

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, Executive Assistant Benoit, Parks and Recreation Director Dart-Mclean, Community Development Director Leatherman, Planner Fryer, Finance Director Brooks, Fire Chief Crutchfield, Police Chief Spalding, Public Works Director Harrington, City Engineer Crater, Library Director Pearson, and City Attorney Henningsgaard. The meeting was live streamed and recorded, and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

Item 3(a): Councilor Rocka reported that he had stayed with the progression of COVID-19 in the county and state through web meetings by the Governor's Office and League of Oregon Cities. The daily reports from the Clatsop County Health Department seem to show an increase of young people being infected. He was glad to see the new charging station for electric cars at the Aquatic Center. Mayor Jones made eloquent remarks at the ribbon cutting. He attended Clatsop Community College's Zoom meeting with college president Chris Breitmeyer to discuss how the college has been dealing with the pandemic. The discussion would air on KMUN on Monday at 9:30 am. He hosted a Zoom meeting for the Uniontown Association. This was their first meeting since the death of Leroy Adolfson. Their next meeting would be on January 31, 2021 at 3:00 pm. Tomorrow, Alameda Avenue would be closed at Rivington Street for water system upgrades.

Item 3(b): Councilor West reported that she attended the Bonamici Town Hall and Governor Brown's Town Hall hosted by the League of Oregon Cities. Both town halls were about COVID-19 relief and the re-opening plan. She encouraged everyone to shop locally for the holidays. She had spoken to business owners who expressed a lot of concern about how the holiday season would go because holiday sales typically get them through the winter. There is another round of funding for businesses and organizations from the state that will be distributed through the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The application will be published soon. She congratulated Tom Hilton on winning the Ward 4 seat on City Council by one vote.

Item 3(c): Councilor Brownson reported that COVID vaccines are coming soon and he hoped the community would be able to get back to business by late spring. He attended the League of Oregon Cities Elected Essentials meeting for new incoming elected officials. It was a great refresher. He also attended the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA) meeting to hear members share how they would spend money locally over the holidays. The United Way's Dine United program is a fundraiser that helps local restaurants. Donors will receive a \$5.00 gift certificate with each donation of \$25.00. The Arts Alliance recently received about \$400,000 to provide funding and support to local organizations. He attended the Port of Astoria meeting. The Port recently went through an audit and received high scores across the board. He met with Nel Moffitt, Rick Bowers, and Kathleen Sullivan to discuss the homeless situation in Astoria, the Warming Center, and a possible drop-in center. The State's Operation Turn Key will distribute \$35 million among communities to buy motels or other facility to help house homeless people and supply services. He noted that during the last round of funding available to businesses and organizations, every application received grant funding. The City received a grant from Pacific Power to have the electric charging stations installed and the City invested its own funds to make sidewalk repairs in the area. He commended the Parks and Public Works Departments for working together to take advantage of the grant funded project to save money on the sidewalk project. He attended Senator Bonamici's meeting as well and advocated for federal funding for communities in the next COVID relief package.

Item 3(d): Councilor Herman reported that she had been keeping up with the League of Oregon Cities weekly COVID calls with the Oregon Health Authority, the Governor's Office, and others. She also attended the elected essentials training as a refresher on Oregon's open meetings laws and government ethics.

She attended the monthly ADHDA meeting. She encouraged people to shop locally owned businesses. She reported that the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently recognized the owners of the Oddfellows Building for dramatically transforming the building. She recognized the Webber family for receiving the Oregon Excellence Award from Oregon Heritage for restoring the former YMCA building.

Item 3(e): Mayor Jones reported that he joined Director Harrington to speak to constituents who were concerned about tree cuttings in the slide zone at 8th and Irving. Public Works Staff was in the area detecting a water leak cause by the earth shifting in the slide zone. Crews are out in all types of weather working to keep the City's infrastructure working. He thanked the SBDC, Business Oregon, and the Chamber of Commerce for making sure the community can get as much grant funding as possible. He thanked the public for continuing to follow the health guidelines. Clatsop County has had a total of five hospitalizations and one death. He thanked everyone who had been shopping local. He reported that a work session had been scheduled for Thursday, December 17th at 1:00 pm and the agenda would be published on December 14th.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

No changes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 5(a) City Council Minutes of October 26, 2020
- 5(b) City Council Work Session Minutes of October 26, 2020
- 5(c) Parks Advisory Board Minutes of October 2020
- 5(d) Authorize to Change Monday Meeting Dates That Fall on a Holiday to the Following Day in 2021

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Herman, seconded by Councilor Brownson, 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): Consideration of Fort Astoria Sign Replacement Language

In the fall of 2018, community members contacted the Parks Department about the content of the Fort Astoria sign as they felt it contained inaccurate and outdated language and did not fully acknowledge its importance and context as a trading location of the tribal people who had controlled the area before the arrival of U.S. and European entrepreneurs. That inquiry triggered further review of the sign structure itself by Parks staff and it was determined that the structure was in need of replacement. Parks staff sought approval from the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) to replace the sign with a completely new structure that would feature some new wording developed in collaboration with City Historian John Goodenberger, while not radically changing the message of the existing text. HLC's jurisdiction included review of the sign's design but not the text of the sign. Following HLC approval of a new design for the sign's

structure and composition materials, the Lower Columbia Preservation Society (LCPS) appealed that decision. Parks staff subsequently worked with LCPS and developed a new sign design which all parties could support. That revised design was subsequently approved by the Landmarks Commission and LCPS is participating in the funding of the new sign as the cost is greater than what was originally budgeted by the City.

The issue of the outdated language remained a concern for community members and in August 2020, Mayor Jones convened a workgroup to revise and update it to better reflect the site's historical context and its importance as a regional trading nexus.

The workgroup, facilitated by City Historian Goodenberger, finalized draft language for the updated sign and then brought it to the Parks Advisory Board for review and feedback. The Parks Board met on November 25, 2020 and supports the attached draft. The final draft is now presented to City Council for their acceptance. The Lower Columbia Preservation Society and Clatsop Community College's Historic Preservation Program hope to install the new replacement sign in spring of 2021. A plaque will also be added explaining the chain of

events that led to the sign's changes over the years. It is recommended that the City Council accept the new Fort Astoria sign language as drafted by the Mayor's workgroup.

Mayor Jones thanked the advisory group for volunteering. When this topic was first came to City Council, the City was only considering cost and materials. When it was brought to his attention that some people were concerned about the content of the sign, he read the sign and agreed that the language was outdated. Since the physical structure was being replaced, and given the recent emphasis on equity in the community, this seemed like a great opportunity to rectify the historical content.

City Historian John Goodenberger gave a brief presentation on the workgroup's process for determining appropriate language for the new sign. He described the workgroup's research, considerations, thought processes, and discussions, noting their focus was on ensuring the language was inclusive.

Rachel Jensen, Lower Columbia Preservation Society (LCPS), said it was motivating to see people take this seriously. LCPS is excited to have the original sign from the 1940s as well as a sign the community can be proud of.

Councilor Brownson said he believed the new language really encapsulated a lot of thought and would inspire those who read it to look into the history. The decedents of those mentioned in the sign are still part of this community and the country continues to work hard to make multi-cultural democracy work.

Councilor West said she appreciated all of the work done by the workgroup. The goal of informational sources that involve indigenous people should always be to more accurately depict history. She thanked Dick Nash of the Clatsop Nehalem Confederated Tribes and Tony Johnson of the Chinook Indian Nation for being involved.

Councilor Herman stated she had read comments on social media about the efforts to update the text on the sign. Some people felt it whitewashed history, which is highly ironic because that is what has happened until now. She appreciated the efforts of the working group.

Councilor West encouraged those who were resistant to historic facts to remember the sign the way it was.

Councilor Rocka said the workgroup's task was like putting the history of the world on an index card and they managed to find the sweet spot.

Mayor Jones called for public comments.

Blair Henningsgaard, Astoria, said he believed the idea of changing the sign was fabulous. The new language was politically and historically correct. However, the City has not considered the audience that would be reading the sign. He started reading the sign at about eight years old and the newly proposed language is a bit sterile. The new language presents a tale that in some ways is a little odd. What does "layered history" really refer to? Will a third or fifth grade student really understand what that is supposed to mean? He knew that the authors had assigned meaning to "layered history" but they are not who the sign is being presented to. He asked why "April 12, 1811, the day the work began", was removed and replaced with "John Jacob Astor established the trading post"? Astor was never here, but to a stranger reading that, it sounds like he was here hammering and sawing and building the post. Obviously, that is not what happened. He asked why the quote from the journals was removed, saying "The foliage was budding. We imagined ourselves in the Garden of Eden." This language paints a picture of what it was like in 1811 for the individuals who landed there after traveling all the way around the world to get there. He always felt that language was important. He suggested the sign say that the Clatsop and Chinook were valuable partners who recommended the site and allowed the Astor Company to build their post in that location, rather than inserting language suggesting that the chiefs traded away their women to the Astor party. He knew the women were not traded, but the proposed language makes it seem like some stranger came in from the Midwest, two chiefs took some women, and gave them to the Astor party to smooth things over. And why not say that the site was sold to the British Northwest Company rather than "transferred to British control"? The British government never took any kind of ownership or military position with respect to Astoria, but it was sold in a commercial transaction for military and political reasons to the Northwest Company. Saying it was just transferred to British control suggests that the English, rather than another group of pioneers who happened to be citizens of another country, were here working. Someone who is not immersed deeply in the

history of Astoria, as the authors of the proposed language were, would be confused about what actually happened.

Mr. Goodenberger stated the workgroup intended the language to be at the eighth-grade level. He agreed that the language lost some of the feeling. The quote about the Garden of Eden was one of his favorite quotes, but not everything had to be on that sign. There are other additional ways the site can be interpreted and the site is interpreted in other places like the Clatsop County Historical Society, the Maritime Museum, and through apps. He and Director Dart-McLean were recommended Chinook language app so that people could be on the site and hear people speaking in Chinook. He appreciated the criticism, but he could not get everything in that small space.

Mayor Jones noted that he only attended the first workgroup meeting, but has been kept up to date on subsequent meetings. He appreciated the challenge of limiting the language to a maximum of 150 words to convey this complex history. The workgroup had to choose words that failed to capture all of the nuances and a lot of things could have been said.

Ms. Jensen said the LCPS saw the sign replacement project as a chance to recreate the original sign from 1948 with additional interpretation. People have an emotional attachment to the original sign and there would have been ways to use it for further interpretation and education. However, there are people in the community who wanted a new sign that tells a more relatable story. The workgroup wanted to make the sign accurate and inclusive and there are many ways the community can step up and tell the story in full. LCPS will be happy to continue the history of the sign and the site as it's been saved and set aside by the community. The layered history of the site refers to the history of thousands of years, then the history of the fort, then the history of the Astoria community being rebuilt after the fire.

Mayor Jones recommended additional interpretive signage, not a huge wooden structure but a more modern style interpretive sign somewhere on the site. He confirmed that the old sign would be on display at the Maritime Museum.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor West, to accept the new Fort Astoria sign language as drafted by the Mayor's workgroup. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Fire Chief Crutchfield announced that the holiday food drive would December 8th through 10th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm each night. The routes were posted on Facebook and non-perishable food items would be collected. All of the participants would be wearing masks, gloves, and reflective vests. Donations should be left on the curb and everyone should maintain six feet of distance.

Item 6(b): Public Hearing and First Reading of Amendment A20-02 to Amend the Zoning Map at 6562 Liberty Lane

On October 27, 2020, the Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the request to rezone six acres of the property at 6562 Liberty Lane. The proposal included requests on three acres from S1 (Marine Industrial Shorelands) to S2 (General Development Shorelands) and from S2 (General Development Shorelands) to S1 (Marine Industrial Shorelands) on three acres. The applicant, Clatsop Community College (CCC), would like to change the zoning to acknowledge the existing developed area of their campus. The Planning Commission recommended approval to the City Council. It is recommended that the Council conduct public hearing and determine if to hold a first reading of the ordinance.

Planner Fryer presented the Staff report via PowerPoint.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 7:49 pm and asked if anyone objected to the jurisdiction of the City Council to hear this matter at this time. There were no objections. He asked if any member of the Council had a conflict of interest or ex parte contact to declare. There were none. He explained the procedures governing the conduct of public hearings to the audience and advised that handouts of the substantive review criteria were available from Staff. He confirmed with Staff that there was no testimony from the Applicant and called for any testimony in favor of, impartial, or opposed to the request. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 7:51 pm.

Councilor West asked if the new S-1 zone along the water would be for preservation.

Planner Fryer explained that both zones were development zones. One is a general development zone that would allow for a campus setting and the other one is intended for marine development adjacent to the shoreland.

Councilor West stated the Findings mentioned a fill of three areas of forested wetland extending into the upland area. She asked Staff to speak to that.

Planner Fryer said that occurred during the development of the college.

Councilor West said the change in zoning seemed to acknowledge the area that is already developed.

Councilor Brownson said the request seemed reasonable. It is just a clarification and he did not see how it creates any issues.

Councilor Rocka stated that not approving the zone change would leave nothing protected by the S-1 zone. This seemed to make perfect sense.

Councilor Brownson added that this zone change would help the community college do additional development.

Councilor West said that if the current structures burned down, this zone change would also make it possible for the college to rebuild.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Rocka, to hold a first reading of the ordinance amending the Zoning Map at 6562 Liberty Lane. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Director Brooks conducted the first reading of the ordinance.

Item 6(c): Resolution to Transfer General Fund Contingency to City Attorney Department #1800

Oregon Revised Statute ORS 294.463(2) provides guidance for the transfer of appropriations up to 15 percent, when authorized by resolution of the governing body. At the time the City Attorney Department budget of the General Fund was prepared amounts budgeted did not anticipate the Hollander appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals and the necessary time requirements for legal preparation and review associated with the appeal. A transfer in the amount of \$7,000 from Contingency to Materials & Professional Services is required to provide sufficient appropriations for unanticipated costs related to legal expenses associated with the Hollander land use appeal. This amount is less than 0.5 percent of general fund appropriations. A resolution is attached for consideration and approval. It is recommended that City Council approve the transfer of \$7,000 from Contingency to Materials & Services within the City Attorney Department # 1800.

Mayor Jones called for public comments. There were none.

Councilor Herman said this transfer seemed reasonable. If the City had hired a private attorney, the cost might have been \$70,000. She asked if City Attorney Henningsgaard had any idea when the City would hear from the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) on the Hollander case.

City Attorney Henningsgaard stated he did not know for sure. The argument had been scheduled for 1:45 pm on December 9th via telecommunication. There is a way for the public to listen but he was not sure how, as he had never done a telecommunication argument with LUBA before. LUBA's decision-making will depend on what issues they find important.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Herman to approve the transfer of \$7,000 from Contingency to Materials & Services within the City Attorney Department # 1800. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 6(d): Trestle Repair Project – Change Order #1

The Trestle Repair Project addresses critical repair needs on the 6th through 11th Street Trestle, Mill Pond Trestle, 6th Street Park Pier, and the 14th Street Park Pier. City Council authorized a construction contract with Bergemen Construction in July 2020. Work is currently underway with completion scheduled for mid-December 2020. During the course of work, it became apparent that several additional repairs are needed to complete the project. It is recommended that City Council authorize staff to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$25,025.22.

Director Harrington shared photographs taken during the Waterfront Bridges Project showing the additional repairs needed on the trestles.

Engineer Crater explained Staff's process for prioritizing repairs using industry standards. He provided details about the repair work that would be done on each trestle structure and noted that a second change order would be necessary in the future to complete more repairs.

Councilor Brownson said anytime a project is started, unexpected repairs are found. He appreciated the photographs.

Councilor West thanked Public Works Staff for the photographs and the work they do in the background.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Rocka to authorize Staff to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$25,025.22 for the Trestle Repair Project. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 6(e): Consideration of Parklet Application for Blaylock's Whiskey Bar

The Astoria City Council has established a set of policies to allow Parklets to be established in rights of way. A Parklet application (PL20-04) was submitted by The Blaylock's Whiskey Bar at 433 13th Street. There is no other Parklet located on the block, as per the requirements. An analysis of the Parklet is included as well as all the submitted application materials. Staff recommends approval, as conditioned.

Michael Angeletta thanked the City for their flexibility and said Director Leatherman was very helpful. Currently, the bar is limited to 25 percent capacity so he is trying to be creative as possible to keep his business viable while respecting the State's restrictions. The parklet would allow him to serve more patrons and he was happy to meet any conditions necessary for approval.

Councilor West said she fully supported this request. The City should be doing anything it can do to help businesses right now. This parklet would fit well with the food carts across the street. She was in favor of allowing the parklets to continue after the pandemic.

Councilor Herman stated she appreciated that the Community Development Department rushed the application. Normally, she would not think that coverings over parklets would be a good idea, but the City Council might want to discuss that in the near future in light of everything that is going on.

City Manager Estes responded that Blaylock's did want coverings and the Community Development Department explained to the Applicant that the application could be processed more expeditiously without a request for coverings. The City needs to get more information about liability before discussing it further.

Councilor Brownson said he understood the issues that could occur if the City allowed coverings. However, coverings make a lot of sense in this environment. Portland allows coverings.

City Manager Estes noted that Portland's parklet coverings are built like permanent structures. Portland also has lower wind speeds.

Councilor Rocka stated he supported the request.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Herman, seconded by Councilor West, to approve Parklet Application PL20-05 by The Blaylock's Whiskey Bar, as conditioned. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

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

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

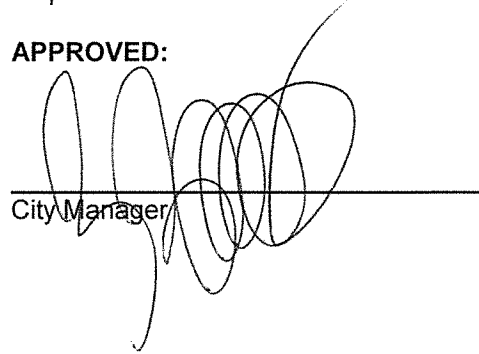
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager