

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

Councilors Present: Jones, Price, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear.

Councilors Excused: Nemlowill

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

PRESENTATIONS

Chief Spalding recognized Deputy Chief Eric Halverson for serving with honor and distinction in August 2017 during a difficult time in the department. He presented Deputy Chief Halverson with a Distinguished Service Award, one of the highest honors available.

City Manager Estes said on behalf of the citizens, City Council, and Staff, it was an honor to work alongside Deputy Chief Halverson. He appreciated all of the effort and challenges that Deputy Chief Halverson took on during a time of transition. He presented Deputy Chief Halverson with a plaque/certificate in recognition of his distinguished service.

Deputy Chief Halverson said the department was held together by other members of the department. He was fortunate to have Staff that stood behind him and helped, so the award was really for Staff.

Item 3(a): Astoria Police Department – Swearing In of New Police Officer Alexander Whitney

Chief Spalding introduced Alexander Whitney, noting his personal and professional backgrounds.

Officer Whitney recited the Oath of Office.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

Item 4(a): Councilor Jones thanked Mayor LaMear for the letter she sent to the Coast Guard's commandant, Admiral Schultz, congratulating him and encouraging the Coast Guard to bring FRCs and LPCs to Astoria. He attended the Change in Command at Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment, where the first woman, Lieutenant Jessica Schaffer, took command. She graduated from Purdue University, then became a Surfman at Cape Disappointment, then was commissioned as an Officer.

Item 4(b): Councilor Price said that several times over the last week she heard a lot about the deer population, which seemed to be on the rise. She believed City Council should discuss the deer. She had also received several requests that the City do something about the bushes on the Riverwalk near Safeway. The bushes are on private property, but she encouraged the City to incentivize the property owners to take care of the problems on the eastern side of town. She was asked why ground floor residences could not be in unoccupied commercial buildings downtown. City Manager Estes responded that when planners zone downtown areas, they look for ways to create an urban environment with activity, storefronts with windows, shoppers who come and go. Residential units that take up an entire building would not offer the vibrancy of a retail shop. Residences are typically permitted on upper floors.

Councilor Price added that when several storefronts are empty, it is better wait out the business cycle and wait for retail to come back rather than changing the zoning codes. She noted that the question came up at a Homelessness Task Force meeting. City Manager Estes said first floor housing would be more appropriate on the edges of downtown where zones are transitioning to residential.

Councilor Price reported that she participated in several of the Astoria Pride events over the weekend. The events were a wonderful experience for downtown businesses who said they received a lot of well-behaved crowds. She wanted the City to walk behind a banner in events like Astoria Pride and the Regatta. She liked the idea of being on the ground with the residents and throwing candy instead of riding with the Fire Department.

Item 4(c): Councilor Brownson welcomed Officer Whitney and said one of the City's goals was to get the Police Department fully staffed. He was grateful that another new employee would be hired soon. He encouraged people to attend the music festival. He attended one of the concerts on Saturday and, as always, the music was outstanding. The community should appreciate that opportunity. He reported that City Council's work session was on the Urban Core area of the Riverfront Vision Plan, the last of four areas to be implemented. He looked forward to discussing that with the community. His next Meet Your Councilor event would be on Saturday at Three Cups of Coffee at 9:00 am.

Item 4(d): Mayor LaMear reported that she had spent most of her time with the Library Foundation and the Homelessness Task Force. Both were coming along well. She announced that the Library Foundation had buttons, which a member of the audience displayed.

CHANGES TO AGENDA There were none.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) City Council Work Session Minutes of 5/21/18
- 6(b) Boards and Commission Minutes
 - (1) Design Review Committee Meeting of 5/3/18
 - (2) Historic Landmarks Commission Meeting of 5/15/18
 - (3) Planning Commission Meeting of 5/22/18
- 6(c) Fire Department Status Update
- 6(d) Police Department Status Update
- 6(e) Doughboy Monument Repair – Contractor Selection and Contract
- 6(f) Fee Agreement with Propel Insurance
- 6(g) Addition of Job Description for Parks Department Part Time and Seasonal Positions
- 6(h) Addition of Job Description for Fire Department Part Time Hazmat Position

