

A regular meeting of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 6:00 pm.

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

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Parks and Recreation Director Cosby, Finance Director Brooks, Police Chief Johnston, Library Director Pearson, and City Attorney Henningsgaard. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

City Manager Estes added the following item to the agenda: Regular Agenda Item 4(b): Consideration of Utility Easements for Mo's Restaurant.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 4(a): Library Foundation – Library Remodel (Library)

The Astor Library will celebrate 50 years of service on October 8, 2017. The current building was designed by the local architectural firm Brown & Brown. It is in need of renovation to further its service to the citizens of Astoria. In January 2017, City Council set the goal of renovating the library with the intent of completing the project in 2020.

Director Pearson will present a brief synopsis of library history; discuss changes in the Library that have been made since he became Director; discuss ongoing preparations for a remodel project; and discuss unique items within the library holdings. He will also provide an overview of City of Astoria funds currently available for renovation. This includes approximately \$158,000 for initial design assistance/ building maintenance in the proposed budget for next fiscal year and \$1,639,500 in other various City funds for future construction needs. The President of the Library Foundation, Willis L. Van Dusen will discuss the Foundation's fundraising goal of an additional \$3.5 million for the project. The fundraising goal would include grants and / or donations. City Manager, Brett Estes, will discuss the proposed process to initiate design and technical services.

Should Council concur with the proposed budget (including City cash in hand and the Foundation's fundraising goal) staff would initiate the process of securing the design consultant services needed to move forward. Additionally, the Library Foundation would begin a fundraising campaign to secure donations and prepare grant applications in which they would be eligible to receive. City staff would work in conjunction with the Foundation to prepare any grant applications, which the City of Astoria would be an eligible recipient. City staff and the Library Foundation would be working hand in hand on this effort.

Director Pearson asked members of the Library Foundation Board, Astor Library Friends Association (ALFA), Library Staff, and the Astoria Library Board to introduce themselves. He gave a presentation on the history of the library, recent changes he has made to library facilities and programs, and unique items in the library's collection.

Kate Summers, Astoria Library Board Chair, gave a slideshow presentation on the ongoing efforts by the Library Foundation to prepare for the renovation.

Willis Van Dusen, Library Foundation Board President, discussed the importance of renovating the library and shared details about the Library Foundation's plan to raise funds for the renovation project.

City Manager Estes said that should City Council direct Staff to move forward on the library renovation project, Staff would begin the Request for Proposal/Request for Qualification process to hire an architecture team that includes a contractor, cost estimator, and technical professionals. Additionally, Staff would have that same

architecture firm develop conceptual designs and renderings that would be used during fundraising. A little more than \$150,000 has been appropriated for those services and building repairs in the next fiscal year's budget.

Councilor Nemlowill said she was very excited about the people who are members of the Library Foundation and Board. She thanked Director Pearson for his work and for being so delightful to her family. The library is exactly the same now as it was when she was growing up. She supported all of the efforts to renovate the library.

Mayor LaMear called for public comments.

Cheryl Johnson, Foundation Board Member, said she worked as the media specialist at Astoria Public Schools for almost 20 years. As a 40-year resident of Clatsop County, she believed the timing of this project was perfect. Director Pearson talked a lot about the history housed in the library building and the beauty of the old books. However, he did not mention how beautifully his staff is moving forward. The library is reaching out to children by offering a program on Wednesdays that allows kids to read to dogs. This is a nice way to get reluctant readers to read. The library is doing a beautiful reach out to teens in the community. Having been a middle school librarian and middle school teacher, she believed middle schoolers were forgotten children. The library is doing fabulous programs that reach out to teens instead of waiting for them to come into the door. Staff has put together a teen advisory group. The library needs to be physically updated because the fabulous staff is moving forward to make future generations of readers, not just housing old things or checking out books to people who are already readers.

City Council Action: Motion made by Mayor LaMear, seconded by Councilor Price to direct Staff to initiate the process of securing the design consultant services and work with the Library Foundation to prepare grant applications. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Councilor Brownson said after seeing deliberations on the library renovation last fall, he felt satisfied that moving forward on the project would be a good decision. Director Pearson has been a great addition to Staff and he could not wait to see the library get renovated.

Item 4(b): Consideration of Utility Easements for Mo's Restaurant

This item was added to the agenda during Item 3: Changes to the Agenda.

City Manager Estes explained that this item was added to the agenda because the fifth week of the month would delay the project, as the restaurant would have to wait an extra week for a decision to be made. Staff requested that City Council consider approving the addition of an easement on City property to allow Pacific Power to install utility lines across the property to serve Mo's Restaurant. Staff also requested that City Council accept a utility easement granted by Mo's for a public water line that needs to be extended on to Mo's property. The water line extension will fix some ongoing issues with water flow caused by a dead end water line along the waterfront. A new fire hydrant will also be installed. Staff recommends that City Council approve the easement grant from Newport Pacific Corporation for the construction and maintenance of the new water line, and approve an easement for Pacific Power on a portion of City property, with the condition that Pacific Power provide the City with a meets and bounds description upon completion of the project.

Councilor Nemlowill declared a potential conflict of interest, as Mo's was a client of Fort George. She said she would not vote, but did not believe the easements represented a direct conflict of interest.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Brownson to approve the easement grant from Newport Pacific Corporation for the construction and maintenance of the new water line, and approve an easement for Pacific Power on a portion of City property, with the condition that Pacific Power provide the City with a meets and bounds description upon completion of the project. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

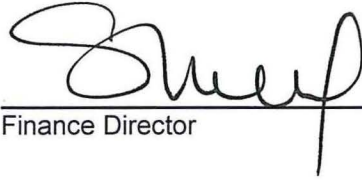
NEW BUSINESS & MISCELLANEOUS, PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA)

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager