

A regular meeting of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 7:02 pm.

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

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Executive Assistant Benoit, and Public Works Director Harrington. Finance Director Brooks, Library Director Pearson, Fire Chief Crutchfield and Deputy Chief Corbit attended via Zoom. The meeting was live streamed via Zoom and recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

PRESENTATIONS

Item 3(a): Terry Corbit 30 Year Presentation

Mayor Jones recognized Deputy Fire Chief Terry Corbit for 30 years of service with the City of Astoria.

Fire Chief Crutchfield said that one of his first duties upon arriving in Astoria a year ago was to select a Deputy Chief. He listed Mr. Corbit's education, qualities, skills and accomplishments, and outlined his career path, which began in 1985. He was honored to work alongside Mr. Corbit. He presented Mr. Corbit with a 30-year pin.

Deputy Chief Corbit said the last 30 years had been a roller coaster, as there had been many changes. However, during those challenges, it was amazing to see the community come together. He was proud to be a part of that. It was an honor and a privilege to serve the Astoria Fire Department.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

Item 4(a): Councilor Herman reported that she attended a Zoom conference with Congresswoman Bonamici and other local elected officials. She also attended a Zoom town hall with Senator Wyden. She appreciated all that they were doing to lead everyone through this crisis.

Item 4(b): Councilor Brownson reported that he also attended Representative Bonamici's town hall. He had been involved in the League of Oregon Cities Finance and Tax Committee and Energy and Environment Committee. The Finance and Tax Committee reviewed revenue projections, potential financing and income streams for cities, property tax reform, and lodging taxes. The Energy and Environment Committee reviewed recently passed House Bills, a discussion by the Department of Environmental Quality on recycling, energy resilience, and explored local climate actions. Both committees do lobbying on behalf of the cities to the State legislature. He planned to present some of the Committees' ideas to the Council for feedback. He attended the Port of Astoria meeting. The Port is trying to restructure their finances and the pandemic hit when they were just starting to find their footing. The Port Director is working hard to keep employees employed.

Item 4(c): Councilor West reported that she attended Senator Wyden's town hall, the weekly League of Oregon Cities meetings, and the Small Business Development Center small business series. She had also been paying close attention to the National League of Cities advocacy for the next round of funding for the CARES Act to get funding to cities with populations of 500,000 or less. She had been reaching out to all of the small businesses in her ward to see how they were doing. Small businesses are really struggling, but she heard a constant thread of resiliency.

Item 4(d): Councilor Rocka reported that he had attended State and Federal conferences about COVID-19. He also attended conferences on the CARES Act, which had been a disappointment so far especially for small businesses. The percentage of small businesses that have been funded to date has been small and the funds have run out. A lot of large chains received a lot of the money provided by the Act. He

hoped it would be refunded in a few days. Smaller banks seemed to have done better than the larger banks at funding the smaller businesses. He hoped things would go better in the next round of funding.

Item 4(e): Mayor Jones reported that KMUN received a \$120,000 grant for new equipment and the WTC Marine at Tongue Point received a \$570,000 grant to construct a new outdoor work area. The new area will allow WTC Marine to hire more employees and do more boat repair and building. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was a disappointment for many who were not able to apply in time. It appeared that by the end of the week another \$250 billion would be available. However, the PPP did not make sense for a lot of businesses. Unemployment continued to be a problem for many people who still had not received payments. Sole proprietors and independent contractors were still an issue as well because the State could not make the code changes to the software system quickly enough. Funds would eventually come, but it was a terribly slow process to make the necessary changes to the outdated software system. The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) continued to work very hard doing individual consulting with businesses. Chamber of Commerce Director David Reid and Jennifer Purcell from the State Regional Solutions Team are members of the North Coast Regional Economic Recovery Team, which advocates to the federal government. He had been talking to SBDC and the Chamber about putting on a business forum. The forum would be held next week via Zoom. The date and time had not yet been determined. The panel would include himself, Warrenton's Mayor, Kevin Leahy, and David Reid. There would be a presentation and then business owners and non-profit representatives in Astoria and Warrenton could ask questions. The latest projection for the State for potential consideration to reopen was May 25th. He attended the farmer's market at Heritage Square to see if it was safe and appropriate. There were six vendors, who all wore masks and were spaced far apart. The organizers did a good job with hand washing stations and everything was marked off with cones to maintain physical distance. He was satisfied that the market was at least as safe as the supermarkets. He was comfortable allowing the market to be held again next week.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

No changes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) City Council Meeting Minutes of 03/19/2020
- 6(b) City Council Emergency Meeting Minutes of 03/22/2020

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor West, 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): Consideration of Fee Resolution: Library Non-Resident Fee Increase

The Astoria Public Library in cooperation with the Seaside and Warrenton libraries is finalizing the implementation of allowing card holders to use their card at any location. The Directors have agreed to adopt the same fine and fee structure in order to make it easier for patrons and staff to implement.

It is recommended Council approve the increase of the non-resident fee as proposed.

Director Pearson confirmed that Astoria residents could use their card to check out items at Seaside and Warrenton libraries starting July 1st. Currently, the libraries share items, which has resulted in a cost savings that pays for the courier service that allows items to be returned at any of the libraries regardless of where they originated.

Councilor Brownson said he was glad that services were being expanded in such a nice way.

Councilor West noted that a lot of people live in one place and spend a lot of time in another place. The courier service is fantastic and the fee increase is justified by the increase in services. The fee also aligns with the other libraries that have approved it.

Councilor Herman added that this rural area did not have a huge city library and it was nice all the communities could work together to increase the catalog. She asked if children would still be able to use all of the libraries for free.

Director Pearson said yes, children could receive a free library card from birth through age 19. The library card would be accepted at all three libraries.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to approve the resolution to increase non-resident library fees. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 7(b): Consider Updated Salary Resolution Regarding Police Union and Police Management – Schedule C

The attached salary resolution implements the following changes retroactive to the appropriate dates, by group:

- Police Union Group - Schedule C - 2.5% wage adjustment effective July 1, 2019, as specified in contract expiring June 30, 2022 as adopted by City Council on March 16, 2020.
- Police Management Group - Schedule C - 2.5% wage adjustment effective July 1, 2019, compensation policy and practice for Police Supervisors.
- Police Union Group - Schedule C - 2.5% wage adjustment, to address pay equity, applicable to Records Specialist and Senior Records & Evidence Specialist effective January 1, 2020, as specified in contract expiring June 30, 2022 and adopted by City Council on March 16, 2020.

It is recommended that Council adopt the Salary Resolution as presented.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Herman, to adopt the Salary Resolution regarding Police Union and Police Management – Schedule C. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 7(c): Consider Authorization to Award Water System Master Plan Update Contract

The City of Astoria is in need of an update to the existing Water System Master Plan that was prepared in 2000. The plan is required to be updated every 20 years and provides an evaluation of the existing water system, future needs and a long-term plan for projected water system upgrades, rehabilitation, and replacement, along with associated expenditures. In order to complete the study, staff requested a statement of qualifications from engineering firms that specialize in this type of planning work.

Qualification statements from four firms were received and evaluated by City staff. HDR Inc. was determined by the evaluation team to be the most suitable firm for this project. Staff has negotiated a scope of work and contract that is compatible with the project goals and outlined in the request for qualifications document. The estimated fee for the proposed work is \$299,304.45 with \$20,000 being provided by the Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) through a technical assistance grant. Funds for the City share of the project will come from the Public Works Improvement Fund. The work is anticipated to take place over the current and following two fiscal years.

It is recommended that the City Council execute a contract with HDR Inc. for a total not to exceed amount of \$299,304.45 for the preparation of a Water System Master Plan Update.

Councilor West confirmed with Staff that the grant had already been awarded.

Councilor Brownson asked if the project would be paid for this fiscal year. City Manager Estes explained that the costs would be spread out over three fiscal years, starting with this fiscal year.

Mayor Jones asked if the City would do this project if it were not required to. Director Harrington explained that this study would allow the City to manage the water system for the next 20 years and allow the City to do better modeling, water quality tracking, and optimizing use. The software that the old model runs on is out of date. The Master Plan would recommend capital improvement projects. The resiliency study, resiliency assessment, and emergency response plan would also be included.

Councilor Rocka said providing clean water to citizens was one of the most important things the City did.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor West to execute a contract with HDR Inc. for a total not to exceed amount of \$299,304.45 for the preparation of a Water System Master Plan Update. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

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


Director Brooks announced that the first meeting of the City of Astoria and the Astoria Development Commission Budget Committee would begin at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. The meeting had been rescheduled from the previous date and time of April 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Subsequent meeting dates would be May 27th through May 29th beginning at 6:00 pm as needed to complete the Budget Committee hearings. The approved budget would be presented to Council on June 22, 2020 instead of the previously scheduled date of June 8, 2020. The updated calendar would be posted on the City's website and public hearing notices would be published in the Daily Astorian. She proposed that no training occur this year because all of the committee members had already been trained in the past.

City Manager Estes added that the first meeting would begin at 7:00 pm because there was already a Planning Commission meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm that day.

ADJOURNMENT

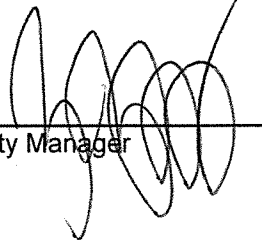
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm to convene the Astoria Development Commission meeting.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager