

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, Assistant City Engineer Moore, Library Director Pearson, and City Attorney Henningsgaard. The meeting was live streamed and recorded, and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, LLC.

### REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

**Item 3(a):** **Councilor Hilton** reported that he attended a ribbon cutting for new businesses at Pier 39. He had coffee with some neighbors and talked about public safety, downtown, and issues on Exchange Street.

**Item 3(b):** **Councilor Brownson** reported that he received an email from Director Pearson about the library's historic archives that have been published online.

**Item 3(c):** **Councilor Herman** reported that the Scandinavian Heritage Park was starting to take shape. The concrete contractor has installed forms for the ADA ramp and concrete would be poured this week. The ribbon cutting was scheduled for June 2022. She also attended a ribbon cutting at a new hotel .

**Item 3(d):** **Mayor Jones** reported that he walked through downtown just before Trick or Treat started on Saturday. Local businesses owners had decorated their stores and kids got to walk around with their costumes on. He met with Senator Merkley to discuss local issues and infrastructure needs. She is enthusiastic to represent Astoria.

**Item 3(e):** **Councilor Rocka** had no reports.

### CHANGES TO AGENDA

No changes.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 5(a) Waiver of Fees for Holiday Downtown Parking
- 5(b) Authorization to Change Monday Meeting Dates that fall on a Holiday to the Following Day in 2022
- 5(c) City Council Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2021
- 5(d) Boards and Commission Minutes for Council Review

City Manager Estes requested that Item 5(b) be removed for further discussion.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Hilton, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to approve Items 5(a), (c), and (d) of the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

**Item 5(b): Authorization to Change Monday Meeting Dates that fall on a Holiday to the Following Day in 2022**

City Manager Estes noted that the memorandum contained a typographical error and should be corrected to state that City Hall will be closed on Monday, February 21, 2022 for Presidents' Day.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Herman, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to approve Item 5(b) of the Consent Calendar as corrected. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

## REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

### **Item 6(a): Public Hearing and Consideration of Legalization of Maritime Road and 54<sup>th</sup> Street**

For many years, the City of Astoria has been involved in discussions about ownership and maintenance responsibilities along Old Highway 30 and Maritime Road near Blue Ridge and Tongue Point on the east edge of the City limits. Resolving ownership, legal access rights, and maintenance responsibility of this roadway system is critical for future development in this area and for pursuing public funding opportunities for this infrastructure. With Council support, the City has taken the lead on resolving ownership and legalization of the roadway system. The first priority action item was legalization of Maritime Rd and 54<sup>th</sup> St. It is recommended that City Council hold a public hearing then approve the Order to legalize Maritime Road and the Order to legalize 54<sup>th</sup> Street.

Assistant City Engineer Moore gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project, which was included in the Agenda packet.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 7:15 pm and called for testimony on the legalization of Maritime Road and 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 7:16 pm.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Hilton, to approve the order to legalize Maritime Road. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Hilton, to approve the order to legalize 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

### **Item 6(b): Consideration to Authorize Lap Pool Filter Replacement Work Contract**

The Aquatic Center lap pool's sand filter vessel is the last original filter in use at the Center. In the FY21-22 budget, funds have been allocated to replace the filter vessel and media inside. Replacement of the filter is necessary since the existing fiberglass vessel is showing signs of wear and may fail, leading to an extended closure of the lap pool and possible damage to other infrastructure needed to operate the Aquatic Center; which would incur further expenses. Staff reached out to multiple vendors for costs to complete the replacement work, the Pool and Spa House provided a bid of \$54,337.68 to complete all work. Pure Water Aquatics was the only other vendor that could be found who had the capacity to provide a bid to carry out the work, their bid was \$57,775.37. Staff has evaluated both bids and recommends accepting the Pool and Spa House's bid to complete the work. There are sufficient funds in the Parks Aquatics Capital Budget to complete this work. Due to supply chain disruptions, it is not clear when the work will take place but staff are tentatively planning on February, 2022. The work will require the closure of the lap pool and is anticipated to take up to five days to complete, staff will notify patrons in advance and access to other areas of the Aquatic Center will be maintained during the project. It is recommended that City Council authorize staff to authorize a contract with the Pool and Spa House's bid to replace the lap pool's sand filter for \$54,337.68.

Councilor Herman asked if the work would interfere with the high school's swimming championships in February.

Director Dart McLean said the work would take six weeks and may be completed by late December or early January and the work would be scheduled around events to mitigate disruptions as much as possible.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Herman, to authorize staff to authorize a contract with the Pool and Spa House's bid to replace the lap pool's sand filter for \$54,337.68. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Mayor Jones called for public comments.

Lisa Morley asked why the piece was not maintained and repairs were not done sooner in order to avoid this cost.

City Manager Estes explained this was the last piece of original equipment from when the pool was installed and the piece has just worn itself out. It is the right time to replace it.

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

Councilor Hilton said he had heard a lot of comments from local business owners about harassment at the Garden of Surging Waves and Commercial Street. He asked if the people causing problems could be contained or arrested.

City Manager Estes noted that Staff had received correspondence from one person regarding concerning activity in and around Beacon Clubhouse. The Police Chief has contacted representatives of the organization about all of the concerns Staff has received over the last few weeks. Even though this topic was not on the Agenda, the Chief of police and representatives from Beacon Clubhouse are available for discussion.

Chief Spalding There are capacity issues at the jail.

Councilor Hilton said this was not about homeless people. It was about people who were verbally assaulting and attacking people in town. People don't feel safe walking to their cars. I am frustrated and I think we all are. People are not being held accountable for their behavior and he wished the City could figure that out.

Mayor Jones understood that screaming, using rude language, and making people feel unsafe were considered protected behaviors under the First Amendment by the State of Oregon. He asked if there was a point at which verbal harassment becomes illegal.

Chief Spalding confirmed Mayor Jones was correct and said there are some code violations that constitute disorderly conduct. The police can take action on disorderly conduct if a victim chooses to press charges.

Mayor Jones recommended that citizens patrol the areas where these behaviors commonly occur and confront the offenders when bad behaviors are observed.

Councilor Rocka shared a story about a group of citizens in a town where he used to live who created a presence in a specific block to keep bad behavior from happening.

Mayor Jones suggested the City talk to the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA) and the Chamber of Commerce about getting some volunteers together to pick up trash in between the scheduled trash pickups.

Denise and Steve own the Astoria Downtown Market. It took them six weeks to bring the store back to life at the start of COVID. When they shut the door at one o'clock, everyone goes outside and lays there doing drugs, drinking whisky and beer, and harassing people who walk by. Getting a knife pulled on you makes you think twice. His was not the only business on that block being hurt by this situation. He put a lot of sweat into his business and he wanted it to keep going. He asked what he needed to do to accomplish that.

Mayor Jones asked if there was a way to increase police visibility when Filling Empty Bellies closes for the day.

Chief Spalding responded that there was always a way to reallocate resources it takes resources away from other areas and we are resource strapped. I will have someone reach out to the surrounding businesses to hear more about the concerns and specific times. We can have an officer assigned at those times.


Naomi, Sea Gypsy She had seen the effect this has had on foot traffic. People do not cross 9<sup>th</sup> Street when they see all of the problems. No one is taking responsibility for making the block safe. Offered to help in any way she can.

Mayor Jones said Ozark from Filling Empty Bellies has asked that concerned business owners speak to him directly.

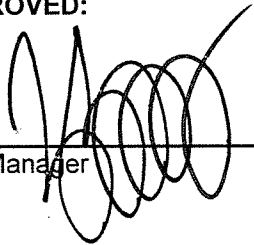
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Finance Director

**APPROVED:**

  
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City Manager