

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, Hilton, 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, 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, LLC.

PROCLAMATIONS

Item 3(a): Edith Henningsgaard Miller Proclamation

Mayor Jones read the proclamation recognizing Edith Henningsgaard as one of Astoria's most accomplished citizens and a local icon who made the community a better place. He presented the proclamation to City Attorney Henningsgaard.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

Item 4(a): Councilor Rocka reported that he enjoyed the ground-breaking ceremony for Nordic Park. He noted that while he was away, he was still able to respond to some citizens' concerns thanks to the responsiveness of Staff.

Item 4(b): Councilor Hilton welcomed Deputy Chief Fire Marshall and Emergency Manager Brian McCarthy to Astoria. He thanked those who volunteered for the County's vaccination and testing efforts. He recognized postal carriers, grocery workers, and all service workers that kept the community alive over the last three months. The gas station service attendants have had a long hot summer and it was very busy in the community.

Item 4(c): Councilor Herman reported that she attended the general membership meeting of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA). She thanked Chief Spalding for providing information to businesses about a recent string of burglaries in the area and the demonstration outside Carruthers Restaurant. She noted that she appreciated Ms. Henningsgaard's vision and wisdom for Astoria because everyone who lives in the city today benefits from her work.

Item 4(d): Councilor Brownson reported he attended the Heritage Park groundbreaking and the final performance of Third Dimension at the Liberty Theatre. He believed theater performances would close down again due to COVID. He hosted a meet the Councilor event at Peter Pan Park and would continue to do so on the last Saturday of every month. He believed that Carruthers' requirement to have a vaccine card in order to dine there was a good business decision. Vaccinated people can go there, feel safe, and enjoy their evening without worrying about someone coming in and spreading an infection. He noted that he had never met Ms. Henningsgaard but first heard of her when she and her son landed a plane in the Columbia River.

Item 4(e): Mayor Jones reported that he was disappointed to see those who had been arguing to give businesses more flexibility turn around and protest in front of a business that managed the pandemic in a way that made sense for their business. He commended Carruthers for making a choice they believed was appropriate to protect customers, staff, and public health providers from COVID. One of the protest planners announced on Facebook this afternoon that she had been hospitalized at Seaside Providence with COVID. He hoped that those opposed to vaccinations would see the irony of the situation and consider getting vaccinated. Those who are unvaccinated are exponentially more likely to be hospitalized if they do become infected. He attended the ribbon cutting of the Astoria Middle School. The facility will be wonderful for kids. He also looked forward to seeing the high school when it is complete.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

City Manager Estes stated that Columbia Memorial Hospital has requested the removal of Item 7(b): License to Occupy a Portion of the Irving Avenue Right-of-Way. The agenda was approved as amended.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) City Council Minutes of August 2, 2021
- 6(b) City Council Work Session Minutes of August 2, 2021
- 6(c) Astoria Public Library Advisory Board Minutes of August 3, 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, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7(a): Consideration of University of Oregon Seismic Sensor Agreement

The City received a request from the University of Oregon to place a seismic sensor at the City owned property where a Verizon cell tower is located above Reservoir 3. The sensor would be a part of the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network (PNSN). The seismic sensor would add to the array of sensors that are a part of the ShakeAlert earthquake early warning system for the United States West Coast. The installation and periodic access to the equipment will be coordinated by the Emergency Communications Manager. This equipment is considered by staff to be a great asset to our emergency management efforts as the ShakeAlert system is a great asset for emergency preparedness, especially as a seismic early warning system.

It is recommended that City Council approve the seismic sensor agreement with the University of Oregon to place and maintain a ShakeAlert Station Seismic Sensor on City property currently occupied by the Verizon cell tower.

Councilor Brownson said he believed having a sensor in town was a great opportunity. The warning would be short but might give people enough time to protect themselves.

Councilor Rocka believed that the City should do its part because the warning would not be short for people in the valley.

Councilor Hilton stated the sensor would be a very valuable asset to the entire region.

Mayor Jones called for public comments. There were none.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Hilton, to approve the seismic sensor agreement with the University of Oregon to place and maintain a ShakeAlert Station Seismic Sensor on City property currently occupied by the Verizon cell tower. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 7(b): Consideration of License to Occupy a Portion of the Irving Avenue Right-of-Way adjacent to 185 W. Irving Avenue

The City has received a request from Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) to occupy a portion of West Irving Avenue right-of-way adjacent to 185 W. Irving Avenue. The purpose of this request is to install a pole for emergency radio communications. It is recommended that City Council approve a license to occupy, subject to the noted conditions, for the emergency radio communications pole in the West Irving Avenue right-of-way adjacent to 185 W. Avenue.

This item was removed from the agenda during Item 5: Changes to the Agenda.

Item 7(c): Cedar Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project – Authorization to Bid

During investigation of several sewer issues, it became apparent that the sanitary sewer pipe that serves the area from 45th to 47th Street along Cedar Street is deteriorated and in need of prioritized replacement. Public Works staff prepared project documents and coordinated with franchise utility providers to eliminate direct conflicts that currently exist. The project will include replacement of 840 feet of 10-inch diameter sanitary sewer pipe, connection of existing sanitary sewer laterals, and surface restoration including curb, sidewalk and vegetated areas. The Engineer's estimate for this project is \$325,000. Funding for this project is available in the Public Works Improvement Fund. It is recommended that City Council authorize staff to solicit bids for the Cedar Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project.

Councilor Rocka confirmed with Staff that the sewer line runs along the north side of Cedar Street abutting Violet LaPlante Park. He believed the project would be easier because the City would not have to dig right in front of the homes across the street.

Mayor Jones called for public comments.

Lisa Morley said she lived on Cedar Street in Astoria. She asked how Staff knew how much of the sewer line needed to be repaired. She also wanted to know what additional work Century Link would be doing in the area along the same track.

City Engineer Crater said the Public Works Department did several inspections by putting a tractor-mounted camera in the pipe because there had been a few sewer backups in the area. The video inspection work allowed Staff to determine the length that needed to be replaced. Replacements are done from one structure to another structure when the pipe is compromised. This makes more sense than doing several repairs. Century Link will relocate some of the utility poles in the area because the poles are located directly on top of the sewer line.

Councilor Brownson asked if Staff received any pushback from the utilities. City Engineer Crater responded that the City has a variety of relationships with franchise utility providers. In the past, Staff has experienced some challenges with Century Link because their local presence is not very strong. Recently, there was a transition and the City's local contact is now a contract employee or consultant. Therefore, Staff was unable to get Century Link to relocate the poles within the timeline requested. However, the City cannot provide any more flexibility and Staff is hopeful that the timeframe will work out.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Brownson to authorize staff to solicit bids for the Cedar Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 7(d): Alameda Avenue Embankment Repair Project – Authorization to Award Construction Contract

On the night of August 25th, an embankment failure and water line break occurred at the end of Hamburg Avenue adjacent to Alameda Avenue. Public Works crews responded quickly to temporarily reestablish water service to the area and removed embankment debris that had accumulated in the roadway. Staff coordinated with Cornforth Consultants, the City's on-call Geotechnical consultant, to assist with review of the embankment failure and recommendations for repair. Design and project documents were prepared, and a request for quotes (RFQ) was distributed to local contractors. The engineer's estimate for the repair project is approximately \$80,000. It is critical that we attempt to complete the work during dry weather conditions. A permanent solution to reestablish the water line in the area is currently being evaluated and will be brought for City Council consideration separately. Staff will provide detailed information including a contract and cost at the City Council meeting for consideration.

City Manager Estes stated a proposed contract with Big River Construction had been provided to the Councilors for consideration.

Councilor Brownson asked for details about the project timeline. He also wanted to know if Alameda was at risk. City Engineer Crater said the geotechnical firm assessed the stability of Alameda. He displayed a photograph and explained that the top of the failure plane was 10 to 12 feet above the pavement. The firm determined that Alameda was stable. However, Staff has expedited this project because Alameda's condition could change once the wet weather starts. Alameda is currently closed to through traffic as an added precaution. He hoped Big River could begin in a couple of weeks and Staff has asked them to move as quickly as possible.

Councilor Brownson asked how old the water lines were. He also wanted to know if these issues would continue in the future due to the age of the infrastructure. City Engineer Crater believed the water line was from the 1950s and its failure

was likely caused by continuous ground creep in the area. Many of the older water lines have lead joints that are not as restrained as the new water lines. He believed the issue was a combination of the water line's age and the geologic challenges in the area. He confirmed that the lead joints do not contaminate the system in any way. Director Harrington added that this situation is similar to what happened on the east end of the Irving Avenue Bridge a few years ago. Staff was careful not to categorize this as a landslide because correlating a landslide in August with no rain would be bad data compared to the four inches of rainfall in 48 hours that trigger landslides.

Councilor Herman asked how the hillside would be shored up. City Engineer Crater explained that the saturated loose debris would be removed from the embankment. The material will be replaced with more stable rock, starting at the bottom and built up in a terrace fashion. Once the slope revegetates, it will be hard to tell the area failed.

Director Harrington noted the work would be similar to what was done by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on Highway 30 just east of town. The slope that failed would be replaced with rock.

Councilor Rocka asked if the terraces would help stabilize the hillside.

City Engineer Crater said yes, without the terraces, gravity would cause the rock to slip. Terraces have been a common construction technique for centuries.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Herman, seconded by Councilor Hilton to approve the construction contract with Big River Construction for \$59,360. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

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

There was none.

The regular session recessed to convene the executive session at 7:46 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 9(a): ORS192.660(2)(d) – Labor Negotiator Consultatons

The City Council will meet in executive session to discuss labor negotiations.


The regular session reconvened.

ADJOURNMENT

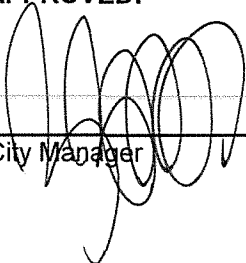
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Finance Director



City Manager