

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

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

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Parks and Recreation Director Dart-Mclean, Community Development Director Leatherman, Finance Director Brooks, Police Chief Spalding, Public Works Director Harrington, Library Director Pearson, and City Attorney Henningsgaard. Fire Chief Crutchfield and Assistant City Engineer Moore attended via Zoom. The meeting was live streamed and recorded, and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

Item 3(a): Councilor Rocka said today seemed like a normal summer day in terms of traffic and temperature. While driving home from Alderbrook Lagoon, he only saw one mask, which was on a child.

Item 3(b): Councilor West reported she was able to see her family yesterday for the first time in six months. She wished a belated happy Father's Day to all of the fathers.

Item 3(c): Councilor Brownson had no reports.

Item 3(d): Councilor Herman had no reports.

Item 3(e): Mayor Jones had no reports.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

Mayor Jones stated New Business Item 7(a): Wearing Masks in the Community would be added to the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 5(a) City Council Minutes of May 4, 2020
- 5(b) Liquor License Application from T Paul's Supper Club LLC doing business as T Paul's Supper Club located at 360 12th Street for an Off-Premises Sales License
- 5(c) Liquor License Application from T Paul's Urban Café Club LLC doing business as T Paul's Urban Café located at 1111 Commercial for an Off-Premises Sales License
- 5(d) Update of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Astoria Fire Department and the United States Coast Guard Cutter Elm (WLB-203) regarding Fire Protection Services and Emergency Services

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

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 6(a): Public Hearing and Resolution to Adopt City of Astoria Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020

Oregon Local Budget Law requires the City Council hold a public hearing on the budget, as recommended for approval by the Budget Committee. Notice of this hearing, scheduled for June 22, 2020, was submitted for publication in the Astorian on Saturday, June 13, 2020.

The budget for the City of Astoria, as discussed and recommended for approval by the Budget Committee and including two transfer adjustments noted during final compilation, is ready for the City Council to consider for adoption.

It is recommended City Council hold a public hearing on the Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 budget, as approved by the Budget Committee and with noted transfer adjustments. After the hearing, it is recommended that the Council consider the attached resolution to adopt the budget.

City Manager Estes said one piece of written testimony had been submitted from Kate Allen and Bruce Watts, which was presented to City Council prior to the meeting.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 6:15 pm and called for public comments.

Kate Allen, 318 Lincoln St. Astoria, said Astoria was one of many communities in the country calling to end police violence, increase transparency and accountability and humanity in public safety. She believed the City must respond as well. She appreciated the statutory limitation of budget passage, but she also appreciated that any budget is a living document. Systemic racism exists in Warrenton. Individual police officers in Astoria do a

good job, but they are all sworn members of a system that does not have equal outcomes or trust for Astorians, black, indigenous, and other people of color who call Astoria home or tourists. Astoria has a significant opportunity to reframe public safety. It is essential that the City Council thinks beyond protecting the status quo when spending taxpayer dollars and think about how public safety funding could be used to establish alternative responses to low level offenses. The Eugene, Oregon Critical Assistance Helping Out on The Streets (CAHOOTS) program is a good example. The role of the City is intertwined with the County and other jurisdictions that are part of this conversation. She hoped for Astoria's leadership in these matters. There is a need to explore establishing a citizen's oversight committee, which could review existing data and work on metrics for additional data needed, review police hiring, training, discipline, and performance.

Councilor Rocka said he appreciated the spirit of Ms. Allen's testimonies. Given the short timeframe the City has to work with, he supported exploring Ms. Allen's suggestions as the year progresses but he did not believe there was a sense of urgency in Astoria. The public reaction to the Police Department has been very positive. Additionally, the City has no idea where the budget will go this year because of COVID-19, so funding a new project would be a mistake.

Councilor West stated she did not believe reducing the Police budget was part of the solution. However, she did support funding infrastructure for a lot of the programs that Ms. Allen had mentioned. Transparency continues as officer training and the budget is always online and available to the community.

Councilor Herman announced that Councilors had the opportunity to attend trainings on how police in Oregon are trained. She believed all of the Councilors would be attending. A link to the trainings would be made available to the public.

Mayor Jones added that he had received several emails over the last three weeks regarding the Defund the Police initiative. Every community's relationship with their police department is different. When Astoria budgets, a need or a requirement is identified and then Staff considers a range of options for fulfilling the needs and requirements. Cost estimates are developed and then a funding source is identified. The Defund the Police movement starts off with identifying the source and then asking what the City should do with the money. What is the problem that Defund the Police is trying to solve, social services issues, responses to nonviolent domestic disturbances, or something else? He agreed that pulling money from the Police Department for an undefined purpose was not the best way to move forward with the budget, which is due in a week.

Mayor Jones closed the public hearing at 6:28 pm.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Herman, to approve the resolution adopting the City of Astoria Budget and authorize the collection of taxes at a rate of \$8.1738 per \$1,000 for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 6(b): Public Hearing and Resolution to Receive State Shared Revenues

Oregon Revised Statutes 221.770 requires the City to adopt a resolution to declare its intent to receive state revenue for each new fiscal year. State shared revenues include the state gas tax, alcohol tax, cigarette tax, marijuana tax and state shared revenues. The attached resolution expresses the City's intention to receive state shared revenues for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021.

It is recommended the City Council hold a public hearing regarding intention to receive state shared revenues for FY 2020-21 as approved by the Budget Committee. After the hearing, it is recommended that City Council consider the resolution declaring the City's election to receive State Revenues.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 6:30 pm and called for public comments. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:31 pm.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor West, to approve the resolution to receive State shared revenues for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 6(c): Consideration of Promote Astoria Properties Landscaping Contract

Due to staffing and budget constraints within the Parks and Recreation Department, there are many City-owned and tourist-related properties that have not, until recently, received the landscaping attention they require. Several of these properties were being maintained at a lower-than-desired standard of care and are heavily utilized by visitors to Astoria. Since 2016, City Council has designated funds to continue the practice of contracting with a landscaping company for the care and maintenance of tourist related properties that will enhance their beauty and allow them to be cared for at a higher standard. After soliciting bids from local landscaping companies, Dennis' 7 Dees has provided a bid of \$69,967 and has been selected to continue these services in the next fiscal year.

It is recommended that the City Council award the contract for Promote Astoria Parks Landscape Maintenance Services to Dennis' 7 Dees.

Councilor Herman confirmed with Staff that this company had the contract in the 2018-2019 fiscal year and that this year's contract was awarded to Greensmith Landscaping. She stated that money to pay for this contract came from lodging taxes, not the General Fund. Also, the properties are highly visible.

Councilor Brownson confirmed with Staff the last year's contract was for a not to exceed amount of \$86,000 and the scope of work changes every year.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Herman to award the contract for Promote Astoria Parks Landscape Maintenance Services to Dennis' 7 Dees. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 6(d): Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Program Modeling Support – Contract for Professional Services

In April 2012, Council authorized a contract for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Modeling Support Services to HDR with the option of annual renewal of this contract.

HDR has provided a scope of work and estimated budget for July 2020 through June 2021. Staff has reviewed the scope and fee and has found the proposal to be appropriate and reasonable.

It is recommended that City Council renew the contract for CSO Modeling Support Services with HDR for a total not to exceed amount of \$55,023.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor West to renew the contract for CSO Modeling Support Services with HDR for a total not to exceed amount of \$55,023. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 6(e): State of Oregon Grant Agreement for Award of Coronavirus Relief Funds

Section 5001 of the CARES Act provides funds to state, local and tribal governments through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to be used for expenditures incurred due to COVID-19 during the period of March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. Grant No. 1038 is the sub award agreement with the State of Oregon required for disbursement of request March 1 through May 15, 2020 eligible expenses from the CRF to City of Astoria.

It is recommended City Council approve acceptance of Grant #1038 with the State of Oregon to provide Coronavirus Relief Fund reimbursement of eligible expenditures incurred due to COVID-19.

Mayor Jones asked what expenses the City had incurred that would be eligible for reimbursement.

Director Brooks stated the expenses included primarily labor and a small amount of attorney fees incurred between March 1st and May 15th.

City Manager Estes noted that reimbursements for childcare expenses were not deemed eligible by the State.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Herman, to approve acceptance of Grant #1038 with the State of Oregon to provide Coronavirus Relief Fund reimbursement of eligible expenditures incurred due to COVID-19. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

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

Item 7(a): Wearing Masks in the Community

This item was added to the agenda during Item 4: Approval of Agenda.

Mayor Jones explained he added this item to the agenda because the Council had received a lot of public comments about wearing masks. Over the past three and a half months, the information published about COVID-19 has been changing almost daily. However, there has been a consensus among experts that the virus is spread primarily through the air that is expelled from the mouth and nose. He had read several studies indicating that indoors presents a higher risk of transmission than outdoors. The most effective way to dramatically reduce infection is to wear a mask anytime one is within six feet of others, especially indoors, for any extended period of time. As a result, the Governor has implemented a requirement to wear masks indoors in public spaces. On Wednesday, the Clatsop County Commission will consider opting into the Governor's list of counties requiring that masks be worn in public spaces. Over the weekend, there were many tourist and a fair number of them were complying with requests to wear masks. However, there is a significant contrarian group reluctant to wear masks. Local business leaders have said they would prefer the City or County mandate masks so that the onus is taken off of the businesses.

City Manager Estes added that the Governor has also mandated masks in grocery stores, fitness related organizations, pharmacies, public transit, personal service providers, restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, tasting rooms, distilleries, retail stores, shopping centers, malls, and ride sharing services. Additionally, counties in Phase 2, which includes Clatsop County, masks must also be worn in indoor swimming pools, spa pools, sports court operators, indoor entertainment, indoor recreational sports, and indoor venues. The City of Cannon Beach will also discuss the Governor's mandate and may make a recommendation to the County Commission.

Mayor Jones said the worst thing would be to implement a mandate that was more strict than necessary because people become cynical and reluctant to comply. There is no requirement to wear masks outdoors. If the City tried to mandate wearing masks outdoors, people would realize it was unnecessary. However, if the Council was in favor of requiring masks outdoors, he would recommend waiting for the County to act first rather than mandating something that potentially requires a local ordinance.

Councilor Brownson stated he agreed with Mayor Jones. Most people are asymptomatic, so they are unaware that they are sick and spreading the virus. He was fully in favor of the Governor's mandate and he hoped the County opted in to the requirements. If the County does not opt in, he would be happy to discuss similar requirements for the City of Astoria. Wearing masks indoors will save lives.

Councilor West said she also supported the requirement to wear masks indoors. She also hoped the County chose to opt in. A county-wide mandate would be much more effective. As the executive director of a local dance studio, it was a blessing to be able to point to the State's guidelines for reopening at minimum capacity because the students and instructors have a range of perspectives on the requirements. She encouraged everyone to read the Governor's guidelines, which include some exceptions. She posted a link to the guidelines on her Facebook page. She assumed that the Police Department did not have the capacity to issue citations, but she was concerned about how the requirements would be enforced.

Mayor Jones responded that enforcement was addressed during the last weekly call that the Commissioners participate in with the Governor's representative. Enforcement would be up to the local jurisdictions. The requirement would allow business owners to explain to their customers that the mandate is a State requirement, not a business decision.

Councilor Herman said she strongly supported an ordinance requiring masks indoors. However, it would be great if the City could get the County to pass the ordinance and save City Staff some work. It makes sense to wear masks even if there is not 100 percent certainty that masks protect against spreading the disease. The experts think masks might help. Many visitors could have the virus without any symptoms, so there is no way to know who is sick and who is not. Taking temperatures do not indicate who is spreading the virus. She was concerned about enforcement as well, but she also believed that if a law existed most people would follow it. She was also concerned that children ages two through 12 were not required to wear masks because they could strangle themselves if left unattended. However, she hoped children going downtown to a business would not be unattended. Children can get and spread the virus.

Councilor Rocka stated he was also concerned about enforcement. He believed that the public fully expect the City to enforce the laws it passes. Enforcing the hundreds of people walking around without masks each day would be difficult. If an ordinance is passed, the City will have to make it known. Portable electronic signs could be put up on the highways that come into the city, and the ordinance could be published online and in the newspaper. He was distressed that wearing masks had become a political issue. However, wearing a mask protects others, particularly those who are vulnerable. Many people who work in healthcare have resigned because of the threats received in response to their asking people to take care of their neighbors by wearing a mask. Refusing to wear a mask because it takes away a personal freedom is like saying, "I shouldn't have to drive on the right side of the road." Only chaos comes from that and it is a stupid argument. Even though the infection rate is increasing all over the country, people are refusing to wear masks. Therefore, the City should do anything it can to try to convince people to wear masks. He hoped the County would mandate masks indoors.

Chief Crutchfield said the Fire Department has been working closely with Clatsop County Emergency Manager Tiffany Brown to coordinate an drive-up mask distribution event at 1997 Marine Drive on June 25, 2020 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The State has supplied Clatsop County with the N-95 masks. During the event, anyone can drive up, get in line, wait in their, and when approached, indicate how many masks are needed by holding up the same number of fingers for distributors to see. Local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers will be distributing the masks at the event. The City and the County have published information about the event on their websites and social media pages.

Councilor Brownson said the State has recommended that business have masks available to hand out to customers who do not have their own. He asked if a business owner could come to the distribution event and request a large number of masks.

David Reid, Astoria Warrenton Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director, responded that the County has already provided the Chamber with N-95 masks, which were being distributed to business owners for use by their staff. If demand is low, remaining masks may be distributed to businesses for use by customers.

Mayor Jones said he hoped people would soon realize that they need to carry a mask because a mask will be required just about everywhere. Then, as time goes by, there will be less of a need for businesses to provide masks to customers.

Councilor Herman said she did not want businesses to have to bear the cost of providing masks. Businesses have been closed for quite a while and already have deficits. She suggested the City and County buy masks together in bulk and provide a very visible place for tourists to buy them.

Mayor Jones said masks would be distributed to non-profits as well. Currently, the Maritime Museum is selling disposable masks for \$1.00. He called for public comments.

Matt Stanley, 463 Jerome Avenue, Astoria, said he runs the Astoria Co-op. He hoped the Council would convey their unanimous support for masks to the County Commissioners before their meeting on Wednesday. A county-wide mandate makes more sense because it would force all of the large retailers in Warrenton to comply. Enforcement by the Health Department would not be too difficult. If a Health Department employee or Police Officer walked into a store to find only half of the customers wearing masks, they could speak with the manager or owner to find out why they were not complying. Hopefully, the discussion would stir the business into action. Masks cost about \$0.50 each and it is helpful for businesses to have them available to hand out. It would be helpful for store staff to say they were simply complying with local laws. It is sad that the federal

government has demonized the people who have put these policies into place because this is simply a public health issue. The vast majority of Americans want to have reasonable safety precautions put in place. There is a very vocal minority who make this seem like a bigger deal than it is.

Mr. Reid noted there were a couple of issues with the Governor's rules. He received feedback from personal service businesses that they want the guidance to require masks as much as is reasonable and not while customers are being cared for. He will take the business's suggestions to the County during their discussions. Several retailers are making masks available as an additional revenue stream. The masks are not hard to come by and the Chamber is happy to help any business that needs help.

City Council Action: Motion by Mayor Jones, seconded by Councilor Brownson, that the Astoria City Council urge the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners to request that Governor Brown add Clatsop County to the list of counties with the mandatory masks requirements. Motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Mayor Jones, Councilors West, Herman, Rocka, and Brownson. Nays: None.

Councilor West asked if the City would discuss mask requirements if the County chose to not to opt in to the Governor's requirements.

City Manager Estes stated Staff has already confirmed with City Attorney Henningsgaard that Astoria could adopt its own ordinance.

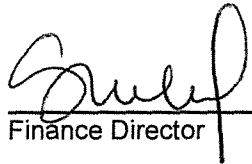
Mayor Jones amended his motion as follows:

City Council Action: Motion by Mayor Jones, seconded by Councilor West, that the Astoria City Council urge the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners to request that Governor Brown add Clatsop County to the list of counties with the mandatory masks requirements, and if Clatsop County chooses not to opt in, that the City Council directs Staff to proceed with a City of Astoria ordinance for a similar mandatory mask requirement. Motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Mayor Jones, Councilors West, Herman, Rocka, and Brownson. Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm to convene the Astoria Development Commission meeting.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager