

A work session of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 1:03 pm.

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

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Finance Director Brooks. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, LLC.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 3(a): Clatsop Economic Development Resources Annual Update

Kevin Leahy, Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR), gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the CEDRs partners, programs, services, priorities, budgets, and economic impact statistics.

The Councilors expressed appreciation for Mr. Leahy's work, especially during the pandemic facilitating economic relief and resources to small businesses.

Item 3(b): Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce and Lower Columbia Tourism Committee Annual Update

David Reid, Executive Director, Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce, presented the annual update for the Chamber of Commerce and the Lower Columbia Tourism Committee (LCTC). His update included an overview of funding sources, events, pandemic support provided to businesses, impacts of the pandemic on tourism, travel trends, and upcoming ad campaigns.

Mayor Jones said he appreciated Mr. Reid's leadership, particularly during the pandemic. In March, the Governor had asked everyone to stay home and the very next day, the coast was swamped with visitors. The Chamber stepped up to support local businesses, asked visitors to leave, and focused on when visitors could return safely. Then, the Chamber was able to focus on keeping the community safe while helping business operate safely.

Item 3(c): Astoria Downtown Historic District Association Annual Update

Sara Lu Heath, Executive Director, Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA), gave the ADHDA's annual update, which included details about their pandemic responses and impacts, partnerships, programs, services, events, and awards. She also provided a brief overview of the ADHDA's merger with the Sunday Market.


The Councilors expressed their appreciation for Ms. Heath's innovation and creativity. They also thanked her for the ADHDA's support to local businesses and organizations.

City Manager Estes explained that organizations that receive Promote Astoria Funds are required by Code to give an annual update. Even though CEDR does not receive Promote Astoria Funds, the Council has requested an annual update from them as well. These presentations are always scheduled in advance of the budget hearings. He noted that the proposed budget would include an increase for CEDR dues to be commensurate with the City of Seaside. He would also propose that the City return to the formula approved by the Budget Committee for the Visitor's Center and LCTC. Lastly, he would propose an increase to the ADHDA of a percentage similar to what the Chamber would be receiving. He confirmed for Councilor Herman that CEDR's funding comes out of the General Fund, the Astor East Urban Renewal Fund, and the Astor West Urban Renewal Fund.

ADJOURNMENT

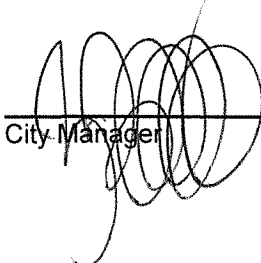
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager