

A regular meeting of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 6:12 pm.

Councilors Present: Nemlowill (via telephone), Herzig, Warr, Price, Mayor LaMear

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Police Chief Johnston, Community Development Director Cronin, Parks and Recreation Director Cosby, Finance Director Brooks, Fire Chief Ames, Library Director Tucker, Public Works Director Cook, and City Attorney Henningsgaard. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

Item 3(a): Councilor Herzig reported that he attended Senator Betsy Johnson's town hall in Warrenton over the weekend. Discussions at the town hall included an update on the most recent legislative session, emergency preparedness, Clatsop County's popularity with tourists, the pros and cons of a bypass, and an announcement that she was able to get funding to rebuild the seafood center in Warrenton,. The Astoria Warming Center is closed for the season, but the church has given the center permission to keep the shower open one afternoon a week, one hour for men and one hour for women. He was looking forward to continuing to serve the homeless in Astoria.

Item 3(b): Councilor Price reported that several Councilors attended the CASA celebration. The Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA) hosted the Novel Efforts Downtown (NETalk) cluster analysis where people broke into groups and talked about what they wanted downtown and why they shop in the area. Director Cronin and Kevin Leahy are working on places that serve residents. The KMUN pledge drive is ongoing. Five of the ten Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) awards went to Astoria businesses, La Luna Loca, Frite and Scoop, Street 14 Café, P&L Johnson, and Bornstein Seafood. Two other award winners were from Warrenton. The Arts and Culture Grant Budget Subcommittee has met twice over the last couple of weeks. About 12 organizations have requested a little more than \$70,000 in funding, but there is only about \$50,000 available. The subcommittee will apportion the funds accordingly. Meyer Memorial Trust will be in Astoria on March 25th to talk about its 2016 funding opportunities. The trust has partnered with the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council and their granting procedures have changed over the last year. She encouraged individuals associated with non-profit or government organizations to attend the event. The trust has three programs, Building Communities, Helping the Environment, and Housing Opportunities. The City is hosting a public open house to discuss the waterfront bridge plans. Clatsop County scheduled a joint County/City meeting at McMenamins on March 31, 2016. The ADHDA will host one of its three main fundraisers on April 2nd, the Jane Barnes Review. Tickets can be purchased at Old Town Framing.

Item 3(c): Councilor Warr reported that on Thursday, March 17th, he and City Manager Estes attended the annual Columbia Pacific Economic Development District (Col-Pac) meeting in Tillamook. After that, they met with the Transportation Plan Vision Group, which was appointed by the Governor to create ideas about transportation. The group had some great ideas, but they were unable to come up with funding. The Area Commission on Transportation meeting followed and Senator Johnson gave the same report that Councilor Herzig previously reported.

Item 3(d): Councilor Nemlowill reported that the Parks Department would be hosting master planning open houses on Wednesday, April 6th at the Fort George Lovell Showroom from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Thursday, April 7th at Street 14 Café from 7:00 am to 10:00 am, and Saturday, April 9th at Old Town Framing from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm during the art walk. City staff will be present to discuss the project, answer questions, and record input. It would be wonderful for everyone to see the draft Parks Master Plan in its current state and provide input.

Item 3(e): Mayor LaMear reported that she attended the budget subcommittee for community service organizations. She thanked committee members Shel Cantor and Janet Miltenberger. She also attended the Northwest Health Foundation dinner. The foundation has given a \$100,000 grant to the Lower Columbia

Hispanic Council. She also attended the CEDR awards dinner, the Oregon Cultural Trust meeting, and the town hall with Betsy Johnson and Suzanne Bonamici. She learned a tremendous amount at each event.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

No changes.

PRESENTATIONS

Item 5(a): Swearing in of New Police Officer Kevin Berry

Mayor LaMear conducted the swearing in of Kevin Berry. Chief Johnston presented Officer Berry with a pin and noted Officer Berry's educational background.

Item 5(b): Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA)

Alana Garner, Executive Director, ADHDA, handed out a list of the ADHDA's accomplishments, awards, and activities from 2015. She gave a brief overview of the ADHDA's activities and the Main Street Program. She thanked the City, community, volunteers, ADHDA board members, committee chairs and members for their support.

Councilors Herzig and Price thanked the ADHDA for all of its hard work. The ADHDA has done a good job of leveraging the money the City has given them and the downtown looks great. Councilor Price hoped more businesses would become members of the ADHDA in the near future.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) Boards and Commission Minutes
 - (1) Historic Landmarks Commission Meeting of 1/19/16
 - (2) Historic Landmarks Commission Meeting of 2/25/142/16/16
 - (3) Planning Commission Meeting of 2/23/16
- 6(b) Accept Grant Funds from Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and Authorize Solicitation for Consultant Services for Economic Development Strategy (Community Development)**
- 6(c) OR202 Sidewalk – STP Fund Transfer for Preliminary Engineering (Public Works)
- 6(d) Change Order for Irving Avenue Bridge at 19th Street – Waterline Replacement Upgrade (Public Works)

Mayor LaMear requested Item 6(b) be removed for further discussion.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Warr, to approve Items 6 (a), (c), and (d) of the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 6(b): Accept Grand Funds from Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and Authorize Solicitation for Consultant Services for Economic Development Strategy (Community Development)

Mayor LaMear said this grant program was very important because it was a long-term program that would help Astoria's economic development.

Director Cronin explained that he had previously worked on 5-year economic development programs in other cities. These programs resonated with many people in the community when he spoke about them during the interview process for his current position as Community Development Director. Astoria City Council has a goal to strengthen partnerships and encourage economic development, so, he applied for a grant from DLCD. Astoria did not receive the first grant he applied for, but the DLCD had so much support for this project that they reassigned funds from a different program.

Mayor LaMear said the project document was huge, but was very well done. She thanked Director Cronin.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Herzig, seconded by Councilor Warr, to approve Item 6 (b) of the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7(a): Ordinance Granting Nonexclusive Right and Franchise to CoastCom, Inc. (City Attorney/Finance) (2nd Reading & Adoption)

This proposed ordinance received its first reading at the March 7, 2016 City Council meeting. The City of Astoria has telecommunication franchise agreements with several telecommunication and utility service providers who utilize City public rights-of-way for the placement of infrastructure. In 2008, the City of Astoria granted CoastCom, Inc., nonexclusive right and entered into a five year franchise allowing CoastCom to construct, operate, and maintain telecommunications system in the City's rights-of-way. Ordinance No. 08-03 with CoastCom, Inc., terminated September 19, 2013. CoastCom has continued to pay franchise fees to the City per the expired ordinance and wishes to renew nonexclusive right and franchise. CoastCom, Inc. provides telecommunications services to Clatsop County, LS Networks, Sunset Empire Transportation, and the City of Astoria. The provisions of this franchise are similar to franchise agreements negotiated with other users of public rights-of-way. Presented for Council's consideration is a proposed ordinance drafted by City Attorney Henningsgaard granting a franchise to CoastCom, Inc., for operation of telecommunications facilities within City rights-of-way. It is recommended that City Council conduct the second reading and adopt the ordinance.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Warr, to conduct the second reading of the ordinance granting a franchise to CoastCom, Inc., for operation of telecommunications facilities within City rights-of-way. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Director Cook conducted the second reading of the ordinance.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Warr to adopt the ordinance granting a franchise to CoastCom, Inc., for operation of telecommunications facilities within City rights-of-way. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 7(b): Authorization to Award Contract for Parks and Recreation Management System (Parks)

In the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget, the Astoria City Council allocated \$55,000 of Capital Improvement Funds for a point of sale and registration software system, also known as a Recreation Management System, for the Parks and Recreation Department. On December 7, 2015, City Council authorized the request to solicit proposals for this system. While Department staff began investigating Recreation Management Systems, the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan needs assessment was developing several draft conclusions relating to a Park Maintenance Management System in addition to a Recreation Management System. With the additional identified need of a Maintenance Management System, the Department included the amenities provided by a Maintenance Management System in the request for proposals to evaluate what possible costs would be.

Between December and March, Department staff and the City's IT consultants focus, evaluated proposals, interviewed the proposers, and viewed product demonstrations. To fund the purchase and associated startup costs of \$126,632, staff proposes reallocating the budgeted \$72,000 in Capital Improvement Funds for weed eradication and reseeding at Ocean View Cemetery to be combined with the previously allocated \$55,000 for a point of sale and registration system, totaling \$127,000 for a Parks and Recreation Management System. It is recommended that the City Council award a contract with Vermont Systems in the amount of \$103,820 and enter into a software license, maintenance and support agreement in the annual amount of \$11,094 the for the purchase, maintenance, and support of a Parks and Recreation Management System in order to have an effective and efficient Parks and Recreation Department that meets the needs of the community.

Director Cosby explained that the new system would facilitate better communication between facilities, staff, and customers. The system will allow residents to register for programs from their home and help the Department track maintenance concerns. The point of sale functions within the system will automate processes for the Aquatic Center and Recreation Center. Customers will be able to purchase passes online outside of the center's operating hours. This system will also increase revenues and efficiencies.

Mayor LaMear confirmed there were no questions from the audience.

Councilor Herzig said he supported the new system. Handwriting receipts at the Aquatic Center requires a tremendous amount of labor. Also, maintenance will be more efficient when staff knows what to order. He was concerned that the motion did not include all of the costs. City Manager Estes explained that the amount paid to iFocus was within the City Manager's spending authority. However, the expenses for support from iFocus and the hardware costs could be included in the motion. All of the funds will be paid out of the Capital Improvement Fund.

Councilor Herzig thanked Ian Sisson for working on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Councilor Price said she supported this and all software programs that make the City's procedures more transparent and easier to use. She understood that this system would save the City \$19,000 annually in part-time office staff, that the part-time positions would not be eliminated but transferred, and that the annual savings would cover the cost of the license, maintenance, and support agreement. She asked if the \$19,000 was being taken from the \$77,000 transferred from the Cemetery's weed and reseed budget. City Manager Estes said the \$19,000 savings would come out of the Parks Fund to pay the salaries of Parks Department staff. Staff time now spent on processing transactions manually will be spent on maintenance and operations. Director Cosby added that the savings left over after the annual agreement expense would allow the department to fill one additional seasonal maintenance position for the spring and summer.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Herzig, seconded by Councilor Price to award a contract with Vermont Systems in the amount of \$103,820 and enter into a software license, maintenance and support agreement in the annual amount of \$11,094 for the purchase, maintenance, and support of a Parks and Recreation Management System, and approve technical support expenses and hardware costs from iFocus. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

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

Dan Gaffney, 92702 Fern Hill Road, Astoria, handed out copies of a letter at the dais. He thanked the City for maintaining the community water fluoridation system because it is the most effective, affordable, and equitable way to protect teeth from decay. He has retired from the Astoria School District and Seaside School District. Over the last 18 months, he worked on a plan funded by the Oregon Community Foundation and other benefactors to improve dental care for school age children. The grant is four-year grant that will begin in the fall and bring \$70,000 each year into the county. Funds will be used to educate and provide sealants and fluoride treatments. He was a school administrator in the county for about 23 years and during that time, he saw the poverty level increase. This continues to happen. He is also involved in an early childhood health education plan that is free to all children ages two through five. This is the third year of the program, which begins each April and provides dental screenings. As a principal, a special education director, and as a classroom teacher, he has seen that children cannot concentrate when they are in pain. Preventing the pain of dental cavities is a step in the right direction. Tooth decay influences a child's nutrition, self-esteem, speech development, and overall health. Currently, elementary schools in the county have a range from 51 percent to 68 percent of students that qualify for free or reduced lunches. This means those children are living at or below the poverty level. As a principal, he saw first hand very cute second grade children with crater mouth, which results when there are no teeth left. That motivated him to get involved in this project. In 2013, a study done by the county health department reported that 1,250 people sought emergency room help for dental pain in two years. This was not just children. The project he was involved with included the health department, Columbia Memorial Hospital, Providence Health Services Center, five school districts, school nurses, many local dentists and hygienists, Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization (CCO), and the Oregon Community Foundation. Prevention really pays off because preventing health issues provides better students who end up causing less concern for the parents and the community. The students become more confident and more productive citizens who demand less from social services. He believed this starts with health and continues with education. The study

done by the health department indicated only 35 percent of children and 45 percent of adults in Clatsop County see a dentist yearly. He offered to help when the question of fluoride in Astoria's water comes up in the future.

Lori Durheim, 398 Atlantic, Astoria, said she supported fluoridation. She grew up with fluoridation and believed Mr. Gaffney made some great points. She asked City Council to allow fluoridation to continue.

Ted Thomas, 398 Atlantic, Astoria, said he was alarmed when he read an article in the newspaper saying the City had thought about reconsidering fluoride in the water. Barring a super majority, prior notice, and a public hearing would not be germane to put before the people because it is reconsideration of a past resolution that was accomplished by a ballot initiative, not simply a vote by City Council. The resolution was passed in 1956, when very few of the audience members were members of the City Council or in the audience. Without new information from scientifically peer-reviewed sources that have been accepted and vetted, the resolution should not be reconsidered. The efficacy of water fluoridation is better proven by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, and a litany of other medical professionals. The source of anti-fluoridation rhetoric in today's world can be drawn directly from the failed astronaut and failed medical student Joseph Holen, who has a website of the same name. The three pillars upon which medical fraud rests are the suspension of normal due diligence and peer review, the false portrayal of special and hidden knowledge, and the discrediting of existing medical practices. Fluoridation is a practice that has saved countless numbers of people's health, well-being, and esteem. Thrombosis from an abscessed tooth leads to heart attacks and strokes. The sedative effect is primarily in children, but it also helps adults. The decision to add fluoride to the water was a good one that should be maintained.

Mayor LaMear recessed the regular City Council meeting at 6:55 pm to convene the Astoria City Council Work Session.

WORK SESSION: COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

Immediately following the work session on the communications tower, Mayor LaMear reconvened the regular meeting of the Astoria City Council at 8:21 pm.

Councilor Herzig believed the Council had learned that the City needs to keep this process as public and as transparent as possible from now on. The process was being created as it moved forward, but now the City knows public input is valuable, and City Council has taken public input and made it central to the City's decision making process.

Chief Johnston said if City Council recommends Option 3, there will not be much public process left. Staff will negotiate a lease in private and then City Council will adopt the lease and the City will move forward.


Councilor Herzig noted that adoption of the lease will be a public process and City Council will consider public input. He appreciated that this process was almost complete.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Warr to direct staff to proceed with Option 3 with regard to the Communication Tower. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

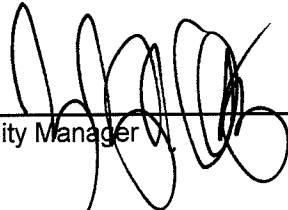
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager