

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, 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): National Hispanic Heritage Month

Mayor Jones read the proclamation declaring September 15, 2021 through October 15, 2021 as National Hispanic Heritage Month in Astoria.

Item 3(b): Constitution Week

Mayor Jones read the proclamation declaring the week of September 17, 2021 as Constitution Week in Astoria.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

Item 4(a): Councilor Brownson reported that he attended a summit on Oregon infrastructure, which included a lot of discussion on internet accessibility in rural areas and the need to develop ports and fisheries. He also attended the Port of Astoria Commission meeting. He announced his next meet the Councilor event would be on Saturday morning at Peter Pan Park, starting at 9:00 am.

Item 4(b): Councilor Herman had no reports.

Item 4(c): Councilor Hilton reported that he spoke to neighbors about traffic and deadly accidents that occurred recently on Highway 30. He gave condolences to those who lost family members over the last couple of weeks due to the pandemic. He reported that he had conversations about the growth the Alderbrook and Uppertown neighborhoods, particularly if Tongue Point becomes a more viable facility for the maritime industry.

Item 4(d): Councilor Rocka reported that people in his ward have been speaking with him about unoccupied houses which are not being maintained. With the housing shortage, it is a shame to let any repairable dwelling go to waste. City Staff will be increasing code enforcement, which should alleviate the health and safety concerns. He also wanted the City to explore how unoccupied houses could be returned to a productive use.

Item 4(e): Mayor Jones reported that he, City Manager Estes, City Forester Hayes, and Director Harrington attended a tour of the watershed with representatives from a variety of watershed groups and cities looking for ways to ensure clean drinking water. Most municipalities do not own their own watershed and others were hoping to learn from what Astoria has done.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

No changes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) City Council Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2021
- 6(b) City Council Work Session Minutes of August 16, 2021

6(c) Astoria Planning Commission Minutes

6(d) **Liquor License Application from Ten Fifteen Productions, doing business as Ten Fifteen Productions, located 1015 Commercial Street for a Limited On-Premises Sales License**

Mayor Jones requested Item 6(d) be removed for further discussion.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Herman, to approve Items 6(a) through (c) of the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 6(d) Liquor License Application from Ten Fifteen Productions, doing business as Ten Fifteen Productions, located at 1015 Commercial Street for a Limited On-Premises Sales License

Mayor Jones asked the Applicant to share information about their business plan.

Danielle said their goal was to reopen The Weir on October 15, 2021. Their board has elected to refrain from selling concessions at the event. Masks will be required at all times. Doors open 30 minutes before the show, during which time beer and wine will be offered. Selling alcohol will help their profits.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Hilton, to approve Item 6(d) of the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7(a): Public Hearing and Resolution for Supplemental Budget – Promote Astoria Fund # 410

On August 2, 2021, the City Council approved the creation of a Tourist Facilities and Parks Coordinator position to assist the Parks Department in managing the facilities and grounds of sites heavily used by tourists and visitors to Astoria. The full-time position will be assigned to clean and care for the public restrooms Downtown and in Uniontown and will assist with trash collection along the Riverwalk, grounds maintenance at tourist-related parks, and provide support and services for tourist-related events. The Promote Astoria budget, which is funded through the collection of Transient Lodging Taxes, will be the source of the new position's wages and benefits compensation package. A separate budget resolution is required to transfer appropriations between the Materials and Services and Personnel Services categories within the Promote Astoria Fund. It is recommended that the City Council conduct a public hearing and approve the supplemental budget as presented in the attached resolution.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 7:15 pm and called for public comments. There were none. He closed the public hearing at 7:16 pm.

Councilor Herman asked when the position would be filled. Director Dart-McLean said if the supplemental budget is approved, Staff can advertise the position. The hiring timeline will depend on the responses received from prospective applicants. He hoped to fill the position as soon as possible. However, in the current labor market, that may take longer than usual. Training can occur over the winter so that the new employee is ready for the next tourist season.

Councilor Herman believed the City would get better service by hiring rather than contracting this position.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Herman, to approve the resolution adopting the supplemental budget for the Promote Astoria Fund #410. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 7(b): Fiscal Year 2021 to 2022 Astoria 911 Dispatch Service Agreements

Subscriber agreements for FY 2021-2022 dispatch services have been prepared and the amounts are being submitted to Council for approval and authorization of the Mayor's signature. Once City Council authorizes approval of the agreements, they will be signed by Mayor Jones, City Manager Estes and City Attorney Henningsgaard. A sample of one agreement has been provided for reference. It is recommended that City Council approve the Dispatch Service Agreements for FY 2021-2022.

Chief Spalding said the dispatch center had suffered some significant staffing challenges over the last year. Currently, the center is operating with four full-time dispatchers and is authorized to have 10 full-time dispatchers. The four dispatchers have worked a lot of extra overtime to make sure the center remains open. The City has a good relationship with the Seaside Police Department, which has sent some of their dispatchers to Astoria to fill in some shifts. Fortunately, there has been little to no impact to the subscribers. However, the current situation is not sustainable for the long-term, nor is it good management. The temporary solution is to combine the Astoria and Seaside dispatchers, all working from the Seaside facility, which would serve as a central dispatch center for the entire county. Both centers use the same software and hardware systems and all of the dispatchers have worked closely together over the last year. The combined dispatch center start in October and would last three to six months, depending on how quickly new dispatchers can be trained. All of the subscribers have already been notified and their concerns addressed. Additionally, testing would be done to make sure the plan would work before actually making the transition to the Seaside dispatch center. This plan will improve interoperability because the move to Seaside allows Staff to look for redundancies in the equipment and when Astoria moves back into its own center, both cities will be able to dispatch for each other. Three dispatchers are currently in training. One will be on her own in November, one will be on her own in December, and the third just started. His department will be making an offer of employment to an applicant later in the week. The new Emergency Communications Manager started a few weeks ago and is still in training.

Mayor Jones said Staff spent a lot of time making sure all of the concerns were addressed appropriately. He appreciated the partnership with Seaside and their willingness to make something work for the entire county.

Councilor Brownson believed the plan was a good solution to a challenging job in a challenging environment.

Councilor Rocka appreciated the cooperative nature of the plan, which was a good solution for the time being. He was glad relief would be given to the four dispatchers before they are burned out.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Herman, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to approve the Dispatch Service Agreements for FY 2021-2022. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

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

Kathy announced that the local and statewide Get There challenge would be held during the first two weeks of October. The annual event encourages people to choose transportation options other than driving alone in a car. Participants can create an account on the event's website to win prizes. The event is sponsored by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). She wanted to see Astoria residents walking and biking. The website, GetThereOregon.org, contains more information. She could be contacted at Kathy@RideTheBus.org.

ADJOURNMENT

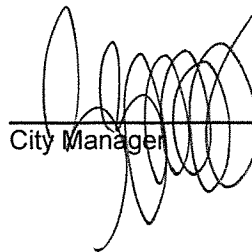
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager