

A regular meeting of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 7:00 pm.

Councilors Present: Nemlowill, Jones, Price, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear.

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Interim Parks and Recreation Director Dart-McLean, Finance Director Brooks, Interim Fire Chief Curtis, Police Chief Spalding, Public Works Director Harrington, Library Director Pearson, and City Attorney Henningsgaard. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

PROCLAMATIONS

Item 3(a): Daughters of the American Revolution: Constitution Week, Sept. 17-23, 2018

Mayor LaMear read the proclamation declaring September 17-23, 2018 as Constitution Week.

Loreen Church, Daughters of the American Revolution, said the proclamation would be posted in the Astoria Library for the week.

Item 3(b): Lower Columbia Hispanic Council: National Hispanic Heritage Month

Mayor LaMear read the proclamation declaring September 15th through October 15th, 2018 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Minerva Moulin, Lower Columbia Hispanic Council, thanked the City for adopting a proclamation acknowledging Hispanic Heritage Month. They were grateful to see that the Councilors recognized the contributions made to the local community by Hispanic residents.

Mayor LaMear announced that there was an addition to the agenda and invited Matt Philips from the Sheriff's Office to talk about the jail bond.

Lieutenant Matt Phillips said he had worked for the Sheriff's Office for 17 years and was currently assigned as the jail commander. He gave a PowerPoint presentation, which included an overview and the history of the current jail facility, which opened in 1980 with fewer beds than originally intended due to costs. He provided details on studies and investigation done in recent years indicating that the jail no longer meets the needs or the projected needs of the county. He cited statistics and explained how the inadequate facility impacts staffing, staff workloads, finances, crime rates, and the community. He described their pre-trial release program and noted it was designed to make decisions about who to release early when they must do a forced release due to overpopulation, and to do so in a way that minimizes risks to community safety. He shared costs associated with a variety of options for upgrading the facility and said the most cost-effective solution would be to build a brand new facility, which would cost about \$23.8 million. The bond would be \$20 million and the county would contribute the remainder from reserves and timber funds. The bond would result in an additional \$50 a year on a house with an assessed value of \$250,000. He explained the financial impact of the new facility on the County's budget.

Councilor Price asked why Clatsop County was at the top of the crime metrics. Lt. Philips explained that as a county employee, he was limited to facts and figures, so he could not answer that.

Councilor Price asked if there were people in jail for possession of marijuana or for being unhoused. Lt. Philips answered no; simple marijuana possession is not a crime. It would take a tremendous amount of marijuana to get to the level of possession being a crime, and the laws are so complicated that it would difficult to figure out how to make possessing marijuana illegal.

Councilor Price asked what role the Sheriff's Department plays in immigration law. Lt. Philips replied none.

Councilor Price believed a new jail has been necessary for a very long time and Sheriff Bergen's ideas have brought the cost way down from a years ago. The OIA facility is important because if the bond does not pass this time and comes up again in three to four years, that facility would not be there. And, it is likely the bond issue would come up again because the needs will not go away, they will only get worse. The quality of life in Clatsop County depends on a jail. Judges do not like to throw people in jail and there are a lot of good family courts, mental health courts, and drug courts that try to keep people out of jail. However, they have to sanction programs even though they know offenders will not go. Jails do not have a natural constituency, but they are important.

Councilor Nemlowill asked what would happen to the space in Astoria if a new jail were built. Lt. Philips said there had been a lot of thoughts and conjecture about that. There are offices, a meeting area, lots of storage, and a commercial kitchen in the jail that could be used for a variety of programs. The growing 4-H club is currently in an expensive lease and are in need of more space and storage. The County could continue to use the building for its own growing storage needs. There is a company that turns jails into other facilities like treatment facilities.

Mayor LaMear said earlier that day at the Rotary meeting, it was mentioned that one possibility was a mental health facility, which is needed in the community. Lt Philips stated the jails have become a safety net for the community and it's not just a reprieve from criminals who break the law repeatedly. Since the deinstitutionalization of jails, they have become the default response to mental health crises. And if that is the way things are going to be, jails might as well try to do a good job and have a facility that meets the needs of the individuals who are there.

Dave Hanlon Warrenton, said he was a retired jail consultant and construction manager. He was the project manager for the Tillamook County Jail and he had worked with Columbia County, Polk County, Benton County, and others that went through the process. Only some of them were successful at passing a bond. He technically did not know why Clatsop County was at the top of all the metrics that Lt. Phillips mentioned, but he did know that before Tillamook County had a jail, they were high on the metrics as well because they only had about six or eight beds in their jail and it was all catch and release. Tourists would come and wreak havoc on the county on the weekends, get arrested, and then they would be released to go home. They would come back the next weekend, so that added to their crime rates quite a bit. The crime rates reduced a lot after the jail was built.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

Item 4(a): Councilor Jones reported that attended the American Legion's recognition of two Eagle Scouts and they gave each one a scholarship. He also attended the Race to the Bar, which is an annual fundraiser for the Lower Columbia Hospice. They raised almost \$20,000. The spouse of a Maritime Memorial employee died last week under hospice care and it is very meaningful for the family to have hospice services. Hospice is not just for the patient; it is also for the surviving family members. He attended the Lower Columbia Hispanic Heritage Festival with music and folk dancing. He also attended the Urban Core Town Hall meeting, which had a standing room only crowd. He believed City Manger Estes was managing the process very well. People have a lot of opportunities throughout the process to provide continuous input, verbally and in writing. He also attended Fire Chief Paul Gascoine's retirement. Big house fires are very rare in Astoria and the vast majority of fire calls are for medical emergencies. There is nothing more traumatic than what first responders have to see when they arrive at a car accident.

Item 4(b): Councilor Price reported that Robert (Bob) Jacobs had passed away about a week ago. A memorial had been scheduled for November 3rd and more details would be available later.

Item 4(c): Councilor Brownson reported that Mr. Gascoine had been with Astoria for 31 years to the day. He looked forward to seeing him out on the river because they sail against each other competitively. He received a plaque from a new cruise ship, the Disney Wonder. He also attended the Urban Core Town Hall meeting, which had a good turnout. This will be an important part of how the town looks, so he encouraged people who do not typically engage to start participating in the process and provide comments. He wanted to hear from the broader population.

Item 4(d): Councilor Nemlowill had no reports.

Item 4(e): Mayor LaMear reported that Richard Curtis had been appointed as Interim Fire Chief.

Interim Fire Chief Curtis said he had been in Astoria just short of two weeks and it was an honor to be here. He previously worked as Fire Chief in the City of Anacortes, WA for 22 years. Anacortes is also a port town with many of the same characteristics as Astoria. Chief Gascoine was wonderful at helping him learn about all of the things he had been working on. The firefighters are very committed to providing services to the citizens. His goal was to maintain the excellent high level of service the Fire Department provides.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) City Council Minutes of 8/20/18
- 6(b) City Council Special Session Minutes of 8/23/18
- 6(c) Boards and Commission Minutes
 - (1) Library Board Meeting of 8/28/18
 - (2) Parks and Recreation Board Meeting of 8/22/18
- 6(d) Police Department Status Update
- 6(e) Fire Department Status Update
- 6(f) Resolution to Close Existing Funds with Residual Transfers

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Nemlowill, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7(a): Enterprise Zone Resolution

City Manager Estes explained that in March, City Council held a work session to discuss the expansion of the existing Clatsop Enterprise Zone into portions of Astoria. Melanie Olson from Business Oregon, Kevin Leahy from Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR), and Bob Dorn from Hyak Maritime were present at that meeting. At that work session, Council expressed interest in expanding the Clatsop Enterprise Zone into Astoria proper. Enterprise zones are an economic development tool that provide incentives primarily for manufacturing businesses, but do not supersede a municipality's zoning ordinances. In July, Council received a presentation on a draft map prepared by City and County Staff for the areas proposed to be included in the enterprise zone. These are areas of the city where zoning would permit manufacturing businesses that would qualify for the incentives. Council provided direction to proceed. Since the July meeting, a final meets and bounds description was prepared by the County surveyor, which is required to be considered with the resolution. Additionally, CEDR provided notification to the respective taxing districts, which is required by State Statute. In the draft resolution provided to City Council, there is a "be it further resolved" statement that excludes hotels, motels, or destination resorts as being eligible for enterprise zone participation within the City limits of Astoria. That is in keeping with Council direction. These uses would still be eligible in other Clatsop County jurisdictions that are in the Clatsop Enterprise Zone. Should Council approve the implementing resolution, the expansion of the enterprise zone would also need to be considered by Warrenton City Council, the Port of Astoria Commission, and the Clatsop County Commission. The Port of Astoria Commission has the zone expansion on their agenda for their meeting on September 18th. He displayed maps and explained the exact location of the enterprise zone boundaries and expansion areas. Including Astoria's downtown area would support existing breweries and distilleries, and other cottage industries could qualify for incentives.

