

City Council Meeting Minutes

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2011

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

AGENDA ITEM 1 **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

CONVENED:

Mayor Young called the regular meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Mayor Young called for a moment of silence in memory of the tragic loss of Rainier Police Chief, Ralph Painter, in the line of duty. Mayor Young delivered the invocation and led the flag salute.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Cheryl A. Young
Councilor Shannon Fitzgibbons (incoming)
Councilor Josh Fromm
Councilor Gary Hudson (outgoing)
Councilor Sally Ann Marson
Councilor Bob Schmor (outgoing)
Councilor Casey Wheeler (incoming)

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Micah Rogers, Public Works Superintendent
Leahnette Rivers, City Administrator/Recorder

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Harold Olsen, City Attorney

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

1.1 Mayor and City Council Inauguration: Inauguration of re-elected Mayor Cheryl A. Young and newly elected Council Members, Shannon Fitzgibbons and Casey Wheeler.

Mayor Young presented outgoing Councilors Gary Hudson (17-1/2 years of service) and Bob Schmor (19-1/2 years of service) with certificates, cards and gifts in appreciation for their outstanding public service to the City. The Mayor, Council and staff thanked them for their excellent public service.

Leahnette Rivers administered the oath of office to re-elected Mayor Cheryl A. Young and newly elected Council Members, Shannon Fitzgibbons and Casey Wheeler.

AGENDA ITEM 2 **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None

AGENDA ITEM 3 CITIZEN INPUT:

3.1 Support and donation options for Rainier Chief of Police, Ralph Painter:

Jessica McGlothlin of Scappoose said the City of Rainier has set up a fund for the family with Bank of America. She said donations to the fund may be made in the name of the City of Rainier, Chief Ralph Painter Memorial Fund, and delivered to the Bank of America branch in Rainier. She said after January 11th, donations may be made at any branch of Bank of America nation-wide. She said on January 19th, a benefit concert will be held at Duke's Country Bar and Grill, located at 14601 SE Division, Portland. She said arrangements for the memorial services are underway, which are likely to be held on either January 14th or 15th.

3.2 Support police services: Joe Schwab of Columbia City encouraged support police services. He said he was an officer in Columbia County, and he was caught up in an incident during his last year of service that involved a bunch of intoxicated guys shooting guns and threatening to kill another man along a road up in the woods. He said it was 2:30 a.m. and there were no other officers in the area available for back up. He said an officer working alone in the woods is really put in a bad spot, and our community needs to support them. He said we just experienced an example of what can happen when an officer works alone, and it should never had happened. He encouraged the Council to send a message to the legislature to support funding for State Police and law enforcement services.

3.3 Junk car storage: Joe and Evelyn Schwab of Columbia City said they have had an ongoing problem with a neighbor that stores junked cars, and they asked the Council for assistance with correcting the problem. Leahnette said she will look into the matter.

3.4 Sewer issue and property damages: Don Heller of Columbia City inquired about the status of replacing the RCE sewer main. In addition, he said the December 19th sewer break resulted in extensive damage to the foundation of their home, and he hasn't heard from anyone about it.

Leahnette said a claims representative from the City's insurance carrier should be working on the claim for damages.

Mr. Heller said the house continues to settle and the cracks are getting wider, and someone was out, but he hasn't heard from them again. He said the sewer main continues to leak and a puddle of sewer is still visible.

Leahnette said she'll follow up with the City's insurance representative about the status of his claim, and she'll have someone from Public Works investigate his concerns about sewer continuing to leak and forming a puddle.

Leahnette provided Mr. Heller with a map of the sewer replacement project area. She said the City has experienced five failures in the high-pressure sewer main between the River Club Estates (RCE) pump station and Fourth Street during the last two years. She said the failures have all occurred in the section of line located at the lowest elevation. She said the City staff and engineers have been investigating and evaluating the system and conditions associated with each main break, and the engineers are still uncertain of the cause of the failures. She said the failures may be related to defective pipe (possibly from the manufacturer or due to improper storage prior to installation), or complications caused by one or more of the three pumping stations that feed sewer into the high pressure main leading to St. Helens, or build up of either material or air within the line, etc.

Leahnette said due to the number of failures, the City has no choice but to replace the sewer main, and at the same time continue to evaluate and attempt to trouble shoot any other system operation factors that may contribute to further pipe failure.

Leahnette said the City is fast-tracking this project. She said the new main will extend from the RCE pump station to the northern edge of the ODOT-owned Dalton Lake property within an existing easement between homes located at 1210 and 1220 Second Street. She said the City plans to acquire new easements from ODOT, with approval from the City of St. Helens, and the RCE Homeowner's Association to relocate the sewer main onto vacant property to the south of the subdivision. In this way, we can avoid rebuilding the main in its current location within the backyards of all of the homes located on the south side of Spinnaker Way. She said the City will abandon the easement areas within the backyards, provided they are not occupied by any other utilities, once the project is completed.

Mr. Heller said the existing sewer main is not built within the easement. He asked if the City will put the new main within the easement area.

Leahnette said the City will construct the new main within the easement area. She said the City did not construct the existing sewer main, and she cannot explain why some of the main is located outside of the easement area. She said the City annexed the RCE subdivision after the existing sewer main was already constructed by the RCE developers.

Leahnette said the City needs to hire an appraiser as the first step in acquiring the section of easement from ODOT. She said the project is in the design phase, and an environmental specialist has visited the site and determined there are no wetland issues within the project area. She said the construction and engineering costs for this project are expected to be between \$72,000 and \$92,000, and appraisal and easement acquisition costs will be in addition to that. She said this project will require a sewer rate increase, and she will have more information about the amount of the increase next week.

Mr. Heller said he's disappointed that no one from the City has visited his home to see the extent of the damage. He said the break occurred at 8:30 a.m., and he called the emergency number and received no response. He said 2 to 2-1/2 hours later he finally called 9-1-1. He said when the Public Works employee arrived, he just stood there, and Mr. Heller asked him to shut the pump off to stop the sewer flow. Mr. Heller said meanwhile all of this sewer water was running under his house and up along the wall and saturating the ground.

Leahnette said the City's insurance representative should have visited the site on Monday, December 20, the day after the break occurred. She said Micah happened to be completing his Sunday rounds when he got the call, so his response was nearly instantaneous. She said she does not understand what emergency number was originally called because Public Works did not get a page until after 10:30 a.m.

Micah said the page came through around 10:40 a.m. and he was at the site within five minutes.

Mr. Heller said he heard his house creak around 8:30 a.m., which is when he discovered the sewer running out into the street and into the storm drain. He said at that time he called the emergency number that George LeMont gave him.

Leahnette said George has been retired for 15 years and she doesn't know what number Gorge gave to him. She said the City publishes the C-COM phone number regularly for reporting after-hour water and sewer emergencies.

Mayor Young asked Mr. Heller what contractor built the sewer main. Mr. Heller said he wasn't sure, but the line was put in while the subdivision was still part of the County and at the time the pump station was adequate for the subdivision. He said after the subdivision was annexed to the City, the City added other parts of the City's sewer flow to

the pump station and made other system changes, which is why there are problems. He said every time the pump comes on, the sewer line moves.

Mr. Heller said he'd like to get his house fixed. He said someone came out to clean up and disinfect the area and take photos of everything, but they haven't done anything about the damages to the structure. Leahnette said she'd check on the state us his claim tomorrow morning.

AGENDA ITEM 4

COUNCIL REPORTS:

4.4 Sewer Committee: The Council reviewed appraisal quotes for the ODOT easement area as follows:

J.J. DeVoe & Associates, Inc.	\$3,950.00
Real Estate Services Group, Inc.	\$5,750.00

MOVED (MARSON), SECONDED (WHEELER) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO AWARD THE WORK TO J.J. DEVOE & ASSOCIATED, INC., FOR \$3,950.00.

Leahnette asked the City Council to formally support efforts to continue fast tracking the emergency replacement of the RCE sewer force main as described above.

MOVED (FROMM), SECONDED (WHEELER) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO CONTINUE TO FAST TRACK THE EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT OF THE RCE SEWER FORCE MAIN.

The Council reviewed an e-mail dated January 6, 2011 from Erik Hoovestol of Kennedy/Jenks Consultants outlining the scope of work for the RCE project, with a cost estimate for engineering and survey work of \$22,000.00.

MOVED (WHEELER), SECONDED (MARSON) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE SCOPE OF WORK FROM KENNEDY/JENKS CONSULTANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,000.00.

4.1 Parks Committee: Mayor Young said the entrance sign is gorgeous. Chair Marson thanked Councilor Fomm for his work on the sign. She said the Parks Committee will continue working on adding the flagpole to the site, as well as lighting for the sign and the flag. Arrangements will be made to hold a small ceremony at the site.

4.2 Water Source and Development Committee: Chair Fromm said the well is back online and pumping at 130 gpm. Micah said they are performing compliance monitoring as outlined by the Health Division. Leahnette said the well was off-line for about six weeks, and the wholesale water purchased from St. Helens during that period will cost about \$18,000.

In anticipation of the SCA overlay work, Micah will be locating the waterline in "I" Street between Second Street and The Strand because the line is scheduled for upsizing. He said from existing maps, most of the line appears to be located outside of the paved area.

4.3 Street Committee: No report.

4.5 Audit Committee: Councilor Marson said the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2010 was excellent. Harold Olsen noted that the opinion letter revealed an unqualified opinion with no reservations, which is good.

4.6 Library Report: No report.

4.7 Hazard Mitigation Planning Group: Team Leader Fromm said the minutes from the last meeting are in the packet. He said Gary Hudson is a great asset to the group, and he hopes he'll agree to stay on the committee.

4.8 Other Reports: Councilor Marson said she'll attend a Waste Management Meeting next week. She said they've been dealing with many concerns about illegal dumping.

It was the consensus of the Council that a Workshop be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, to discuss financial matters with staff.

AGENDA ITEM 5 CONSENT AGENDA:

5.1 Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2010.

5.2 Financial Report for the month ending December 31, 2010.

5.3 Bills paid with check numbers 15494 through 15585 during the month of December 2010.

5.4 Written report from the Public Works Superintendent.

5.5 Written report from the City Administrator/Recorder.

MOVED (FROMM), SECONDED (MARSON) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

AGENDA ITEM 6 UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

AGENDA ITEM 7 NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 Election of Council President: Election of Council President for the calendar years 2011 and 2012.

MOVED (WHEELER), SECONDED (FROMM) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT SALLY ANN MARSON AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

7.2 Committee Appointments:

Mayor Young made the following Committee Appointments:

Councilor Fromm - Water Committee Chair and Hazard Mitigation Team Leader
Councilor Fitzgibbons - Parks Committee Chair and Hazard Mitigation Team
Councilor Marson - Sewer Committee Chair and Library Liaison
Councilor Wheeler - Streets Committee Chair and Audit Committee Chair

Mayor Young said she plans to stay involved in personnel matters and public relations.

7.3 Check Signers: Authorization of signers on the City's Bank of the West accounts.

Mayor Young asked the Council to approve the following signers on the City's Bank of the West accounts:

Cheryl A. Young, Mayor
Sally Ann Marson, Council President
Leahnette Rivers, City Administrator/Recorder

MOVED (WHEELER), SECONDED (FROMM) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE CHECK SIGNERS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE MAYOR.

7.4 Appointment: Appointment to the Columbia City Planning Commission.

The Mayor and Council considered applications to serve on the Planning Commission as submitted by the following individuals:

Lisa Bush, 3255 Sixth Street
Nell Harrison, 310 Spinnaker Way
Barbara Gordon, 1630 Eighth Street

MOVED (MARSON), SECONDED (WHEELER) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT LISA BUSH AND NELL HARRISON TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

7.5 June 30, 2010 Financial Report: Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2010.

MOVED (MARSON), SECONDED (WHEELER) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2010.

7.6 Council Bill No. 11-575; Resolution No. 11-992-R: A Resolution authorizing the submittal of a request to add a sponsor to, change the boundary of, and rename the St. Helens/Columbia City Enterprise Zone.

MOVED (FROMM), SECONDED (WHEELER) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT COUNCIL BILL NO. 11-575.

AGENDA ITEM 8 OTHER BUSINESS:

AGENDA ITEM 9 ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

APPROVED:

Cheryl A. Young
Mayor

ATTEST:

Leahnette Rivers
City Administrator/Recorder