

A regular meeting of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 7:00 pm.

Councilors Present: Nemlowill, Jones (via telephone), Price, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear.

Councilors Excused: None

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

PROCLAMATIONS

Item 3(a): Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mayor LaMear read the Proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Item 3(b): Public Safety Telecommunications Week

Mayor LaMear read the Proclamation declaring April 8 – 14, 2018 as Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

Chief Spalding said the dispatchers do an excellent job and are unsung heroes; they will appreciate the recognition.

PRESENTATIONS

Item 4(a): Impact of the Arts on Clatsop County's Economy

Dave Ambrose, 1179 Jerome, Astoria, and Dwight Caswell, 457 Alameda, Astoria, presented an overview of the survey and report on the impact of arts on Clatsop County's economy. The complete PowerPoint presentation was available on Clatsop County's website. The presentation included information about the Arts Council of Clatsop County, other organizations that were involved in the study, and how the study was conducted. They also shared details about how local non-profit organizations spent money in the county, jobs created by the local non-profit arts community, volunteerism, and money spent in the area by residents and tourists who attended arts events.

Councilor Brownson said he appreciated the study, adding it is obvious to people who live here how important the arts are to the economy because such events bring people to the community in the winter.

Councilor Price stated that several years ago, City Council had acknowledged the importance of arts to the City of Astoria by offering a grant program for non-profits. She asked if the County provided any grants to arts and culture organizations. Mr. Ambrose explained that the Arts Council was an advisory board. Funding for projects had to be approved by the County Commission.

Councilor Price asked if the Arts Council's mission going forward would be data collection or projects. Mr. Ambrose said one of the Council's missions is public art, and they are in the process of working with someone who is conducting an inventory of public art along the coastline. The inventory will be linked to a public art trail that will have GPS capabilities.

Item 4(b): Annual Pacific Power Update with Alisa Dunlap

Alisa Dunlap, Pacific Power, 2340 SE Dolphin Rd, Warrenton, provided the annual update on Pacific Power activities via PowerPoint. Her presentation included information about their foundation and corporate giving, volunteerism, programs, services, finances, and plans for the upcoming year.

Councilor Price asked why customers would want to opt out of the Smart Meter Program. Ms. Dunlap explained that some people have decided they do not want the technology on their home. However, more radio waves go through a cell phone than through a smart meter. Pacific Power wants to make sure their customers have a choice.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

Item 5(a): Councilor Nemlowill had no reports.

Item 5(b): Councilor Brownson reported that he had joined the League of Oregon Cities Community Development Committee and the Finance and Taxation Policy Committee. Both committees advocate for legislation that is favorable to cities. The Community Development Committee focuses on development and land use issues. The Finance and Taxation Policy Committee focuses on property tax reform and lodging tax. Newly passed legislation allows cities to require third parties, like Airbnb, to forward the taxes they collect to the proper recipients. Cities also have the ability to allow the State to collect and forward those taxes for a small fee. He reported that a candidate forum hosted by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) was scheduled for April 3rd at the Astoria High School at 7:00 pm. The Clatsop Democrats were also hosting a candidate forum on April 5th at Clatsop Community College at 6:00 pm. He reported that he attended the Port Commission meeting and would continue to do so.

Item 5(c): Councilor Price asked for an update on the unveiling of the sign for the Ghadar Party.

Director Cosby announced that in October, the Ghadar Party plaque disappeared from Maritime Memorial Park. As a result, Senator Johnson, Willis Van Dusen, and several local business owners donated personal funds to replace the plaque. To honor the founding members of the Ghadar Party who were residents of Astoria, the community is invited to join the Oregon Sikh community to recognize the kinship between Astoria and the legacy of the Indian independence movement with the rededication of the plaque on Saturday, April 7th at noon at Maritime Memorial Park.

Councilor Price said she had asked Senator Johnson why the plaque was placed in Maritime Memorial Park because the Sikhs who were part of the Ghadar Party lived in Alderbrook. Senator Johnson had told her that some of the party's first meetings were in Olney Hall. City Manager Estes clarified that the meetings were actually held in a hall where the Motel 6 is now located.

Item 5(d): Councilor Jones reported that he had spoken to the property owner who built a home directly across from Birch Field a year ago. She was complimentary of the Staff she worked with while building her home, which was located on a property that had a lot of problems. She specifically mentioned Lisa Ferguson and Ben Small, who gave great customer service. He reported that last week, while riding in the backseat of a rental car driven by his brother, an Astoria Police Officer pulled the car over for a traffic violation. He remained unseen by the officer, who was very professional and courteous. He also reported on his most recent Meet the Councilor event, which had 16 attendees. Most of the attendees expressed opposition to the potential sale of Birch Field. There was discussion of forming a neighborhood association to improve and maintain the park. He reported that after 15 years in Astoria, the Coast Guard cutter Fir, nicknamed The Bar Tender, is due for major mid-life maintenance. The cutter will be leaving Astoria permanently in June to travel to the Coast Guard's boatyard in Baltimore. The Fir will be replaced by the cutter Elm, which will arrive in Astoria in March 2019.

Item 5(e): Mayor LaMear reported that she attended the Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) awards dinner. She also attended a public meeting about Helping Hands at the college. People had questions about what was going in Uniontown and she believed everyone was satisfied with the answers.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

Mayor LaMear requested the addition of Item 8(e): Letter of Support for a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. The agenda was approved with changes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 7(a) City Council Minutes of 3/5/18
- 7(b) Boards and Commission Minutes
 - (1) Parks Advisory Board Meeting of 2/24/18
 - (2) Library Advisory Board Meeting of 2/27/18
 - (3) Library Advisory Board Meeting of 3/20/18
- 7(c) Certified Local Government Grant Agreement

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Nemlowill, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 8(a): Council Deliberation on Findings Appeal AP18-01 by Ted Osborn on Demolition Request D17-02 at 347 Alameda Avenue)

On January 17, 2018 the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) held a public hearing and reviewed a request to demolish a multi-family dwelling at 347 Alameda Avenue. The structure is a primary contributing structure in the Uniontown Historic District. With a vote of three to three, which constitutes a denial, the HLC denied the request. On January 30, 2018 Mr. Osborn submitted an appeal of the HLC decision of denial of the demolition.

At the Council meeting on March 19, 2018, the Council unanimously voted to tentatively approve the appeal and allow the demolition, pending edits to the findings of facts. Notes from the deliberation at the March 19th are incorporated into new findings of fact attached to this memo.

It is recommended that the City Council consider adoption of the new findings of facts and recommended conditions.

City Manager Estes said Council would need to deliberate on the conditions of approval. The Development Code allows two conditions to be considered: require photographic documentation or graphic data to preserve an accurate record of the resource, and require the property owner to document that the Historic Preservation League of Oregon (a.k.a. Restore Oregon) or other preservation group has been given the opportunity to salvage and record the resource within 90 days. The Code also allows City Council to apply any other conditions appropriate for the promotion or preservation of the site, including placement of a marker on the site. At the last meeting, only photographic documents were mentioned, so Staff included that condition in the Staff report. Staff would make minor changes to the Staff report based on direction from Council given during deliberations.

Councilor Price asked if the Applicant would be allowed to salvage materials. City Manager Estes stated Staff did not recommend a condition of approval that a preservation organization be given the opportunity to salvage materials. However, City Council could require that.

Councilor Price asked how much time there would be to file an appeal if this request was approved. She also wanted to know when the Applicant could begin demolition. City Manager Estes said City Council's decision could be appealed to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) within 21 days. City Attorney Henningsgaard added that the City could issue a demolition permit within the 21-day appeal period.

City Manager Estes confirmed for Mayor LaMear that Development Code Section 6.050.D allows a condition of approval requiring the property owner to give an organization 90 days to salvage and record the resource. He further clarified that City Council could give a historic preservation group the opportunity to salvage any materials and document the history before the building is taken down.

Councilor Price believed the conditions recommended by Staff were sufficient.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to adopt the Findings of Fact contained in the Staff report and approve Appeal AP18-01 by Ted Osborn with conditions.

Councilor Nemlowill did not believe the conditions would be a big deal to the Applicant. At this point, she did not see a reason to advocate for re-opening the public hearing, but asked if Applicants could have the opportunity to vet the conditions going forward.

Councilor Brownson confirmed that Council was not adopting all of the conditions allowed by the Development Code.

City Manager Estes also confirmed that the motion on the table did not include any additional conditions. If the motion passed, Staff would make minor amendments to the Staff report so that the final version reflected the conditions adopted by City Council.

Councilor Price confirmed for Councilor Nemlowill that she supported the two conditions recommended by Staff, as listed on Pages 10 and 11 of the Staff report. Councilor Price read the conditions out loud.

City Manager Estes explained that the demolition permit is processed by the Building Office and is not a land use matter.

Councilor Price said she believed City Council would be granting the demolition permit through this appeal process. City Manager Estes explained that all building permits involved a planning component and a permitting process. He confirmed this request would go through the regular permitting process.

Councilor Price agreed with Councilor Nemlowill that when Council adopts new findings and recommendations, she would prefer to hear from the Applicant, especially since no ex parte contact is allowed.

Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Mayor LaMear read the rules of appeal into the record.

Item 8(b): Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA) Annual report

Representatives from the ADHDA will provide Council with a report regarding their projects from the past year.

Sarah Lu Heath, PO Box 261, Astoria, Executive Director, Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA), presented the ADHDA's bi-annual report covering July through December of 2017. The report included information on projects, events, funding sources, partners, and plans for 2018.

Councilor Nemlowill asked for an update on parking enforcement.

Ms. Heath said Ronni Harris was hired in December as the Community Outreach Officer. As the community has adapted to having the rules enforced, she believed the ADHDA was on a good path. Customer parking downtown has improved and Ms. Harris is getting to know everyone.

Councilor Nemlowill asked for an update on the problems with public urination and defecation in downtown.

Ms. Heath explained those problems ebb and flow with the seasons. Property owners have been utilizing tools available through Astoria's Property Watch program, but have also made physical barriers to prevent access to areas that were most often being vandalized. Currently, the problems seemed to be handled.

Item 8(c): Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) Annual Report

Clatsop Economic Development Resources Director Kevin Leahy will make a presentation regarding CEDR's services to the local business community for 2017 and 2018 year to date.

Kevin Leahy, 3560 Irving, Astoria, Executive Director, CEDR and Clatsop Community College (CCC) Small Business Development Center (SBDC), reported on the results of programs, events, and services provided in 2017 and 2018. His report was included in the agenda packet.

Item 8(d): Renewal of Oregon Department of State Lands Public Recreation Facility License 20905-LI for Youngs River Marine Park Public Boat Access

In June 2009, the City of Astoria renewed a facility license agreement with the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) in order to operate the portions of the boat ramp and transient dock that are within DSL's management purview along the southern edge of the Young's River Marine Park (see attached map). The agreement expired on May 1st, 2010, but was brought to the attention of staff by DSL at the beginning of March 2018 when DSL noticed the license had lapsed and reached out to inquire if the City wished to renew the license for an additional fifteen years, backdated from 2010 until 2025. Without the license's renewal, the boat ramp and all other associated infrastructure situated on DSL property must be removed within ninety days and the area put back to its natural state, at the City's expense. It is recommended that City Council approve the renewal of Public Recreation Facility License 20905-LI for an additional fifteen years, from 2010-2025, to maintain public access at the Young's River Marine Park.

City Attorney Henningsgaard has approved the agreement to form.

It is recommended that City Council approve the renewal of Public Recreation Facility License 20905-LI for an additional fifteen years, from 2010-2025, to maintain public access at the Young's River Marine Park.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Price to approve the renewal of Public Recreation Facility License 20905-LI for an additional fifteen years, from 2010-2025, to maintain public access at the Young's River Marine Park. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 8(e): Letter of Support for a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

This item was added to the agenda during Item 6: Changes to the Agenda.

Mayor LaMear stated she received information from Clatsop Community Action (CCA) about a grant offered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help demonstrate how a coordinated community approach to serving homeless youth can dramatically reduce homelessness. HUD will grant a minimum of \$1 million to each selected community for project applications. Amounts above \$1 million will be determined by the percentage of youth among all selected communities that reside in each community and the poverty rate of each community. The yearly point-in-time homeless count that CCA coordinates identified that there were 161 unaccompanied and unsheltered youth in the county in 2017, with 149 of those under the age of 18. At least 20 to 30 others were homeless, but under the category of couch surfing. If successful, Clatsop County's community partners would decide how the funds would be utilized as long as they support the initial goals of the project with some broad but evidence based strategies that include street outreach, prevention, emergency shelters, stabilization, independent living, life skills, educational support, and mental and emotional support. CCA has requested that City Council write a letter of support for their grant application. She had written a letter and asked that City Council approve it. She read the letter out loud.

Councilor Price said she liked the letter and believed the grant would be very competitive. However, she preferred that services provided to people experiencing homelessness help move people into a better situation instead of enabling homelessness. Services that enable homelessness are not helpful.

Councilor Brownson believed the intent of this program was to find ways to transition people by giving them opportunities.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Brownson to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of support for Clatsop Community Action's application for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grant funds. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

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

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

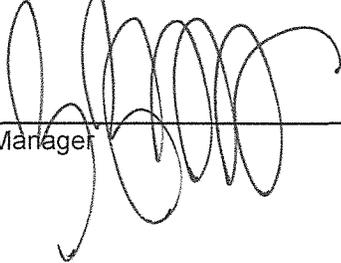
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager