

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

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

Councilors Excused: None

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

## REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

### **Item 3(a): Amendment #1 to Lap Pool Gutter Replacement contract with Anderson Pool Works**

The contract to replace the lap pool's gutter system was approved by City Council on September 8th, 2020 for \$87,676 with Anderson Pool Works using budgeted Capital Improvement funds. Work commenced on October 5th and the old gutters have been removed. Once the concrete gutter channels were exposed, the contractor noted extensive corrosion that could lead to leaks and impacts to the pool's water chemistry balance if not addressed. The contractor has provided an additional cost of \$12,500 to seal the existing concrete and the new cold joints in concrete poured to support the new gutters. Staff is requesting Council approve an amendment to the contract to include the concrete sealing for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$100,176.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Rocka, to approve Amendment #1 to the contract with Anderson Pool Works to include the concrete sealing for a new total not-to-exceed amount \$100,176. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

### **Item 3(b): Hollander Hotel Land Use Board of Appeals Direction**

City Manager Estes stated that an appeal of the City Council's decision on the Hollander Hotel was filed with the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). The City Council had denied an extension to permits originally approved by the Historic Landmarks Commission and Design Review Commission.

City Attorney Henningsgaard said it was hard to say what LUBA would do if the City chose not to file an appeal brief. LUBA will do their own research, and while they are competent, his experience had always been that LUBA appreciates hearing arguments and engaging in dialogue with the attorneys. He asked if the City Council wanted to file a brief.

Councilor Herman stated the City had already spent a considerable amount of time and money on this issue and it would only be prudent to file a brief.

The Mayor and each of the Councilors stated they agreed the City should file a brief.

City Attorney Henningsgaard noted that 90 percent of LUBA cases are remanded for further proceeding because LUBA wants additional findings from the policy makers. Once remanded back to the City, the Council can grant the request based on LUBA's advice or continue to deny the request. That decision would be appealable to LUBA.

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

City Manager Estes announced that Staff had been working with Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) on a small business grant program, which would allocate a portion of the City's CARES Act funds to local businesses. He believed the City could commit about \$40,000 to the grant program. He asked if the Council concurred that a small business grant administered by CEDR would be the best use of these funds. If so, Staff would propose a formal agreement on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kevin Leahy of CEDR has identified a need and has stated this grant would fill gaps not covered by other programs. The funds would be directed to businesses with 25 or fewer employees, have received less than \$100,000 in federal funding, were forced to temporarily close, and experienced at least a 25 percent drop in revenue during the pandemic.

Kevin Leahy, CEDR, said 213 businesses in Clatsop County applied for \$1,169,000 in grant money from the small business grant program. Half of those businesses were from the 97103 zip code. CEDR is trying to get every business funded, so dollars would be allocated specifically for businesses in the City of Astoria.

Councilor West asked if this was a new round of funding that would only be available to businesses who had not applied in previous rounds. She also wanted to know if the threshold for funding already received had been raised.

Mr. Leahy stated CEDR would use the dollars already applied for instead of taking new applications. Only two or three applications had to be turned down because of the threshold for funding already received. However, CEDR is still vetting the information provided by businesses. Businesses that received less than \$100,000 in CARES

Act funding could apply without penalty. For businesses that did receive more funding, a reduced dollar amount is still available. Specific details were available at ClatsopCC.edu/CEDR. CEDR emailed businesses last week to let them know they hope to have a final answer by Friday. He was optimistic that CEDR would be able to fund businesses throughout the region.

Councilor Herman asked if the \$40,000 from the City's CARES Act funding would go into pool for the county-wide grants.

Mr. Leahy said yes and explained that the funding from Astoria would be allocated to businesses located in Astoria. Astoria businesses would also be eligible to receive county-wide funds. He also confirmed for Councilor Herman that sole proprietors were eligible.

Councilor Rocka noted that many businesses in the theatre and arts community have not been able to reopen at all yet, so their needs are great.

Mr. Leahy noted that non-profits also applied for these funds. All funds must be spent by the middle of November and he believed this program was the best way to deal with the shortfall and fill the gap.

Councilor Brownson understood the largest amount granted would be \$125,000.

Mr. Leahy responded that 95 percent of the businesses applied for \$5,000, but the largest ask was for \$28,000. Businesses will be able to use the funds for whatever they like.

Councilor Brownson asked if Mr. Leahy was confident that the City would not be audited for putting its money into the County's fund.


Mr. Leahy said as long as the business relief funding is COVID related, the City would be okay.

City Manager Estes added Staff confirmed with the State and City Attorney Henningsgaard that this is an eligible project. Additionally, Director Brooks participated in a seminar to ensure that all of the City's agreements with CEDR were drafted appropriately.

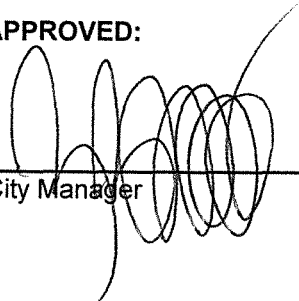
#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:31 pm to convene a City Council Work Session.

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager