

A work session of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 1:00 pm.

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

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Community Development Director Leatherman, City Planner Fryer, Public Works Director Harrington, and City Engineer Crater. The meeting was live streamed and recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 3(a): Geologic Hazards Ordinance Discussion

City Manager Estes briefly reviewed the last City Council work session discussion and subsequent public involvement on the development of geologic hazards Code language.

Director Leatherman and Planner Fryer gave a Power Point presentation on the proposed ordinance. The presentation included a review of the steps necessary to develop and implement new Code language, mapping and the draft report matrix, the results of the public open house, and next steps. After the presentation, Staff answered clarifying questions from Councilors about the State's building Codes, implementation of the proposed Codes, and the intent of the proposed Codes.

Each Councilor expressed support for Staff's recommendations and shared opinions about the public's concerns, the benefits of geologic hazard Codes, the potential impact on insurance rates, and Staff's efforts to publicize that this ordinance was being developed. Staff responded to some of the comments, providing information about potential costs to homeowners and a brief overview of the consultants' processes, noting that consultants try to minimize costs and streamline their processes. Staff also provided information about insuring homes located in designated land slide zones. New information from the Department of Geologic and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) shows that Astoria is at more risk of geologic hazards than originally thought, and that information will protect homeowners mitigate risks, which will in turn will help with insurance and loss of property.

Staff updated the Council on Staff's current timeline for completing Code amendments and noted public hearing dates that had been scheduled with the Planning Commission. Staff provided a brief description of the Code amendments being proposed and the requirement for the City to update the floodplain Codes. They also answered questions from Councilors about the accessory dwelling unit (ADU) ordinance.

Item 3(b): Review of Parklet Policy – Consider Allowing Increased Number Downtown

Staff briefly reviewed the previous City Council work session discussion on the temporary parklet policy. Staff had been receiving an increased number of inquiries about parklets from downtown businesses. The number of applications for parklets currently exceeds the number of parklets allowed and Staff would like the Council to decide if the number of parklets allowed should be increased and/or to allow parklets in areas other than downtown. The Council should consider that the increased interest in parklets was a direct result of the COVID-19 restrictions. Staff answered clarifying questions from Councilors about the existing parklet policy.

The Council and Staff discussed the benefits to businesses of allowing more parklets particularly during the COVID-19 restrictions. They also discussed the impact of parklets on parking and the Council's authority to change or eliminate the policy. All of the Councilors supported allowing one parklet per block in downtown for as long as the COVID-19 restrictions were in place. After the restrictions expire, the Council agreed to revisit the policy and discuss potential changes that would be appropriate at that time. Staff confirmed the policy would be updated per the Council's direction.

Mayor Jones noted that wage increases for union employees would be considered at the next regular City Council meeting on July 20, 2020. He asked Staff if the Council had the ability to renegotiate the proposed increases. He was not suggesting the Council renegotiate but wanted to know what the legal process was in case constituents had questions.

City Manager Estes stated the negotiations occurred during this meeting between the City's labor attorney and human resources contractor, so he was unaware of the options at this time. He would get the information and share it with the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

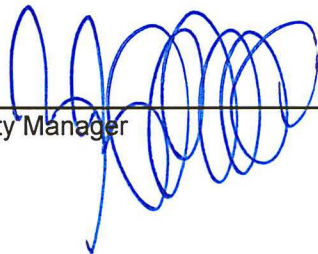
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager