

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.

## PRESENTATIONS

### **Item 3(a): Swearing In of Police Officer Zachary Stockton**

Chief Spalding introduced new Officer Zachary Stockton and explained how he transitioned from the Community Service Officer position to becoming a Police Officer. He also provided background information on Officer Stockton's personal and professional accomplishments.

Officer Stockton was sworn in by Chief Spalding.

## REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

**Item 4(a): Councilor Hilton** reported that several people came to see him, called him and emailed him about the future of Heritage Square, parking issues, housing issues, weather issues, and the tsunami advisory. He thanked City Manager Estes for reaching out to everyone about the tsunami advisory. He also thanked Chief Spalding for making everyone aware. He congratulated Officer Stockton for becoming a part of the Astoria Police Department.

**Item 4(b): Councilor Brownson** reported that he appreciated how the City handled the tsunami advisory. However, there were glitches elsewhere that the City needed to do better with. He thanked the Public Works Department for putting in time and hard work over the last several weeks. He also reported that COVID-19 was currently spiking and a lot of new infections were taking place at high levels all over and the majority were among the unvaccinated. This post-holiday spike is behavior driven. He urged everyone to do everything possible to protect citizens from getting the virus because people do die. Finally, he apologized to the City and the citizens for missing the last City Council meeting. He mixed up the days and had his phone on mute. He would not miss a meeting again.

**Item 4(c): Councilor Herman** congratulated Officer Stockton for becoming Astoria's newest officer. She reported that she and Mayor Jones attended the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA) meeting where Mayor Jones and City consultant John Southgate spoke about the proposal for workforce housing at Heritage Square. They also attended a reception at the new branch of Wauna Federal Credit Union on Marine Drive near McDonalds. She listed in on interviews with the three interim candidates for former Senator Johnson's District 16 seat on the State Senate. She congratulated Rachel Armitage for becoming the newest Senator. She thanked the firefighters who responded to a call about an injured sea gull stuck in a stack of pilings over the river. The firefighters brought a hook and ladder truck and rescued the sea gull. She appreciated the kindness and compassion the firefighters showed.

**Item 4(d): Councilor Rocka** reported that he appreciated City Staff and others who joined forces to get the community through the rain and snow.

**Item 4(e):** Mayor Jones reported that he conducted an interview with the City's recruiter who was assigned the task of recruiting a new police chief, as Chief Spalding will be retiring. He believed the recruiter had a lot of experience recruiting senior police leaders and would do a good job for the City.

#### **CHANGES TO AGENDA**

No changes.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) City Council Work Session Minutes of November 17, 2021 Amended
- 6(b) City Council Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2021
- 6(c) Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
- 6(d) Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2021
- 6(e) Maritime Memorial Committee Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2021
- 6(f) Department Head Status Update

Mayor Jones urged community members to read the Department Head Status Updates to see how tax dollars were being spent by the City. The updates are included in the agenda, posted on the City's website, and posted on his Facebook page.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to approve the Consent Calendar. [inaudible from 29:23 – 33:49] Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

#### **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **Item 7(a): Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance Readopting Certain State Statutes to Reflect Changes Made by the 2021 Legislature**

The public hearing and first reading of the ordinance was held on January 3, 2022. The 2021 legislation passed by the Oregon Legislature, for the most part, became effective on January 1, 2022. Many of our City ordinances refer to or incorporate State statutes. Every year, the City routinely re-adopts all referenced ORS sections to pick up any changes made by the legislature. This is done by a "global readoption", which is the technique recommended by the League of Oregon Cities. The City is legally unable to prospectively adopt Oregon legislative changes, that is, we cannot adopt a state statute "as it now exists and is from time to time amended." It is recommended that Council conduct the second reading and consider adoption of the proposed ordinance.

Director Brooks conducted the second reading of the ordinance.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Herman, to adopt the Ordinance readopting certain State Statutes to reflect changes made by the 2021 Legislature. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

##### **Item 7(b): Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance Amending the Astoria City Code Section 8.045-8.045.18 Concerning the Imposition and Collection of Transient Room Taxes**

The public hearing and first reading of this ordinance was held on January 3, 2022. The City of Astoria has determined that an amendment of the provisions of City of Astoria Code Section 8.045 concerning the imposition and collection of Transient Room Taxes and adding provisions will result in uniformity with the ordinances of other Cities and Oregon Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules regarding transient lodging tax. This will aid the public's understanding of these code sections, help foster compliance with the code and simplify the City's collection of the tax. It is recommended that the City Council conduct the second reading and adopt the amendment of Astoria City Code Section 8.045 concerning the imposition and collection of Transient Room Taxes.

Councilor Brownson asked if shifting from monthly to quarterly collections had been discussed.

Director Brooks stated that collections by the State would shift the City from a monthly to quarterly schedule. During the initial adjustment period, the City will not receive collections for a few months.

Director Brooks conducted the second reading of the ordinance.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Herman, to adopt the amendment of Astoria City Code Section 8.045 concerning the imposition and collection of Transient Room Taxes. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

**Item 7(c): Recology Interim Medical Waste Disposal Rate Change**

Recology has requested a short list of interim rate changes for medical waste disposal services due to a change in medical waste disposal vendors. The new vendor offers different size containers with associated pricing. This change primarily affects hospitals and large clinic services. A resolution is attached which incorporates the proposed interim changes for the listed medical waste containers for Council consideration. It is recommended that Council consider the attached resolution with rate changes as indicated.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Herman, seconded by Councilor Brownson to adopt the resolution approving Recology's interim medical waste disposal rate change. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

**Item 7(d): 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Marine Drive Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon – Authorization to Award Engineering Services Contract**

The existing crosswalk at the intersection of Highway 30 (Marine Drive) and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street has been the subject of pedestrian safety concerns from adjacent businesses and residents, including Columbia Memorial Hospital. Construction of new businesses and area redevelopment has increased the use of the existing crosswalk and resulted in this location being added to the City's list of crossing enhancement priorities.

City staff worked with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to secure funding for this and other priority locations. A Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) was determined to be a cost-effective approach to providing pedestrian safety enhancements. Otak, Inc. provided a proposal for engineering services that include design and construction management assistance. The cost of these services is \$63,999.60. The approved ODOT grant funding will cover this cost and the estimated construction cost for the project.

City staff is recommending that City Council approve a professional services contract with Otak, Inc. for engineering services for the US 30: 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing Project in the amount of \$63,999.60.

Mayor Jones called for public comments. There were none.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Hilton, seconded by Councilor Brownson to approve a professional services contract with Otak, Inc. for engineering services for the US 30: 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing Project in the amount of \$63,999.60. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

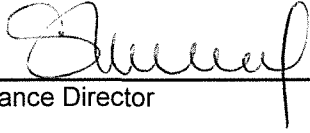
**NEW BUSINESS & MISCELLANEOUS, PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA)**

Cory Haskell said earlier that day he saw someone almost get run over at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. He had put out flags for people to grab. However, drivers do not care. He appreciated the flasher and believed it was the best that could be done in that location. People slam on their breaks even though someone is already stopped. Traffic goes too fast. The speed limit should be 20 miles per hour because more than a flashing light is needed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

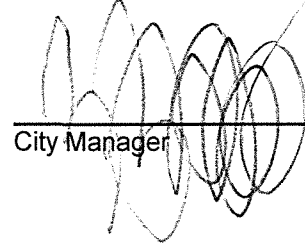
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm to convene the Astoria Development Commission Meeting.

**ATTEST:**



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Finance Director

**APPROVED:**



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City Manager