

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

Councilors Present: Brownson, Rocka, Herman, West, and Mayor Jones.

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor Dart-McLean, Finance Director Brooks, Fire Chief Crutchfield, 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.

PRESENTATIONS

Item 3(a): Astoria Warrenton Chamber of Commerce Association Presentation

David Reid, 4924 Cedar Street, Astoria, Director, Astoria Warrenton Chamber of Commerce, presented the Chamber's 2019 annual report. The presentation included a brief history of the Chamber, details of past and upcoming events, funding and operations, statistics on visitors and services, and collaborations with local partners.

Councilor West asked if a meeting would be held to prepare for the Goonies celebration.

Mr. Reid stated the Goonies Taskforce meets monthly on the third Wednesdays. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18th and will include a showing of the movie. The taskforce will also address the concerns of community members and offer advice to business owners.

Unidentified Speaker added that the next meeting would be a community orientation event at the Liberty Theatre.

City Manager Estes noted that a copy of Mr. Reid's presentation was included in the Agenda Packet.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

Item 4(a): Councilor Rocka reported that he and the rest of the Councilors attended the opening of the Q Center in Uniontown in a well-lit storefront that is easily accessible. He was excited to see the multi-tiered rainbow cake. He volunteered at the Warming Center and attended their benefit at Fort George, where he won a haircut. He reported that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) had a discussion on recycling and adapting to global changes. The Oregon Department of Forestry had a meeting on the timber sales for 2001 in an attempt to be more transparent about their plans. The Department of Fish and Wildlife spoke to the County Charter Review Committee about their recommended changes to the County's charter.

Item 4(b): Councilor West reported that she attended the opening of the Q Center and it was great to see the rest of the Council there. She volunteered for the Fisher Poet's gathering. She wished Chief Crutchfield a happy one-year anniversary with the City.

Item 4(c): Councilor Brownson reported that he joined the Council at the Q Center opening and the cake was good. He attended the DEQ Recycling Steering Committee meeting. They are talking to communities and gathering information to improve how recycling is handled. It has become difficult to find places to put recycling and economical ways to process it. DEQ is considering an extended producer responsibility program that holds packaging producers responsible for collecting and recycling their packaging. This would eliminate the recycling charge on trash pick up bills. He believed legislation would be introduced in 2021.

Item 4(d): Councilor Herman congratulated Chief Crutchfield on his first anniversary. She reported that she and five other members of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA) delivered flowers and welcome packets to four new businesses, Sterling Extensions, Sacrificious Beauty, Fairway Mortgage, and Aspen Grove. They also delivered welcome packets to three businesses that recently relocated to downtown, Luminary Arts, Oscar de' Masi Gallery, and Loadstar Goods.

Item 4(e): Mayor Jones reported that he attended an event with the 62nd Medical Brigade from Fort Lewis McChord, which came to Astoria to do an exercise at Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH). He reported that he had been communicating with the County regularly over the past week about the COVID-19 virus. Earlier that day, he and City Manager Estes met with County Manager Don Bohn, Assistant Manager Monica Steele, Public Health Director McNickle, and Staff. The Public Health Department has been in continuous communication with CMH and other local medical providers, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Information is being updated rapidly and the County Public Health Department is actively monitoring the situation with all of the appropriate agencies that have the latest information. Until now, the priority was to deal with tobacco regulation. Today, the coronavirus situation is now the County's top priority. He also spoke with Mr. Thoreson at CMH and Mr. Hoppes with the School District. Both organizations are making plans internally to be prepared and remain cautious while also working with each other. The City and County are actively monitoring the situation with partner agencies. Currently, all agencies agree that the only steps necessary are those recommended during flu season, washing your hands regularly, using disinfectants, and staying home if sick. The meetings have included discussions about changing schedules, which has not yet been recommended. Right now, the appropriate things to do are to monitor and stay cautious. The Coast Guard monitors all foreign vessels and vessels with foreign crew members, including cruise ships, year-round. They have developed new protocols in coordination with the CDC and are actively engaged in carrying out those protocols to monitor in-bound ships. He believed the community was in good hands with the County Public Health Department. He noted that on Monday, March 9, 2020, the Maritime Museum will be hosting a naturalization ceremony for about 50 new citizens. The Portland U.S. Customs and Immigration Service (CIS) office will conduct the ceremony at noon and the event is open to the public. Then, at 2:30 pm that day, CIS will hold a public information session on immigration, paths to residency and citizenship, and a question and answer session on immigration policy. He would publish a press release on both events.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

No changes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) Joint City Council, Historic Landmarks Commission, Design Review Commission, and Planning Commission Work Session Minutes of January 30, 2020
- 6(b) City Council Minutes of February 3, 2020
- 6(c) Library Advisory Board Minutes of February 4, 2020
- 6(d) Parks Board Minutes of December 11, 2019
- 6(e) Parks Board Minutes of November 14, 2019

City Council Action: Motion made by Commissioner Brownson, seconded by Councilor Herman, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7(a): Extension of the Closing Date for the Mill Pond Pier Lots

On November 4, 2019 City Council accepted an offer from Mr. Dulcich and authorized the City Manager to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA). The PSA was executed on December 4, 2019, established a due diligence date of February 2, 2020, and a closing date of March 3, 2020.