Councilor Price confirmed that the downtown area from the east side of Mill Pond to the west of the Maritime Museum would not be included in the enterprise zone.

City Manager Estes explained that areas around Columbia Memorial Hospital were not included because manufacturing is not allowed in those zoning districts. Staff recommended that City Council consider the resolution to expand the Clatsop Enterprise Zone.

Councilor Jones thanked Staff for preparing the two-page long meets and bounds descriptions. City Manager Estes noted the County Surveyor prepared the boundary descriptions, which was a pretty laborious task.

Councilor Nemlowill stated she planned to participate in the discussion, but declared that her husband owns a manufacturing business that falls within the proposed zone. She had spoken with the City Attorney about this and did not believe this was a direct conflict of interest.

Mayor LaMear called for public comments on the enterprise zone expansion.

Jeff Hazen Sunset Empire Transportation District Executive Director, 900 Marine Drive, Astoria, presented copies of a letter at the dais from the Sunset Empire Board of Commissioners. Sunset Empire is one of the taxing districts that would be affected by this enterprise zone expansion and their board had some concerns they wanted to share with all of the sponsoring agencies. The second paragraph of the letter discusses concerns about where employees would come from with the unemployment rate so low right now. Additionally, housing is one of the biggest issues in the county. The impacts to roads, highways, and other infrastructure would be significant and this would also increase the need for services like transit, water, sewer, and public safety. He wanted to know where the funds would come from if the tax base was frozen. His district relies on property taxes as its largest source of income, which is used as match money for operations to obtain grants through Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Without the property tax base, they could only run one bus for half a day. He believed the board had questions about the enterprise zone process. Unfortunately, the board would not meet again until September 27th and all of the sponsoring agencies will have made a decision by then.

Mayor LaMear asked Kevin Leahy to respond.

Kevin Leahy, 3560 Irving Ave, Astoria, stated he and Mr. Hazen had spoken about the board's concerns. He had also spoken to Cathy Gleeson who is president of the Sunset Empire Board. Additionally, he planned to attend their board meeting in October to share updates on the enterprise zone and answer questions. The low unemployment rate is a good problem to have, but CEDR, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the cities and the county are working diligently to find occupations that will provide family wage jobs. Everyone is also working on housing because it is the number one priority everywhere. Astoria has generously contributed to the County's endeavor with consultants to look for housing solutions. The consultants have been directed to provide action driven examples and solutions. The potential for new growth will bring in families who pay taxes. He explained that the incentives will be applied to new investment, so nothing would be taken away from the taxing districts. Astoria will be leading the charge. The Port Commission will consider the expansion on September 18th, Warrenton City Council will consider it on September 25th, and the Clatsop County Commission will consider it on September 26th.

Mayor LaMear asked if the enterprise zone would have a deadline or would it be open ended and continually renewed. Mr. Leahy explained that the enterprise zone sunsets in 2025, but the legislature could extend that.

Councilor Brownson believed the work session provided a pretty clear representation of what this enterprise zone would look like and Council was very comfortable with idea. Unemployment is low, but Astoria wants family wage jobs that are not tourist related. The enterprise zone is a good opportunity to improve the quality of jobs in Astoria and in the county.

Mr. Leahy added that Clatsop County has a diverse economy and tourism is a very important part of the economy. However, a balanced economy is an advantage that many other counties on the coast and in other rural areas do not have.

Councilor Jones thanked CEDR and Business Oregon for helping to push this for almost a year, adding this is a great long-term investment. Some taxes are being deferred in the short term to accelerate growth in existing business and attract new businesses. The long-term payoff is that Astoria has thriving businesses with more living wage jobs in the community than Astoria had before. This will help diversify the economy. Astoria is not incentivizing new hotels because the hotel business does not need those incentives.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Price, to adopt the resolution expanding the Clatsop Enterprise Zone boundary to include portions of Astoria. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 7(b): Public Hearing and First Reading: Ordinance Modifying City Code 5.900 – 5.925
Relating to Camping in Public Places

The City of Astoria is experiencing a dramatic increase in subjects using public locations to erect camping sites. Current city code does not address individuals building camp sites in forested areas within the city limits. These campsites present certain public safety concerns which include fire hazards from cooking and campfires; unsanitary conditions including improper disposal of needles; human feces and significant garbage accumulation.

Additional language to mirror Oregon Revised Statutes to provide for the humane treatment in removing illegal campsites is proposed in Astoria City Code § 5920.

It is recommended that Council hold a public hearing and consider holding a first reading of the ordinances amending City Code 5.900 – 5.925.

Mayor LaMear asked why the last sentence in Section 5.900 was added. Chief Spalding explained it was added for clarity. The camping ordinance applies to recreational vehicles, tents, other non-permanent structures, and sleeping out in the open.

Councilor Nemlowill asked why the language about campfires was removed. City Manager Estes clarified that the sentence had simply been moved to another section of the Code. Chief Spalding added that the language was not pertinent and that the City had no problems with campfires.

Councilor Jones asked how the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling would affect enforcement of this ordinance. Chief Spalding explained that in the case of *Martin versus the City of Boise*, the court ruled that the city could not take enforcement action against individuals who were camping outdoors if they had somewhere to sleep. Their ordinance was narrowly focused on particular areas of the city and there a couple of nuances about that case. In Boise, the crime was classified as a misdemeanor. In Astoria, it is classified as an infraction. Part of the ruling spoke to the 8th Amendment on cruel and unusual punishment, which said the punishment must fit the crime and that a misdemeanor was too significant for that violation. An infraction is technically not a crime and there would be no potential for jail.

Mayor LaMear said she was concerned about the last sentence in Section 5.900. She understood taking people out of the woods for safety reasons, but she believed sleeping in a car should be allowed. She had heard Superintendent Hoppes talk about students who are couch surfing or sleeping in their cars at night and the City is unable to offer them anything else. Chief Spalding said the City has had issues with people sleeping in their cars and recreational vehicles, particularly in the Safeway parking lot. The issue with people camping in the woods is a separate issue. Staff has attempted to address both problems with one ordinance. City Manager Estes noted that currently it is illegal to sleep in a car.

Councilor Brownson said the change in Section 5.925 seemed to be reflective of the concerns about homeless people. It stated the City recognizes the social nature of the problem and intended to ensure the most humane treatment when removing homeless individuals from public property. It also states the City would comply with ORS 203.077 and 203.079 to provide proper notice and work with social services to facilitate a humane transition. Chief Spalding added that it is law, and it is the City's intention and policy to have minimal impact on the individuals. His department was not looking to issue citations for individuals camping, but they do have safety concerns with some of the campsites set up in the forested areas. During the next meeting of the homelessness taskforce, he would ask individuals to work with the Police Department to address the safety concerns.

Councilor Jones believed the missing language was a significant oversight in the ordinance and he supported the changes proposed by Staff.

Mayor LaMear opened the public hearing at 8:07 pm and called for public comments on the proposed Code amendment to the ordinance on camping in public places. Seeing none, she closed the public hearing at 8:07 pm.

Chief Spalding said there was no conscious attempt to remove the word "campfire" and Staff could add it back in. However, campfires are a public safety concern.

Councilor Nemlowill clarified that she was just wondering if campfires were now allowed in Astoria. If Chief Spalding did not believe they were a significant concern, she would not worry about it.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Nemlowill, to conduct the first reading of the ordinance modifying City Code 5.900 through 5.925 relating to camping in public places. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Director Brooks conducted the first reading of the ordinance.

Mayor LaMear understood the ordinance was necessary for safety reasons, but the City would need to find housing for people especially with the rainy season coming.

Item 7(c): Authorization to the Light the Astoria Column in a Pink Hue for the Month of October in Recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month

On February 18th, 2014 the Astoria City Council gave direction to the Parks and Recreation Department to limit the use of colored lighting effects at the Astoria Column to twice a year when specifically authorized by City Council. In October 2013 in an event organized by Columbia Memorial Hospital, the Friends of the Astoria Column and the Parks and Recreation Department agreed to light the Astoria Column pink in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This event was followed by a partnership between the Harbor, the Clatsop County Domestic Violence Council, the Friends of the Astoria Column, and the Parks and Recreation Department to light the Astoria Column teal for the month of April 2014 in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Under City Council's authorization the October pink and April teal lighting events were repeated for the 5th year in 2017-2018.

On May 21st, 2018 Council gave special dispensation for the Column to be lit with rainbow colors in honor of local Pride celebrations from June 3rd to the 10th. At that time, there was discussion regarding the status of the Friends of the Column developing a policy to better regulate future lighting requests. While the Friends are still working on a draft of that policy and have ordered a new LED lighting system, it is not feasible to have a policy finalized and approved in advance of October 1st.

The Friends of the Astoria Column have been briefed on this matter and are supportive of the use of lighting effects at the Astoria Column during October 2018 as the final lighting policy is still being formulated. In partnership with Columbia Memorial Hospital and the Friends of the Astoria Column, the Parks and Recreation Department is requesting permission to change the lighting color on the Astoria Column for the 6th year to a pink hue for the month of October 2018 in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This will be the first lighting of the Column for fiscal year 18-19.

It is recommended that City Council consider authorizing the change in lighting at the Astoria Column to a pink hue for the month of October 2018 in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Councilor Nemlowill did not believe the Column should be lit in various hues to represent organizations. There are so many wonderful organizations and they have a variety of ways to get their messages out. The Column is one of Astoria's biggest assets and she did not see a reason that organizations or causes should be tied to it. Additionally, it does not make sense to put more work on the Parks Department.

Councilor Price agreed. The last time Council discussed this, they decided not to light the Column until they had further discussion with the Friends. Colored lights should not be put on Astoria's most iconic piece of art. Pink has nothing to do with women who have breast cancer. The color represents the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which has one of the worst track records of giving money to the cause they supposedly support. Supporting

breast cancer is giving money to organizations that do not spend 80 percent of their money on salaries for administrators.

Mayor LaMear said the Friends would be setting the policy and they feel Council should approve the lighting for October because they have not yet finished their discussions.

Councilor Jones did not like ad hoc lighting. If the City is going to allow occasional lighting throughout the year, the discussion should be about how many months of the year the Column would be lit. The City should also have a process to decide which organizations were the most worthy.

Councilor Brownson stated that nationally, pink has been adopted as a symbol for breast cancer. Also, he was agnostic about lighting the Column different colors. He was waiting for the Friends to make some recommendations and have a discussion with them.

Councilor Nemlowill noted that the Column would likely be condemned if it were not for the Friends. The City is lucky to have the Friends, who take care of the day-to-day maintenance, fundraise, donate, and do restorations. However, the Column belongs to the city and this policy has come to the Council for a reason. When the City has to turn down an organization's request to light the Column because permission had already been granted to another organization that creates problems.

Councilor Brownson believed the Council could figure out an equitable way to choose. He could be persuaded to refrain from lighting the Column, but he still wanted input from the Friends first. The Friends have done an amazing job restoring and caring for the Column and they have a right to comment on this policy. He would also like to hear from the public.

Councilor Nemlowill believed the Council was supposed to hear a decision from the Friends quite a long time ago. City Manager Estes confirmed that this topic had been discussed some time in the spring and again in June. The Friends have focused on new lighting technology and would like more time before submitting a proposal.

Councilor Jones asked if the new technology could only be used for colored lighting. Interim Parks Director Dart-McLean said the Friends would be purchasing the new technology regardless of what the Council decides because it would provide energy savings and ease of use. They would like more to prepare a policy because they do not want to overstep their capabilities.

Councilor Jones said he was willing to side with Councilors Price and Nemlowill to vote no on the current request and allow the Friends to present their fully developed proposal at a future date.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Nemlowill to deny the request for a change in lighting at the Astoria Column to a pink hue for the month of October 2018 in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and to keep the Column lit with white light until the Friends of the Column has proposed a policy.

Mayor LaMear called for public comments. There were none.

Motion carried 4 to 0 to 1. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, and Mayor LaMear. Nays: None. Abstentions: Councilor Brownson.

Item 7(d): Authorization to Purchase Dump Truck

The Public Works Department has solicited a quote for a new 2020 Kenworth 6-yard Dump Truck to replace a 1999 Freightliner 6-yard Dump Truck that has ended its productive service. The new Dump Truck will be purchased through a Cooperative Procurement Contract. The City's procurement code allows for cooperative procurements to be made without competitive solicitations to bring efficiency to the process. As an approved vendor, Pape Kenworth Represents Kenworth Trucks and is their dealer for Northwest Oregon. The contract price for the Dump Truck is \$101,530.00. There are funds (\$110,000) identified in the 2018-2019 Public Works Improvement Fund for this purchase.

It is recommended that City Council approve the purchase of a 2020 Kenworth 6-yard Dump Truck from Pape Kenworth for 101,530 and authorize the City Manager to execute all associated purchase documents.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Brownson to approve the purchase of a 2020 Kenworth 6-yard Dump Truck from Pape Kenworth for \$101,530.00 and authorize the City Manager to execute all associated purchase documents. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS & MISCELLANEOUS, PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA)

Tessa Scheller, no address given said he was a board member from the Northwest Coast Trails Coalition. He shared an example of a trail sign recognized by the national parks, state parks, and Portland. The coalition wanted to gift three of the signs to the City of Astoria for 17th Avenue, which is a designated urban trail. The college has finished the trail through the college campus and around the parking lot where it connects with City property that leads up to the Column. There is an opportunity to walk along 17th where there are at least a dozen beautiful homes. With publicity and exposure, people will recognize the signs. He had spoken with the Public Works Department and they were ready to take action.

Jan Mitchell, Astoria, said she was only representing herself as a private citizen. Between 1995 and 2015, she volunteered as chair of the group that hosted a five-day national Lewis and Clark Bicentennial event. She served for eight years as a member of the Oregon Heritage Commission representing this region. As chair, she had recognized the Astoria Regatta as an Oregon Heritage event. She attended the hearings of the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) and the Design Review Committee's (DRC) decisions on the proposed hotel. She also attended the appeal hearing on those decisions. She wanted to speak to the appropriateness of the historic review of the waterfront site. She believed the Applicant's attorney described the riverfront as something approaching some sticks, rocks, and a piece of rusting machinery. Attorneys arguing for their clients are not expected to be visual or to sing the praises of a site if doing so would disadvantage their client. Anyone who has been outside of the Astoria area knows it is the magnificent Columbia River and the remnants of the White Star Cannery that draws the hotelier and his architects to Astoria's waterfront. Otherwise, they could locate elsewhere and not deal with design or historic reviews. Astoria is in the position of having a limited resource which is the community's front yard. When she overlooks the pilings and ballast rocks, she thinks of the canoes of the Clatsop, the Corps of Discovery, the sailing vessels, the Chinese who built the rip rap, the canneries, and fisheries over two centuries. Astoria deserves architects and investors who acknowledge and echo that history rather than disparage it by agreeing that only buildings can be of historic significance. The Council will set a precedent that others may want to use. The hotel wants Astoria's business and location, not the other way around. Pulling in more business is not Astoria's top priority. Why not honor the White Star Cannery using the photos shown at the hearing in their restaurant or at a historic site along the river? Council has the task of making decisions that will honor the waterfront and the community, influence future decision-makers, and set precedents.

City Manager Estes noted that Ms. Mitchell's comments were considered ex-parte contact. Staff would make sure the minutes of this meeting were included in the record for the appeal because the hearing was still open.

Roger Rocka, 362 Duane St. Astoria, said in the 1980s and early 1990s, the riverfront looked like a weed and junk infested railroad yard. The vision of people like Jim Flint, Edith Henningsgaard, Robert Meurazzi, Paul Benoit and others led to the transformation of the railyard into a beautiful miles long park. Cities all over are investing in parks because they are an economic driver. This attracts people from elsewhere who want to take advantage of and profit from something they had no part in creating. The Urban Core Area of the riverfront currently has 1950s zoning that was last updated in the 1980s when Astoria was having a rough time. The zoning leaves little room for the Council to respond to the public who say they do not want a wall. Those people do not understand why the Council does not do anything. Broad education needs to be part of the process, which means more work. Some people's livelihoods are tied in with the river and they deserve consideration. The zoning needs to be addressed. The Fairfield Hotel developer still has not made provisions for the required 70-foot view corridor on his property. Additionally, they have made little effort to honor their site by starting with a cookie cutter design the same as Fairfield's all over the country. Now, they have added a little mascara and blush. Worse yet, their lawyer insulted the years of care and work by city leaders, staff and residents by saying the City's Comprehensive Plan, Riverfront Vision Plan, and historic landmarks do not matter. The entire hearing was an ugly muddle and their last minute design tweaks should not have been part of it. Those are sticks and rocks, but the rocks are ballast rocks from sailing ships and the sticks were 40 canneries that used to line the

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river when Native Americans never had to fear for something to eat. History does not have to be a building any more than Gettysburg is just grass.

Mayor LaMear stated Mr. Rocka's comments would need to be entered into the record for the appeal hearing.

Councilor Price said almost all of the storefronts in Astoria have very tall ceilings. Five Zero Tress has a floor-to-ceiling black and white mural of the proposed hotel site showing the boiler, pilings, ballast rocks, and the bridge. The owner chose that as a mural because the area spoke to him more than any other in Astoria.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm to convene the Astoria Development Commission Meeting.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager

