

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, West, and Mayor Jones.

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Parks and Recreation Director Williams, Fire Chief Crutchfield, Police Chief Spalding, Public Works Director Harrington, Contract Planner Johnson, Library Director Pearson, and City Attorney Henningsgaard. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

### **REPORTS OF COUNCILORS**

**Item 4(a):** **Councilor Herman** reported she attended a reception and dinner for two Naval ships on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Ballroom. She, Mayor Jones, and Councilors West and Brownson participated in the Pride Parade. The Council held an invigorating and productive discussion during the work session on Thursday, talking about housing, the County-wide housing study, and the Uniontown Reborn Plan. She was looking forward to the kickoff of the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Stage Summer Concert Series on Wednesday with the Brownsmead Flats from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The street will be blocked off and shut down between Duane and Exchange Streets. This weekend is the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival. Her third meet the Councilor event will be on June 26, 2019 from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm in the Library Flag Room.

**Item 4(b):** **Councilor Brownson** reported that the Pride Parade was a lot of fun. The work session included a three-hour discussion on Uniontown Reborn and the Clatsop County housing study. The housing study gave the Council some good insights. Other presentations he had seen of the housing study were just overviews without a lot of details. Council was provided with more details and recommendations, which was helpful. His meet the Councilor event would be on Friday at noon in the Library Flag Room.

**Item 4(c):** **Councilor West** reported she had a great time at the Pride Parade. She thanked Chief Spalding and the Chamber for helping Goonies Weekend go smoothly. She spoke to the residents in the neighborhood before and after, and they said they felt prepared for the worst, but the event went well. Last week, she toured the watershed with Director Harrington and Engineer Crater. It was fantastic to see the watershed and tour the Public Works Department. There were two Public Works employees sitting behind her at Blind Pilot show. The housing work session was useful. She had read the appendixes twice and the Council really needs the data to figure out the type of housing and why. She left with a better understanding of what is going on in Uniontown. Her meet and greet was scheduled for Thursday at 4:30 pm at Alderbrook Hall.

**Item 4(d):** **Councilor Rocka** reported the agenda packet for this meeting was close to 300 pages and he needed to understand it well enough to vote on it. A lot of work went into the agenda packet. His wife, Jan Mitchell, who used to be a City Planner, had said Rosemary Johnson deserved more than a thank you. He presented Planner Johnson with flowers and said he appreciated how careful and thorough she was with the agenda packet. Since the last Council meeting, he had attended a few Port meetings. The Port Commission heard some challenging reports from their own finance committee and Col-Pac who is granting their strategic plan. In another meeting, three of the five commissioners discussed whether it was time to replace their executive director. Their next meeting would be on Tuesday at 4:00 pm with a special session at 6:00 pm to discuss their executive director. He represented the City at the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) budget meeting, helped out at a congratulatory dinner for the graduates of the Astoria High School Alternative Education Program, attended a talk by economist Ernie Neimi about the effects of big timber in Clatsop County, enjoyed another Council work session last week,

heard a presentation by Congresswoman Bonamici about the threats of ocean warming, and attended a concert at Councilor Herman's home and another concert at Circle Creek by the North Coast Chamber Orchestra. After the concert, he hiked some of the North Coast Land Conservancy's trails. Circle Creek was farmland and is being turned back into what it was before.

**Item 4(e):** Mayor Jones reported he also attended the ocean acidification and ocean warming panel with Congresswoman Bonamici.

### **CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Mayor Jones requested the Council address Item 6(g) before Item 6(a). The agenda was approved with changes.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

5(a) City Council Minutes of May 20, 2019

**5(b) Authorization to Award Contract to Greensmith Landscapes for Landscaping Services at Tourist Related Sites**

5(c) Library Catalog Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA)

5(d) Grand Avenue Sanitary Sewer Repair Project

5(e) Authorize Contract for CSO Program Modeling Support Services with HDR

City Manager Estes said Pamela Matson McDonald requested that Item 5(b) be removed from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

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

#### **Item 5(b): Authorization to Award Contract to Greensmith Landscapes for Landscaping Services at Tourist Related Sites**

City Manager Estes stated Greensmith Landscapes LLC submitted a bid for \$86,972.64 for the care and maintenance of tourist related properties. The solicitation of bids was advertised in the newspaper and sent to several companies. The only other bid received was for \$102,910. Staff recommended City Council approve the landscape services contract with Greensmith.

Mayor Jones called for public testimony.

Pamela Mattson McDonald said she wanted the contract renamed as the Riverwalk from the Astoria Megler Bridge to Alderbrook for the Riverwalk because there is no bridge in Alderbrook.

City Manager Estes explained that Staff did not understand Ms. McDonald's concerns after having several conversations with her.

Councilor Rocka asked what Ms. McDonald was specifically referencing.

Ms. McDonald repeated the contract says Astoria Riverwalk Megler Bridge to Alderbrook. There is no Megler Bridge to Alderbrook.

Mayor Jones clarified that the wording in the Council's version states, "the Astoria Riverwalk, located along the Columbia River from the Megler Bridge to the entrance of Alderbrook Lagoon."

Ms. McDonald explained there was no comma in the version she downloaded and thanked the City for revising the document.

City Manager Estes believed Ms. McDonald was referring to the table in the back of the document, which was more of a shorthand version.

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

Councilor Brownson said last year Seven D's bid the better price. It was interesting that Greensmith was able to come back with a good price this year.

The Council proceeded to Item 6(g) at this time.

## **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Item 6(a): Second Reading and Adoption Amendment Request (A19-04) for Miscellaneous Issues**

The first reading of this ordinance was held at the June 3, 2019 City Council Meeting. Over the years, staff have identified several sections of the Development Code that need to be updated for various reasons. Some of the requested code language changes are corrections and codification of interpretations that have been made by the Astoria Planning Commission (APC), staff, and/or the City Attorney throughout the years. Many of the proposed amendments will streamline the process for both staff and the general public when processing permits and/or doing simple construction. This would reduce the need for variances thereby freeing up some time for staff to address other issues. Some of the proposed amendments would bring the Code into compliance with State requirements. Additional details on the various proposed amendments is included in the attached Findings of Fact.

The Planning Commission held a work session on February 26, 2019 and a public hearing on April 23, 2019. The APC recommends that the City Council adopt the proposed amendments. The proposed ordinance has been reviewed and approved as to form by the City Attorney.

The memo included in the packet provides an overview of the proposed amendments.

It would be in order for Council to hold a second reading of the ordinance and adopt the Miscellaneous Code amendment.

This Item was addressed immediately following Item 6(g).

City Manager Estes explained the difference between the City municipal codes and development codes, and the reason for having two separate sets of codes. He confirmed for Councilor Herman that the Development Code dealt with land use matters and zoning.

Director Pearson conducted the second reading of the ordinance.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Mayor Jones, seconded by Councilor Brownson, that the City Council adopt the Findings and Conclusions contained in the Staff report for Amendment Request A19-04 by the Community Development Director, and adopt the ordinance amending the Astoria Development Code. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Mayor Jones read the rules of appeal into the record.

### **Item 6(b): Public Hearing and First Reading Amendment Request (A19-01A) for Riverfront Vision Codes**

The City is currently conducting work sessions with the APC and City Council on proposed amendments to adopt codes for the proposed Urban Core Overlay Zone.

In 2018, the first large project within the Bridge Vista Overlay area was reviewed by the Historic Landmarks Commission and Design Review Committee. Both bodies denied the requests which were appealed to the City Council. The City Council approved the appeals but noted that portions of Code were not clear on what was intended for various design aspects. The Council expressed interest in amending the code to clarify various sections of the BVO to reduce confusion and clarify the design review process. Some of the issues included: statement that certain sections of the code control over other sections when there is a conflict between requirements; clarify which design standards apply to new construction and which apply to alterations to existing structures; clarify how the setbacks are applied to the structure; clarify that mass and scale review applies to the entire structure and not just the street facade; and identify what structures and/or area is included when reviewing compatibility with the proposed structure. In addition, staff identified other areas in the Code for the Riverfront Vision area that needed to be updated including adding clear and objective design standards for residential development in BVO; clarifying which codes apply to the Mill Pond area; allowed exceptions to window percentage for building elevation with an elevator shaft; clarified limitations on building height exceptions for elevators, etc.; added reference to the overlay zones in each of the applicable base zones; and some other minor clarifications.

At a work session on February 19, 2019, the City Council reviewed the initial draft ordinance. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on March 26, 2019 and April 23, 2019. The APC recommends that the City Council adopt the proposed amendments on the first part of the request (A19-01A). The proposed ordinance has been reviewed and approved as to form by the City Attorney.

A copy of the annotated proposed amendments, the proposed ordinance in code numerical order, a list of the proposed amendments, and the Findings of Fact are attached for Council consideration.

If the draft code meets Council's expectations, it would be in order for Council to hold a public hearing and conduct a first reading of the ordinance for Riverfront Vision Codes amendments. If the Council holds a first reading of the ordinance, the proposed amendment would be scheduled for consideration of a second reading and adoption at the July 1, 2019 Council meeting.

Planner Johnson presented the written Staff report with a detailed explanation of which code amendments were being reviewed now as part of A19-01A and which would be reviewed later as part of A19-01B. She confirmed the original Staff report had been revised accordingly for Parts A and B.

Councilor Herman said she did not realize the entire stretch of the river trail was not called the Riverwalk.

Planner Johnson explained that the trail extends from the Port to Alderbrook, but the portion called the Riverwalk was the formal walk between 6<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, from the 6<sup>th</sup> Street viewing tower to the Maritime Museum. The Riverwalk was built with more formal construction with concrete sidewalks and bollard lighting.

Councilor Herman said she sat in on the Design Review hearings on the Fairfield Inn and the subsequent appeal to City Council last year. She was not on the Council at that time. One of the big sticking points was the word "retain." The developer argued that there was no way a new building could retain characteristics of a building that did not exist. She asked how that was addressed.

Planner Johnson explained that new construction was separated from existing construction and the word "respect" replaced the word "retain". Additionally, language was added to clarify the differences between historic and non-historic reviews.

City Manager Estes added that design criteria are subjective, but the standards are clear and objective, as required by State Statute. If the design standards are followed, a public hearing would not be required. If design criteria are used, a public hearing would be necessary to interpret the subjectivity in the project.

Planner Johnson clarified that clear and objective standards are just for residential projects, so all commercial projects would go through a public hearing.

Councilor Herman stated the Staff report says development should be designed so that structures are not substantially different in character from adjacent buildings in terms of size, mass, or architectural form. She was concerned about the word “adjacent” because it means a building right next door.

Planner Johnson clarified that the City’s definition of “adjacent” is contiguous to. The proposed Code also states buildings visible within three blocks if the project is historic. Staff and Commissions will consider the entire three block area, not just one building.

Councilor Herman said she had a question from a constituent on the parking requirements. She asked if parking garages would be part of the total square footage.

Planner Johnson explained that using a parking garage as part of the total gross square footage would result in a smaller building. However, that would also encourage open parking lots, which are a visual problem. The Planning Commission chose to leave the Code as is, with garages excluded from the gross square floor area to encourage enclosed parking rather than surface parking. In Part B, height and size limitations on buildings will be considered.

Councilor Herman stated the grass was not being cut in front of the old Stephanie’s Cabin. That makes a statement about the community in the busy season.

City Manager Estes noted that Dr. Parks’ medical building had tuck-under parking, which makes more efficient use of the already built environment. It was the Planning Commission’s intent to encourage that type of building form.

Councilor West asked if there was language about how many levels a parking garage could be.

Planner Johnson confirmed the number of levels had not been addressed.

Councilor West assumed most parking garages would be a single level.

City Manager Estes stated there would be a cap on building height in Part B. Part A addresses mass.

Councilor Brownson said he appreciated Staff’s work.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 7:59 pm and asked if anyone objected to the jurisdiction of the City Council to hear this matter at this time. There were no objections. He explained the procedures governing the conduct of public hearings to the audience and advised that handouts of the substantive review criteria were available from Staff. He called for testimony in favor of the application. There were none. He called for testimony opposed to the application.

Robert Clark, 145 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Astoria, suggested off-site parking for the hotel, who could hire a car jockey to transport the cars. Most developments just plan to level everything and stick a bunch of cars on the site. The developers could establish submarine parking under the river where it would be out of sight.

Mayor Jones called for testimony impartial to the application.

Lisa Moorely, 4908 Cedar Street, Astoria, asked if aesthetic restrictions on parking could be considered rather than height restrictions. She would like the City to think about adding architectural components to parking structures. She did not know there was a difference between the Riverwalk and the river trail. She wanted to know if the height and mass restrictions would be different for the Riverwalk and the river trail. She preferred consistency.

Councilor Brownson understood that the Code amendments would apply to the BVO and other overlay zones.

Planner Johnson stated currently; landscaping is required in the parking areas. Parking inside buildings is subject to the design standards and criteria imposed on the building. The proposed amendments do not address height or mass in the BVO but does address criteria for design review throughout the entire area for clarification. The Urban Core Area is 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to 16<sup>th</sup> Street, includes the Riverwalk, and has not yet been codified. The Bridge Vista is the Port to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The Civic Greenway is 17<sup>th</sup> Street to 40<sup>th</sup> Street. The Neighborhood Greenway is 40<sup>th</sup> Street to Alderbrook. The proposed amendments will modify or correct the Bridge Vista, Civic Greenway, and Neighborhood Greenway, which are already in the Code.

Ms. Moorely said she agreed with landscaping requirements for a one surface parking lot. She confirmed with Planner Johnson that a two-story parking garage would be considered a structure and would require a design review.

Mayor Jones closed the public hearing at 8:07 pm and called for Council discussion.

Councilor Rocka said he appreciated all the work Planner Johnson did on the amendments. The clean up and clarifications will help the Council make wise decisions.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor West, to hold the first reading of the ordinance adopting Riverfront Vision Code amendments. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Director Pearson conducted the first reading of the ordinance.

City Manager Estes stated the second reading and adoption would be scheduled for July 1, 2019.

**Item 6(c): Public Hearing and First Reading Amendment Request (A19-02) for Transient Lodging**

Over the last few years, the number of illegal transient lodging facilities in Astoria has increased substantially and enforcement is difficult. With the increase in the use of advertising platforms (such as Airbnb, VRBO, etc.) that compounded the problems, the City Council discussed the need for better codes, licenses, and enforcement and directed staff to draft new code language for a licensing process. At its December 3, 2018 meeting, the City Council adopted City Code amendments for Home Stay Lodging Licenses, and the Transient Lodging Tax. These amendments put the regulations and license requirements into the City Code. However, since the Development Code includes some regulations related to transient lodging and identifies the specific zones in which they are allowed, some code amendments will be required to the Development Code so that it coincides with the adopted City Code. The City Code specifically addresses Home Stay Lodgings (one or two bedrooms in an owner-occupied home). However, some standards/ requirements will be included in the Development Code rather than the City Code as they will address all forms of transient lodging.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 23, 2019. The APC recommends that the City Council adopt the proposed amendments. The proposed ordinance has been reviewed and approved as to form by the City Attorney.

A copy of the annotated proposed amendments, the proposed ordinance in code numerical order, a list of the proposed amendments, and the Findings of Fact are attached for Council consideration.

If the draft code meets Council's expectations, it would be in order for Council to hold a public hearing and conduct a first reading of the ordinance for Transient Lodging Code amendments. If the Council holds a first reading of the ordinance, the proposed amendment would be scheduled for consideration of a second reading and adoption at the July 1, 2019 Council meeting.

City Manager Estes stated he received a request from a Councilor asking how the homestay lodging permitting process was going. To date, the City has 12 approved homestay lodging permits and approximately eight in queue for permitting. Staff has been contacting individuals who may be operating a transient lodging via their advertising platform to inform them a permit is needed. This has increased calls. Staff has also issued a press release and has advertised the permit. The ordinance allowed individuals with existing permits to operate transient lodging until the end of June. So, Staff is encouraging everyone to get their applications in to avoid a citation. After the surge of new applications is over, Contract Planner Heidi Dlubac will analyze how many transient lodgings are permitted compared to the number of lodgings found online. Some of the platforms define whole house rentals differently than the City does, so the City must determine which ones are permitted.

Planner Johnson presented the written Staff report.

Councilor West asked when the code amendments would go into effect.

Planner Johnson explained that currently, the Council was considering a first reading. If it receives the first reading, the second reading and adoption would be scheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup>. If adopted, all Codes will be enacted on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilor West confirmed with Staff that Ms. Dlubac would be looking into those who might not be compliant.

Councilor Herman stated when a hotel that was converted to residences would be converted back to a hotel again, she wanted to require that the conversion be postponed until the residents voluntarily moved out.

Mayor Jones believed renter protection was not part of the proposed amendments. Renter protections would be a separate topic and a lot of work for Staff.

City Manager Estes clarified that renter protections were not land use matters, but legal tenancy issues.

Councilor Brownson asked for clarification on a homestay lodging that is in conjunction with an accessory dwelling unit (ADU).

Planner Johnson explained that an ADU is a secondary unit to the primary unit. The amendments would allow a homestay lodging in the primary unit. But if that same primary unit has an ADU, a conditional use permit would be necessary.

Councilor Brownson confirmed with Staff that homestay lodging owners must put their registration number on their advertising platform.

Councilor West asked if it would be possible for an individual to have a short-term rental in the main residence and live in the ADU.

Planner Johnson said no, the homestay lodging must be owner-occupied.

Councilor Rocka said he appreciated the direction the City was going. Astorians are proud of the community and the city's character. The permit process and the fine are wonderful. In other cities, trusts are buying houses to use for homestay lodgings, which are basically commercial enterprises in residential neighborhoods.

Councilor Brownson added that Astoria was fortunate that this was just starting. When he was 10 years old, Cannon Beach would empty out after Labor Day because a huge number of houses were vacation rentals. He believed Astoria was doing a good job.

Councilor West thanked Rachel Jensen, Tom, Bruce and Planner Johnson for their work on these amendments with the last Council. Almost 60 percent of Cannon Beach's housing stock is vacation rentals.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 8:30 pm and asked if anyone objected to the jurisdiction of the City Council to hear this matter at this time. There were no objections. He explained the procedures governing the conduct of public hearings to the audience and advised that handouts of the substantive review criteria were available from Staff. He called for testimony in favor of or opposed to the application. There were none. He called for testimony impartial to the application.

Robert Clark, 145 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Astoria, said one of the holes in this ordinance was hostels. Norblad has gone upscale so there is no longer a hostel for people who want modest cost overnight housing, particularly the bicycle tourists. A lot of bicycle tourists come through Astoria and there is nothing between Portland and Seaside. This is a whole category that no one is addressing.

Planner Johnson stated a hostel usually meets the definition of a hotel/motel but could be a bed and breakfast. Norblad still has hostel rooms.

Mr. Clark said no, Norblad only offered individual rooms, no longer rooms with multiple bunk beds, which lowers the cost for individuals. People on bicycles do not need much parking.

Mayor Jones closed the public hearing at 8:33 pm and called for Council discussion.

Councilor Herman stated she was very concerned that there were 12 permitted homestays and eight more in the queue. Former Councilor Price had done her own survey on online platforms and calculated at least 60 but maybe as many as 100 homestay lodgings.

Mayor Jones noted that rentals 30 miles away were listed as Astoria. There were 41 or 42 inside city limits.

Councilor Herman believed there were quite a bit more than 20 operators in town. She also believed there were whole house rentals in town. She did not have hard evidence but had a sense.

City Manager Estes clarified that he never said there were not whole house rentals in Astoria. Additionally, the individuals getting permits are those who were already permitted and paying taxes. There was some confusion that these individuals needed to get the new permit. Staff has seen others who were not previously permitted being resistant to the new process. Staff is making progress and knows there will be code enforcement issues. He confirmed for Councilor Herman that Staff could not get addresses from the advertising platforms. He explained that Staff uses the online photographs to try to find the houses. Some individuals will post advertisements when government agencies are closed in an attempt to get around the system.

Councilor Herman believed the League of Oregon Cities was working on legislation.

Councilor Brownson clarified that the State was considering a system to track down the addresses, which the cities could take advantage of.

Councilor Herman stated she was not against homestay lodgings because it is one way people can afford to buy a house.

Councilor West noted that the housing study very clearly indicated that homestay lodgings inflate the real estate market.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Rocka to conduct the first reading of the ordinance amending the Transient Lodging Code. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Director Pearson conducted the first reading of the ordinance.

Mayor Jones called for a recess at 8:40 pm. The meeting reconvened at 8:50 pm.

**Item 6(d): Water and Sewer Resolutions**

The approved budget for 2019 – 2020 provides for a 1 percent increase in rates and fees for both water and sewer services.

Two resolutions have been prepared to implement the Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020 Water & Sewer Rules and Regulations and clauses were added to sunset the Commercial Adjustment allowing the existing user to be grandfathered into the adjustment.

It is recommended that City Council adopt the proposed Water and Sewer Resolutions for the fiscal year 2019-20.

Councilor Herman said this would be 75 cents a month on her bill, which is not much.

Councilor West stated this rate increase was necessary.

Councilor Rocka added that Astoria has fine drinking water.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor West to adopt the resolution implementing a 1 percent increase in water rates for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Herman to adopt the resolution implementing a 1 percent increase in sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Mayor Jones stated the next two agenda items would be discussed together.

**Item 6(e): Adopt IAFF Contract**

At the time of City Council packet preparation, the contract revisions were in the process of being finalized. This memo will be brought to the City Council meeting on Monday.

**Item 6(f): Fire Salary Resolution**

At the time of City Council packet preparation, the Salary Resolution was in the process of being finalized. This memo will be brought to the City Council meeting on Monday.

City Manager Estes stated the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 696 have negotiated a new collective bargaining agreement contract. The prior contract expired June 30, 2018. A new contract has been tentatively approved by both parties. The contract includes a cost of living adjustment for 2018, 2019, and 2020 of two percent, contributions to a health reimbursement account in the amount of \$60 per month starting July 1, 2018, and then \$120 a month on July 1, 2019, and \$180 a month on July 1, 2020, and one hour of additional vacation accrual starting in 2020. Other text changes dealt with the Janus Decision on union membership, conversion of a 56-hour work week to a 40-hour work week, and vacation buyouts. Staff recommended that Council approve the collective bargaining agreement. In order to process the retroactive paychecks required by the contract, Council will need to approve the fire salary resolution.

Mayor Jones thanked Staff for spending many hours on the negotiations. He believed it was a good package.

Councilor Brownson believed the contract was a fair deal.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Herman, seconded by Councilor Rocka, to approve the contract with IAFF. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Herman, seconded by Councilor West, to approve the Fire Salary Resolution. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

City Manager Estes noted the Fire Department had a lot of transition recently and a lot of milestones have been accomplished. He was pleased the Department had a great team.

The Council proceeded to Item 7 at this time.

**Item 6(g): Recology Rate Review for Year End December 2018 for Solid Waste Collection and Transfer Station Activities**

The City's franchise agreement with Recology requires submission of financial statements and a separate rate review for both the Solid Waste Collection and Transfer Station Franchises no later than April 30 each year. Recology transmitted appropriate reports and financial information, in a timely manner which was received April 1, 2019. The purpose of the annual rate review is to determine whether Recology's "Operating Ratio" for their solid waste collection and transfer station operations fall within the limits set by the Franchise Agreements with the City. Recology requested rate modification effective January 1, 2019 for commercial and residential collections with a commitment to forgo further adjustments until July 2020 for the Solid Waste Collection Operations. This is re-emphasized in the attached letter. Additionally, a summary of operational issues is presented in the letter prepared by Mr. Peters and attached to the memo.

Staff reviewed the provided information and agrees with Mr. Peter's assessment. Attached is a resolution to include the 3 percent increase for the internal disposal rates and public self-haul rates for Astoria Transfer Station, to be effective July 1, 2019.

This item was addressed immediately following Item 5.

Carl Peters, General Manager, Recology, gave a presentation that included information about Recology, an update on the recycling industry, an overview of outreach efforts, the statewide plastic bag ban (HB2020), and the recycled art show on October 12<sup>th</sup>. He also provided details on the requested rate modification. He confirmed for Councilor Herman that Recology's pick up calendar was on their Facebook page.

Councilor Herman asked why other companies were not still recycling or selling recyclables.

Mr. Peters clarified that Recology does not sell much of their recycling because the value does not cover the cost of transport. Other companies have challenges coordinating with governmental jurisdictions.

Councilor Brownson stated Recology was trying to emphasize to consumers how to sort recycling. He asked if the company had seen any improvements.

Mr. Peters said sorting still had its challenges. At sorting facilities, 20 percent of the labor is spent on pulling plastic bags.

Councilor Brownson stated he sees disposable plastic bags while walking along the river front or around his house.

Mr. Peters confirmed that microplastics are found everywhere, including on the beach and in water treatment plants.

Councilor Brownson asked if residents could put up yard signs.

City Manager Estes explained that small yard signs were allowed in residential zones.

Councilor Brownson asked what size the small compost bins were.

Mr. Peters stated Recology had 60-gallon and 90-gallon compost bins.

A member of the audience said the mailer that Recology sent out was very helpful. She was happy to hear the pick-up calendar was on Facebook.

Ms. Still, Recology, added that video of the construction of the household hazardous waste facility was available on the Clatsop County website and the Clatsop County Health Department Facebook page. Hopefully, the facility will be open in August.

Mike McNichol, Clatsop County Health Director explained that when the project started ten years ago, projects costs were half of what they are now. Operating the facility will be expensive and the rate increase will make sure all the costs are covered.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Herman, to approve the resolution to include a 3 percent increase for the internal disposal rates and public self-haul rates for the Astoria Transfer Station, effective July 1, 2019. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

The Council proceeded to Item 6(a) at this time.

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

Robert Clark, 145 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Astoria, said he had contacted the Public Works Department to get some incentive to take care of the large blackberry thicket on the west side of his property, which is spreading to his side of the fence. No action has been taken and he wanted to know if there were additional incentives.

Mayor Jones directed Mr. Clark to give his address to Director Harrington after the meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Finance Director

**APPROVED:**

  
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City Manager