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

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7(a): Second Reading and Adoption: Ordinance Modifying City Code 6.135 Relating to Special Police Officers

The City of Astoria partners with the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA) to provide parking enforcement in the Downtown District. The ADHDA Community Outreach Officer (COO) is appointed by the authority of the City Manager as a Special Police Officer. The COO's duties include enforcement of parking violations. Currently the COO does not drive a vehicle and utilizes a small non-electric scooter to improve her mobility. Current City ordinances prohibit roller skates, skateboards, coasters, toy vehicles or similar devices. The law was amended several years ago to prevent damage and injuries by irresponsible individuals in the downtown area.

Attached is a draft ordinance which would allow the City Manager to exempt certain regulations restricting the use of or operation of vehicles, skateboards or similar devices downtown. Passage of this modification would allow increased mobility and productivity for the COO without violating the intent of the City ordinance.

It is recommended that Council hold a second reading and adopt the ordinance amending City Code 6.135.

Director Brooks conducted the second reading of the ordinance.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Price, to adopt the ordinance amending City Code 6.135 relating to Special Police Officers. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 7(b): Resolution to Update Wage and Salary Schedules

Staff positions and associated compensation are detailed in the "Resolution Establishing a Basic Compensation Plan for the Employees of the City of Astoria and Establishing Regulations for the Placement of Present Employees within the Wage and Salary Schedules Provided". Whenever there are changes in positions, whether a position is being deleted, added or redefined; or whether a change in compensation is proposed; such changes are adopted by resolution. This proposed resolution implements the following changes effective July 1, 2018:

- General/Parks (Schedule A) - 2.75 percent wage adjustment as specified in their contract expiring June 30, 2019
- Public Works (Schedule D) - 2.75 percent wage adjustment as specified in their Contract expiring June 30, 2019
- Management and Confidential (Schedule E) - 2.0 percent wage adjustment
- Part-time and Seasonal Groups (Schedules F-1 and F-2) - Adjustments have been made to separate Parks and Recreation non-benefited part-time and seasonal positions. This is part of the restructure in progress in the Parks and Recreation department. By establishing Schedule F-1 for Parks and Recreation positions there are defined steps by positions. Hazmat Team Member position is added for the Fire Department in Schedule F-2 to facilitate the training and response expenses for reimbursement through the State. Oregon minimum wage increase, effective July 1, 2018, is reflected in both Schedules.

It is recommended that City Council adopt the Salary Resolution as presented.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Jones, to adopt the Salary Resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 7(c): Resolution to Transfer Appropriations within Parks Operation Fund Budget for FY2017-2018

ORS 294.463(1) provides guidance for the transfer of appropriations within a fund, when authorized by resolution of the governing body.

At the time the original and supplemental budgets were originally appropriated, amounts anticipated for the Aquatics Department expenses did not anticipate necessary increases for chemicals and staff turnover resulting in additional expenses for the year. Sufficient appropriations are available in the Parks Fund to transfer appropriations between departments. Additional transfers outside of Parks are not required.

A transfer of appropriations in the amount of \$ 30,000 from the Parks – Recreation/Administration Department to the Aquatics Department is required within the Parks Operation Fund.

It is recommended that City Council approve the transfer of \$30,000 from the Parks – Recreation/Administration Department to the Aquatics Department of the Parks Operation Fund.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Brownson to approve the transfer of \$30,000 from the Parks – Recreation/Administration Department to the Aquatics Department of the Parks Operation Fund. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 7(d): Resolution to Transfer Appropriations within Maritime Memorial Fund Budget for FY2017-2018

ORS 294.463(1) provides guidance for the transfer of appropriations within a fund, when authorized by resolution of the governing body.

At the time the original budget was originally appropriated, amounts anticipated for the Maritime Memorial Fund expenses were based on historical data. The requests for engraving exceed the budgeted expectations. To ensure adequate appropriations are available for the annual requirements it will be necessary to transfer \$ 2,500 from Capital Outlay to Materials and Services within the Maritime Memorial Fund. Sufficient appropriations are available to initiate the transfer with no change to the overall requirements of the fund.

A resolution transferring appropriations in the amount of \$ 2,500 from the Capital Outlay to Materials and Services within the Maritime Memorial Fund is attached.

It is recommended that City Council approve the transfer of \$2,500 from the Capital Outlay to Materials and Services within the Maritime Memorial Fund.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Jones to approve the transfer of \$2,500 from the Capital Outlay to Materials and Services within the Maritime Memorial Fund. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 7(e): Resolution Amending Water and Sewer Fees

The Public Works Fund budget, approved by the Budget Committee on April 25, 2018 and adopted by the City Council on June 4, 2018 provides for increases in rates and fees for water and sewer services.

The rate adjustments are as follows:

- WATER RATES – increase of 3 percent
- SEWER RATES – increase of 3 percent
- SEWER SURCHARGE – no change

It is recommended that City Council adopt the proposed Water and Sewer Resolutions for the fiscal year 2018-19.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to adopt the Water Resolution for the fiscal year 2018-19. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to adopt the Sewer Resolution for the fiscal year 2018-19. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 7(f): Resolution Amending the Fee Schedule for Ocean View Cemetery

To assist in achieving this goal the Parks and Recreation Department charges fees to assist in the cost recovery of the Department operations. The Department's budgeted cost recovery for the 2018-2019 fiscal year is 44 percent. The Parks and Recreation Department is able to achieve this high cost recovery and revenue generation due to revenue generation, business practices, and innovations. On April 6, 2015, the Astoria City Council amended the fee schedule to approve a 40 percent increase effective April 7, 2015 – June 30, 2015 and then an additional 10 percent increase for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the services provided at Ocean View Cemetery, with the intent of increasing the fees by 10 percent every fiscal year beginning 2016 to the fiscal year ending of 2022. In 2015, 2016, and 2017 City Council continued implementing this proposal by increasing rates an additional 10 percent prior to the start of each fiscal year. It is proposed that fees be increased by an additional 10 percent effective July 18, 2018.

It is recommended that City Council authorize this fee schedule edit in order to meet the budgeted cost recovery for the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year and to offset maintenance costs at Ocean View Cemetery.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Price, to amend the Fee Schedule for Ocean View Cemetery. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 7(g): Authorization to Bid – 2018 Paving Project

The Public Works Department developed a list of the following streets to be included in the 2018 Paving Project. These locations were chosen using input from the City's pavement maintenance software, anticipated future project needs, stopgap maintenance obligations, field evaluation, and cost efficiency considerations.

Road Description	From	To
15th Street	Duane Street	Franklin Avenue
14th Street	Marine Drive	Commercial Street
11th Street	Duane Street	Exchange Street
Franklin Avenue	10th Street	12th Street
West Bond Street	West Marine Drive	Hume Avenue
West Grand Avenue	Elsie Avenue	Lincoln Street
Denver Street	Florence Avenue	West Marine Drive
4th Street	Niagara Avenue	Cul-de-sac
5th Street	McClure Avenue	Nehalem Avenue
Irving Avenue	16th Street	18th Street
Cedar Street	47th Street	51st Street
Birch Street	51st Street	53rd Street
51st Street	Cedar Street	Birch Street
53 rd Street	Birch Street	Ash Street

The project will include asphalt pavement overlay, asphalt grinding, ADA ramp upgrades, road base reconstruction, curb repair, striping and other associated improvements. The construction estimate for this project is approximately \$600,000, including a 10 percent contingency. Funding for this project is available in the Astoria Road District Fund (Local Fuel Tax Fund).

It is recommended that City Council authorize staff to solicit bids for the 2018 Paving Project.

City Engineer Nathan Crater gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2018 Paving Project, which included an overview of paving techniques, the focus of the project, street selection methods and criteria, an explanation of good pavement management, cost efficiencies, and a map of work planned in 2018. He described some unique challenges on a section of Niagara, which required a field inspection and landslide mitigation. Once Staff receives a geotechnical engineering report, the road will be smoothed out and repaved. He confirmed the pavement project would not include pot holes. Funding for the project came entirely from the fuel tax. Astoria and Warrenton charged three percent. Tax revenues are received every year from ODOT, but Astoria banks the funds so that Staff can do a \$400,000 to \$600,000 paving project every other year. The 2018 project is estimated to cost right at \$600,000. During the off years, Staff does other maintenance like crack sealing, which is also paid for out of the same fund. He confirmed that pavement conditions were being kept steady. In order to prevent deferred maintenance from piling up, the City would two to three times more funding. The Engineering Division stretches dollars as far as possible, but the funding has been adequate to maintain the current level of pavement conditions. Staff has done a good job adding paving projects to other projects, like the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project.

Councilor Price asked what other jurisdictions' fuel tax percentage was. City Manager Estes said he did not believe the County charged a gas tax. When the City had to renew the gas tax a few years ago, Warrenton and Astoria renewed together. It is legal to renew the three percent tax, but if the City wanted to increase the percentage, the total amount would have to be approved by the voters. If the voters do not approve the increase, the entire gas tax is eliminated altogether. He understood the same rules would apply to a seasonal gas tax.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to authorize staff to solicit bids for the 2018 Paving Project. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

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

Fred White, 2011 Irving Ave, Astoria, said he had sent the Mayor and each Councilor an email on Sunday but did not know whether the email had been received. His email was in regard to the Fire Department's training exercise they performed on Saturday. He apologized for using the word bellowing instead of billowing in the case of smoke. He appreciated and respected firefighters and what they do for the community. He had seen them in action in his neighborhood multiple times, sometimes with the same person over and over for various emergencies. He also supported the need for ongoing training that firefighters need to have. But, he believed burning down derelict buildings and filling a great portion of the city with toxic smoke is not the way to go. Many state of the art alternatives were available to firefighters that mimic the same situations found in a burning building, such as the college's MERTS program does for the maritime industry's fire fighter training. If the department does not have the budget to send people to train, that needs to be addressed by City Council. His house was enveloped with smoke, ash came down, and it went on for more than two hours. He was walking on the bridge between 18th and 19th to see if there was a real fire and by the time he got home it was difficult to breathe. His windows were open as well. That type of exercise is last century. There are modern ways to do this and there should not be any more of these trainings. He hoped City Council would forbid that type of training in the city because it is dangerous.

Chief Gascoigne confirmed that he read the email and appreciated the feedback. Mr. White made valid points in the email. The department spent a lot of time talking with surrounding neighbors immediately affected. However, the City's public notice fell between the cracks. While the department wants to notify those who will be affected, they do not want to advertise the exercises because many people will show up with lawn chairs to watch. He had realized that not much notice had gone out, so he put out one last Facebook post on Friday, which was enough to get more than 50 spectators first thing in the morning. He apologized for the lack of notice. The department uses MERTS a lot because it is a valuable training tool for learning initial techniques and teamwork. Unfortunately, those facilities do not replicate any fire conditions, reactions, or behaviors, so they cannot provide realistic training. The Fire Department has a very small Staff, so they rely heavily on volunteers. City Council is aware of the continuing issue of trying to recruit and maintain volunteers. For most of their volunteer fire fighters, this was their first real fire attack experience. They will tell you it was nothing like what they have experienced at MERTS or in their training so far and that it was extremely valuable. The conditions were dramatically different and fire fighters do not know how they will respond until they face those conditions. They have to learn how fire will react. He agreed that this was not the way the department should be training anymore. It has been a long since the department has done a Burn to Learn in Astoria. About three years, they did a demolition burn in Alderbrook at the request of the homeowner and the City. This request was made by Columbia Memorial Hospital and the department got over a year of training out of the building. Astoria has not had that kind of training in most of his 30 years on Staff. Every time the Fire Department had pushed for a training facility in town, with a small tower and a concrete block building, there was never a location. Occasionally, the department will send people out of town to training in other districts, but those have become few and far between. He would like to see changes, but that would require the development of a training facility.

Councilor Brownson asked if toxic materials were burned. Chief Gascoigne said the building went through the demolition permit process, which included testing for asbestos, lead, and 17 or 18 other toxic substances. Regardless of the demolition process, toxic substances would have been abated prior to being demolished. All test results for this building were negative. Columbia Memorial Hospital paid for the process. The National Fire Protection Association codes dictate how these trainings are done to ensure environmental and firefighter safety. Furniture, carpet, and any synthetic materials must be removed. They were left with sheetrock walls and bare floors and their fire sets were pallets and straw. The building did have roofing material, which was permitted and did not have to be removed. That accounted for some of the black smoke. The rest of the black smoke and ash was a product of incomplete combustion, which they to mitigate by keeping fires as hot as possible. The aerial ladder was spraying a stream directly into the smoke to knock as much out of the air as possible and keep it from drifting, but there were times when they needed to use that stream to protect the structure next door.

Councilor Brownson said he appreciated Mr. White's concerns. He asked if Astoria had talked with other fire departments in the county to collaborate on a training facility. Chief Gascoigne said there had been some

discussion, but other departments do a lot more Burn to Learn events than Astoria. Astoria's last Burn to Learn was 15 years ago. Such trainings have went by the wayside because of the way the city is situated on the hill and the houses are so close together. There was too much angst among neighbors about the smoke. This building lined up well; there was a lot of space around it, it was very defensible, and it was up against the hillside. However, the wind cannot be controlled. All of the other cities would want a training facility in their back yard. Everyone uses MERTS, but no one in the county has a training facility with a concrete building; however, staying in the district to provide protection while training would still be a problem.

Councilor Brownson said he had experience as a sailor and a participant in off shore races taking courses in safety and survival at sea. There is a huge difference between getting into a life raft in a swimming pool and being taught in a classroom about situations at sea versus actually being thrown into the water with full gear and getting into a life raft. There is a visceral difference between an intellectual exercise and the reality. There is great value in finding a way to do that without getting ourselves into situations where we're burning down houses in town. He thanked Mr. White for bringing his concerns to the City's attention.

Mayor LaMear asked if MERTS would be interested in constructing another type of firefighting training facility. Chief Gascoigne said MERTS was constructed for shipboard firefighting, which limits its use by the City. They focus on the maritime industry, not structural firefighting. Although, they do have a fire science program and it would benefit them to have a different training facility.

Councilor Price said she looked up Burn to Learn on Google while Chief Gascoigne was speaking. The practice is used widely throughout Oregon. She believed Astoria would not have another one for 15 more years and that the next fire chief would also say the negatives outweigh the positives. Maybe there will be a better training facility by the time that happens again. She was not concerned about toxicity, but appreciated that Mr. White brought his concerns to the City's attention. She suggested the Fire Department announce that a Burn to Learn would occur sometime during a week so they can avoid spectators.

Mr. White said his wife had chemical sensitivities. Saying the City would burn a house down sometime in a week would impact her life the way the CSO project did 10 years ago when she had to leave town every day because four or five diesels were going right at their intersection. If he had received notice about the Burn and Learn, they could have left town. There are a lot of people with asthma and it only took two minutes for the smoke to reach his house. He believed any cost benefit analysis should also account for the people who would have toxic substances spewed on to them compared to training that takes place outside of town. He believed the facilities were not used every day and were available for rent.

Councilor Jones appreciated Mr. White and Chief Gascoigne's' comments. If appropriate safeguards were put in place and broader notifications were sent out next time, he would support another Burn and Learn. Training is so much more effective when it is realistic. With great concern for those with breathing issues, he would be more concerned about something happening to a fire fighter because they did not have the opportunity to train in an actual house on fire.

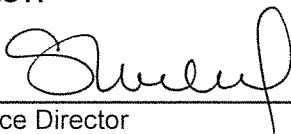
Mr. White stated there was no comment period on the paving presentation. He asked if the paving would include curb cuts for wheelchair accessibility at intersections.

Engineer Crater responded that the paving project would absolutely include ADA ramp upgrades anywhere the overlay would touch the curb. Staff is selective about optimizing the ramps because they are expensive, so a few existing ramps that were constructed before 1996 do not have to be upgraded and will just be tweaked a bit because they are already compliant.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm to convene the Astoria Development Commission meeting.

ATTEST:



Finance Director
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APPROVED:



City Manager

City Council Journal of Proceedings
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