center.

Walsh encouraged Council members who hadn't visited the space to do so, praising its layout and accessibility. Mayor Massey echoed this sentiment, describing the space as "remarkable" and noting the diverse age range of visitors engaged in various activities.

### **5. Review Proposed Senior Center Lease - *City Administrator John Walsh***

City Administrator Walsh presented the proposed lease for the Senior Center, noting that while the administrative person had accepted the lease terms, it still needed to go before their Board. He explained that the lease terms were similar to before, including a five-year term and commitments to run the building as a senior center and provide space for the meal program.

Walsh highlighted the importance of the meal program, which serves both the St. Helens and Scappoose communities. He mentioned obligations for semi-annual reports and building maintenance, praising the Senior Center as a good partner and expressing the City's desire to see them succeed.

### **6. Report from City Administrator John Walsh**

- Congratulations to Matt Smith on being the top candidate in the police recruitment process, pending Council acceptance and a successful background check.
- Joe Hogue will retire from the City effective June 4, after nearly 27 years of service.
- Recommended appointing Matt Smith as acting chief to address the police department's immediate operational needs.
- Upcoming community events include:
  - 13 Nights on the River begins tomorrow
  - Kiwanis Community Parade on June 21

- Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Waterfront project on June 26
  - Community Day in the Park on June 28
  - Sandcastle Festival is tentative
- Ongoing projects and challenges include:
  - Waiting on a PGE side agreement for a business grant for a substation
  - The need to rebuild budget reserves
  - Supporting industrial and commercial development to improve the tax base
- Councilor Gundersen's appointment to the Columbia Foundation Board expired on May 31. He is willing to continue serving.
- Mayor Massey asked about discussing the fee for service initiative in a Work Session. Walsh clarified that the current year's budget does not include a fee for service, but exploring it as an advisory vote has been recommended. Wigod will review the existing code and provide recommendations for implementation at the next Council Work Session.
- Mayor Massey mentioned plans to start working on hiring policies, and requested background information on current practices to inform future discussions.

**ADJOURN – 3:29 p.m.****EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Deliberations with persons appointed to carry out Labor Negotiations, under ORS 192.660(2)(d)
- Real Property Transactions, under ORS 192.660(2)(e)
- Exempt Records/Confidential Attorney-Client Privileged Memo, under ORS 192.660(2)(f)
- Consult with Counsel/Potential Litigation, under ORS 192.660(2)(h)

Respectfully transcribed by ClerkMinutes and submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

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Kathy Payne, City Recorder

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Jennifer Massey, Mayor

# City of St. Helens

## CITY COUNCIL

### Executive Session Summary

June 4, 2025

**Members Present:** Jennifer Massey, Mayor  
Jessica Chilton, Council President  
Mark Gundersen, Councilor  
Brandon Sundeen, Councilor  
Russell Hubbard, Councilor

**Staff Present:** John Walsh, City Administrator  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

**Others:** Ashley Wigod, City Attorney with Jordan Ramis PC  
Jeff Kapp, City Attorney with Jordan Ramis PC (arrived via Zoom at 4:06 p.m. and left at 4:30 p.m.)



At 3:33 p.m., Mayor Massey opened the Executive Session pursuant to the ORS numbers listed below and then gave roll call. Other than Labor Negotiations, representatives of the news media, designated staff, and other persons as approved shall be allowed to attend the Executive Session. All other members of the audience are asked to leave the Council Chambers. Representatives of the news media were specifically directed not to report on or otherwise disclose any of the deliberations or anything said about these subjects during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No decision may be made in executive session. Any person in attendance, including the news media, who has a recording device is directed to turn it off.

Mayor Massey declared a potential conflict of interest when talking about CBAs and negotiations that have to do with police because her husband is a St. Helens Police Officer.

- **Deliberations with persons appointed to carry out Labor Negotiations, under ORS 192.660(2)(d)**
  - Update on negotiations with AFSCME and the St. Helens Police Association.

Jeff Kapp arrived via Zoom at 4:06 p.m.

- **Real Property Transactions, under ORS 192.660(2)(e)**
  - Update on purchase/lease of proposed location of new police station at 1771 Columbia Blvd.

Jeff Kapp left the Zoom room at 4:30 p.m.

- **Real Property Transactions, under ORS 192.660(2)(e)**
  - Potential sale of City-owned property located on Old Portland Road between North 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets.
  - Update on status of Project Arcadia at the Industrial Business Park.
  - Update on City-owned Millard Road property that is up for sale.
  - Update on potential sale of City-owned property off Kelly Street.

- **Exempt Records/Confidential Attorney-Client Privileged Memo, under ORS 192.660(2)(f)**
  - Review of Privileged and Confidential Memorandum dated June 4, 2025, from City Attorney Ashley Wigod.
- **Consult with Legal Counsel & Potential/Pending Litigation, under ORS 192.660(2)(h)**
  - Update on the status of the litigation with Joe Hogue.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.



ATTEST:

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Kathy Payne, City Recorder

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Jennifer Massey, Mayor

*An audio recording of this meeting is archived at City Hall.*



# COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, June 04, 2025

## DRAFT MINUTES

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jennifer Massey  
Council President Jessica Chilton  
Councilor Mark Gundersen  
Councilor Russell Hubbard  
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

### STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Crystal King, Communications Officer  
Jacob Graichen, City Planner

### OTHERS

Amanda McFerson  
Agnes Petersen  
MaryAnne Anderson

### OPEN PUBLIC HEARING – 6:15 p.m.

### TOPIC

#### 1. Annexation of Property Located at 35262 Fir Street (Greg & Amanda McFeron)

City Planner Jacob Graichen reviewed preliminary matters. There were no potential or actual conflicts of interest, bias in this matter, exparte communications, or site visits. There were no objections from the audience for the Council to make a fair decision. Graichen went on to present the staff report on the annexation request for the property located at 35262 Fir Street, owned by Greg and Amanda McFeron.

Graichen provided background on the annexation request, noting it dated back to 2000 and was related to a sewer use agreement with a five-year renewal interval. He explained that the property was about 70-feet from the nearest City limit line, which raised questions about adjacency requirements for annexation.

Graichen discussed the advantages of annexation for the property owners, including lower utility rates and more flexible rules for adding a second dwelling unit. He noted that the Planning Commission had recommended zoning the property as R-7 if annexed, based on surrounding zoning patterns.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### Applicant

- ◆ Amanda McFeron. Spoke about her confusion regarding the annexation status of her property. She mentioned that she and her husband, Greg, were under the impression that their property had been fully annexed back in 1999 when they signed paperwork related to the sewer connection. However, it was revealed that only their sewer line, as part of a STEP system, had



been annexed, leaving the property itself outside City limits. As a result, they have paid over \$16,000 more in utility costs over the years since being outside City limits doubled their utility rates. During the proceedings, McFeron expressed frustration over the financial burden and reiterated that they had been diligent in signing all required documents at the time.

Council debated the validity of the original petition and waiver signed in 1999, which included a clause waiving the one-year time limitation established by ORS 222.173. Council members expressed mixed feelings about setting a precedent for handling such old annexation requests given the legal ambiguity and proposed that the waiver should be reviewed by legal counsel to ensure it met current legal standards.

Several Council members were empathetic to the McFeron's plight, acknowledging the significant financial hardship they had undergone due to the annexation oversight. There was discussion about various options: continuing the public hearing to get a legal opinion, requesting a new petition from the McFeron's, or conditionally approving the annexation based on the attorney's review of the waiver's validity. Ultimately, the Council showed a leaning towards the latter option to avoid further delays and costs for the property owners while also fulfilling their due diligence responsibilities and ensuring legal clarity.

#### **In Favor – None**

#### **Neutral**

- ◆ Agnes Petersen. Recommended the Council table any annexation where the signed document was more than a year old, citing State law concerns. She suggested having property owners sign new, recent requests for annexation.
- ◆ MaryAnne Anderson. Expressed concerns about the City's process for handling old annexation requests and questioning the applicability of current statutes to documents signed decades ago.

#### **In Opposition – None**

Council and Graichen discussed a proposal to continue the hearing to seek legal advice regarding the validity of the waiver signed in 1999 by the McFeron's that waived the one-year time limitation mandated by ORS 222.173. Council members acknowledged the financial burden faced by the McFeron's, who inadvertently paid significantly higher utility rates due to the oversight. Various options were considered to address the situation, such as obtaining a legal opinion, drafting a new petition, or conditionally approving the annexation contingent upon legal clearance of the waiver. The Council expressed a preference for a solution that would not further delay the annexation process for the property owners while ensuring compliance with legal standards. Ultimately, there was a suggestion to consider approving the annexation subject to an attorney's review, thereby balancing the need for legal assurance with the intent to swiftly rectify the issue for the McFeron's.

#### **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING – 6:58 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

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Kathy Payne, City Recorder

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Jennifer Massey, Mayor



# **COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING**

Wednesday, June 04, 2025

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## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Jennifer Massey  
Council President Jessica Chilton  
Councilor Mark Gundersen  
Councilor Russell Hubbard  
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

### **STAFF PRESENT**

John Walsh, City Administrator  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Crystal King, Communications Officer  
Jacob Graichen, City Planner

### **OTHERS**

Amanda McFerson  
MaryAnne Anderson

### **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING – 6:58 p.m.**

#### **TOPIC**

- 1. Annexation of Property Located at 58909 Firlok Park Street (Bradford & Teresa Pyl)**

#### **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

City Planner Jacob Graichen reviewed preliminary matters. There were no potential or actual conflicts of interest, bias in this matter, ex parte communications, or site visits. There were no objections from the audience for the Council to make a fair decision. Graichen went on to present the staff report on the annexation request for the property located at 58909 Firlok Park Street, owned by Bradford and Teresa Pyl.

Graichen noted that this annexation was more straightforward. He mentioned that the property was located along Firlok, close to previously annexed properties. The Planning Commission recommended approval, and there was only one zoning option available, Apartment Residential (AR).

Graichen informed the Council that the property owners had contacted the City earlier in the year inquiring about the status of their annexation, primarily due to their interest in obtaining lower utility rates. He stated that there didn't appear to be any controversy surrounding this annexation request.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**In Favor – None**

**Neutral**

- ◆ MaryAnne Anderson. She clarified that there were two separate issues at hand: 1) The one-year expiration question, which was not applicable in this case as the annexation was timely. 2) The broader issue of compliance with annexation laws, specifically referencing statute 222.127. Andersen explained that the law states "notwithstanding a contrary provision of a City charter or City ordinance" and "upon receipt of a petition proposing annexation." She questioned the interpretation of "upon receipt," suggesting that it should not apply to petitions filed decades ago. She cautioned the Council to pay attention to the dates on annexation documents and ensure they post-date the relevant statute. Andersen also advised the Council to confirm that current property owners still want to be annexed, noting that in some cases, properties had changed hands multiple times since the original petition was filed.

**In Opposition – None**

Following the public testimony, Council President Chilton asked if the applicant wanted to be annexed into the City. City Planner Graichen responded that the applicants had called expressing interest in obtaining lower utility rates, but they were not present at the hearing.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING – 7:06 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

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Kathy Payne, City Recorder

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Jennifer Massey, Mayor



# COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Wednesday, June 04, 2025

## DRAFT MINUTES

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jennifer Massey  
Council President Jessica Chilton  
Councilor Mark Gundersen  
Councilor Russell Hubbard  
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

### STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder  
Crystal King, Communications Officer  
Jacob Graichen, City Planner

Ashley Wigod, Contracted City Attorney  
Doug Treat, Police Sergeant  
Dylan Gaston, Police Officer

### OTHERS

Amanda McFeron	Brady Preheim	Jenni Gilbert
MaryAnne Anderson	Adam St. Pierre	Ron Trommlitz
Dan Thenell	Steve Toschi	Rick
Brad	Joe	KOIN 6

### CALL REGULAR SESSION TO ORDER – 7:06 p.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- ◆ Jennifer Gilbert. Addressed the Council, expressing appreciation for Lieutenant Hogue's 28 years of diligent service to the community. She voiced significant concerns about retaliation, political silencing, and manipulative behavior within the Council. Gilbert highlighted her disapproval of the Council's conduct, criticizing their allowance of a "vindictive woman" to exercise undue influence over decisions, and suggesting that there might have been tampering with evidence. Gilbert passionately argued that what happened to Lieutenant Hogue wasn't just wrongful but was both political and personal, stating that the actions taken against him were public and politically motivated. She called emphatically for the resignation of Council members, saying that the community was watching more closely than ever and warned that their actions would not go unnoticed or unchallenged.
- ◆ Brady Preheim. Talked about the politicization of the positions of finance director and chief of police. He accused the Finance Director of having lied, citing two specific instances regarding payments and a missing sum of \$100,000, asserting that the Council was aware of these lies as they had been recorded. Preheim alleged that Hogue had courageously come forward as a whistleblower. He expressed his view that Hogue deserved to be offered the position of police chief, emphasizing the need for the Council to reconsider their previous decisions and urging them to "add a zero" to any future considerations involving Hogue.

- ◆ Adam St. Pierre. Expressed gratitude toward the Council for adhering to a thorough and professional process in selecting a new police chief. He commended the Council for seeking guidance from the Oregon Police Chiefs Association and for adhering to their recommended protocols. St. Pierre acknowledged that the Council had engaged professional help to ensure objectivity and expertise in the selection process, a move he appreciated.
- ◆ Dan Thenell, speaking on behalf of the St. Helens Police Officers Association, extended his gratitude to the Council for their handling of the police chief search process. He articulated that the Association was pleased with the outcome and overwhelmingly supported Matt Smith as the best candidate for the position of police chief. Thenell emphasized that the selection process facilitated by the Council was well-executed, stating that Smith's election was crucial in preventing personnel turnover within the Police Department.
- ◆ Steve Toschi. Expressed his disagreement with the fairness of the procedures undertaken against Hogue. Toschi posited that the St. Helens Police Officers Association had a hand in influencing the selection of Jennifer Massey as a mayoral candidate, suggesting potential bias and compromise within the process. He further outlined his concerns about existing divisions within the Police Department, exacerbated by politics, and questioned the role of the Association in the internal matters of the department.

## DELIBERATIONS

### 1. Annexation of Property Located at 35262 Fir Street (Greg & Amanda McFeron)

Council President Jessica Chilton expressed support for moving forward with the annexation, subject to legal approval of the waiver. City Planner Jacob Graichen explained that the waiver had been in the file since 1999 but was not attached to the staff report. Contracted City Attorney Ashley Wigod advised that since the applicant wants the annexation, the City wants it, and nobody is objecting, it would be fine to approve.

**Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve the annexation of 35262 Fir Street. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

### 2. Annexation of Property Located at 58909 Firlok Park Street (Bradford & Teresa Pyl)

**Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve the annexation of 58909 Firlok Park Street. **Vote:** Voting Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

## ORDINANCES – *Final Reading*

### 3. **Ordinance No. 3309:** An Ordinance to Amend the City of St. Helens Zoning District Map for Certain Property at 1771 Columbia Boulevard from the General Commercial, GC Zone to the Houlton Business District, HBD Zone

Mayor Massey read Ordinance No. 3309 by title. **Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Hubbard to adopt Ordinance No. 3309. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

**APPROVE AND/OR AUTHORIZE FOR SIGNATURE**

4. Lease with Columbia Learning Center for Makerspace Expansion

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '4' above.

**Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

5. Lease with St. Helens Senior Center

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Council President Chilton to approve '5' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACCEPTANCE**

6. Budget Committee Minutes dated May 1, 2025

**Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to approve '6' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL**

7. City Council Minutes dated May 21, 2025  
8. OLCC Licenses  
9. Accounts Payable Bill Lists

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Gundersen to approve '7' through '9' above. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard (for '7' and '9'), Councilor Sundeen; Abstain: Councilor Hubbard (for '8')

**WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS****Chief of Police Appointment**

Mayor Massey declared a potential conflict of interest due to her husband's employment as a St. Helens Police Officer, and abstained from discussion and voting.

**Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to confirm the City Administrator's appointment of Sergeant Matthew Smith as the Chief of Police, contingent upon the successful completion of a comprehensive background investigation and psychological and medical examination, as appropriate.

Wigod explained the process for selecting the new police chief, which involved guidance from the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police and an evaluation panel consisting of five members, including chiefs from other cities, the Columbia County Sheriff, a police association representative, and Councilor Hubbard.

Councilor Hubbard expressed his satisfaction with the selection process, noting its thoroughness and lack of bias. Other Council members echoed their support for the process and the selected candidate.

**Vote:** Voting Yea: Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen; Abstain: Mayor Massey

**Acting Chief of Police Appointment**

Mayor Massey reiterated her potential conflict interest as previously stated.

**Motion:** Motion made by Council President Chilton and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to confirm the City Administrator's appointment of Sergeant Matthew Smith as the Acting Chief of Police effective upon

the retirement of Interim Chief Joe Hogue and until such time as the Council confirms the appointment of Chief of Police or otherwise directs. **Vote:** Yea: Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen; Abstain: Mayor Massey

### **Re-appointment to Columbia Foundation Board**

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Sundeen and seconded by Councilor Hubbard to appoint Councilor Gundersen as a City representative on the Columbia Foundation Board. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

### **2MG Reservoir – Walker Report**

Council addressed a request from Ron Trommlitz regarding the release of a report on reservoir defects. Councilor Gundersen read a statement explaining the decision to release the Walker report in the interest of transparency.

**Motion:** Motion made by Councilor Gundersen and seconded by Councilor Sundeen to release the Walker report. **Vote:** Yea: Mayor Massey, Council President Chilton, Councilor Gundersen, Councilor Hubbard, Councilor Sundeen

### **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Councilor Sundeen reported...

- Expressed appreciation for the Budget Committee's efforts and dedicated staff, highlighting their hard work.
- Reported on the Parks and Trails Commission's recent events, noting a successful cleanup at the Japanese Gardens in McCormick Park and commended the ongoing positive activities in the Commission.
- Commended Joe Hogue for his nearly 30 years of commitment and service to the St. Helens Police Department, emphasizing Hogue's role in providing stability during challenging times and expressing admiration for his dedication.
- Looking forward to working with Matt Smith in the future.

Councilor Chilton reported...

- Talked about upcoming community events to highlight positive developments in the City, mentioning the return of 13 Nights on the River and Community Day in the park, and encouraging resident participation.
- Emphasized the importance of focusing on growth and positive changes within the community and expressed gratitude to those working to enhance the quality of life in St. Helens.

Councilor Gundersen reported...

- Nothing to report.

Councilor Hubbard reported...

- Nothing to report.

### **MAYOR MASSEY REPORTS**

- Shared excitement over upcoming community events like the Kiwanis Community parade on June 21 and Fourth of July celebrations.
- Congratulated Matthew Smith on his selection as the next police chief, expressing confidence in his capabilities.
- Acknowledged Joe Hogue's 27-year career with the Police Department, praising his dedication to public safety.
- Articulated enthusiasm for the progress on the new police station and the Council's determination to see the project through.

- Thanked City staff and fellow Council members for their commitment, professionalism, and collaborative efforts towards City advancement.
- Congratulations to St. Helens High School Girls Softball for their win.

**PROACTIVE ITEMS**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**ADJOURN – 7:48 p.m.**

Respectfully transcribed by ClerkMinutes and submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

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Kathy Payne, City Recorder

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Jennifer Massey, Mayor