Mr. Dulcich has requested to extend the closing date by three weeks to March 24, 2020. The City Attorney has stated that the Council can amend the PSA to extend the closing date by a motion if they so choose.

It is recommended that Council determine if the closing date of the Purchase and Sale Agreement should be extended, as requested, and if so, grant an extension of the closing date to March 24, 2020.

Mayor Jones understood that the architect would be Daren Doss, who designed Alderbrook Station and was currently building a home in Mill Pond. Therefore, he was familiar with the Homeowners Association (HOA) requirements. He had no problem with the extension.

Councilor Brownson asked if the buyer would walk away if the extension was not granted. He did not see any harm in waiting a few more weeks.

Mayor Jones stated the buyer would lose earnest money and any other money he has invested if he chose not to purchase the lots.

Councilor Herman wanted to know if the buyer would walk away if the architectural firm told him something that was not to his liking.

Councilor Brownson explained that the buyer could walk away any time and lose the earnest money.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Herman, to grant an extension of the closing date of the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Mill Pond Pier Lots to March 24, 2020. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

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

Ted Thomas 398 Atlantic Avenue, Astoria, stated the severe acute respiratory system coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) causes COVID-19, which is genetically unique coronavirus and not just a bad cold. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it has a reproductive number (R0) of 2.28 and a case fatality rate of 2.3 with a doubling period of about six days. The equation to determine the number of infected in any epidemic is the product of that number of those susceptible times $1-1/R0$. Because this is a novel virus, no one is immune. Without a vaccine or cure, this disease will progress with a certainty to infect no less than 56 percent of the worldwide population before herd immunity brings a pandemic to an endemic level. So, 4.3 billion people are about to be infected, over 862 million will require hospitalization, and 100 million will die. That means 183.7 million Americans will get the disease in the coming months, 27 million will require hospitalization, and over 4 million will die. Should COVID-19 come to Astoria, there will be 4484 victims, 896 will likely be hospitalized, and 103 will die. This will be hardest on the old and compromised people. The number one goal is to stop the arrival and spread of the disease, and to slow the spread of the disease through social actions to lower the effect of R0 to below one. Where the federal government has failed to act and the state and county governments are not forthcoming, Section 361 of the Public Health Services Act shows it falls upon the legitimate police powers of the municipal government to issue orders of quarantine and isolation. The City of Astoria should issue an order of quarantine to prevent the disembarkation of all 35 scheduled cruise ships in case they cannot provide written proof and reasonable assurance that they do not carry any passengers or crew infected with the virus, and to issue those orders to the Public Health Department, Homeland Security, Customs and Border Patrol, and the Coast Guard who are charged with carrying out those orders. People will claim this is going to cause an economic distress to the community. However, an average American life is worth about \$8 million according to insurance actuary tables. The forecastable debt of 103 citizens is nearly \$1 billion. If the lives of our citizens mean so little, consider the loss of revenue from contracting the virus. Tourists that stay in hotels and eat in restaurants will avoid Astoria like the plague. A widespread outbreak here will entail the closure of schools, churches, theatres, bars, public gathering places, concerts, and festivals. Hospitals will be overwhelmed, as they do not have testing kits or the beds and nursing staff required for such an event.

Cindy Lee 457 W Marine Drive, Astoria, stated she wanted to see three times the number of cruise ships in Astoria. However, she had an issue with the testing the cruise ships are doing, guaranteeing the safety of those who disembark in Astoria's ports. She did not want to close down the cruise ships but believed they should be temporarily halted until they get state of the art testing equipment that they do not have. Over the last few days, most of the islands in the Caribbean have shut down the cruise ships because they keep letting people off. The ships are floating petri dishes. Cruise ships are now being diverted to an island owned by the cruise ships. Her only objection was the March 31st arrival of a cruise ship. She wanted verifiable proof that they are using state of

the art equipment. The ships ask where people are coming from and taking temperatures, which does nothing. Yesterday, the Diamond Princess let people off in San Antonio and they are using old CDC testing. One woman who got sick was shown not to have coronavirus, but she did. Now, they have to trace her down. Her biggest worry was that if something goes wrong by jumping the gun by letting people off the cruise ships too early and Astoria has one infected person, the tourist season would be impacted. Merchants downtown will not be open the day the ships arrive. People are afraid to come forward. She wanted the City to investigate this because she did not believe the ships were using proper testing. She had plenty of information from credible sources including medical people in Astoria.

Pamela Mattsen MacDonald 258 Commercial, Astoria, said that a Tools for Sustainable Lectures event would be held on March 21st at 2:00 pm at the Astoria Public Library. Three people from the recycling industry would be speaking and answering questions.

The City Council recessed into Executive Session at 7:46 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 9(a): ORS192.660(2)(d) – Labor Negotiator Consultations

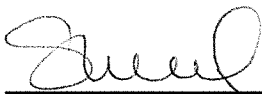
The City Council will meet in executive session to discuss labor negotiator consultations.

The regular session reconvened at 8:29 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

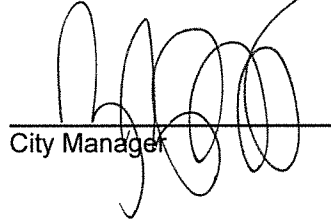
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager