

A regular meeting of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 7:10 pm.

Councilors Present: Nemlowill, Herzig, Warr, Price, Mayor LaMear

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Police Chief Johnston, Community Development Director Cronin, Planner Ferber, 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 Warr had no reports.

Item 3(b): Councilor Price reported that she had been visiting Ocean View Cemetery because its maintenance had been an issue. She believed the cemetery was beautiful, except for the blue plastic garbage cans, which she suggested be placed inside a cedar container. The lawn looked very European, not like the ninth green. The Parks Department was doing a stellar job with the staff they have and she did not have any complaints. She hoped people would begin to speak highly of the cemetery.

Item 3(c): Councilor Herzig reported that the Astoria Warming Center was now open for showers and laundry service. Showers would be available for men on Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and for women on Fridays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The Councilors and Mayor LaMear attended the City/County meeting, which was initiated by Cannon Beach Mayor Sam Steidel and coordinated by the Interim County Manager Rich Mays. Discussions were broad, but not deep. Everyone at the meeting agreed there were serious issues with traffic, affordable housing, emergency preparedness, and mental health. It was nice to see the cities come together to share concerns. Suzanne Bonamici will be at the Astoria Senior Center on Saturday, April 9th at 3:30 pm.

Item 3(d): Councilor Nemlowill reported that she believed the Citizens Advisory Committee working on the Parks Master Plan was taking an objective look at the department's core services so that the department could operate more efficiently. At last week's meeting, the Committee discussed whether the department should continue to offer daycare. Daycare is ranked high in Park's surveys and is important to the community; however, when compared to the Aquatic Center, daycare might not be considered a core service of the Parks Department. She believed the Parks Master Plan would be a good product that would make the department more efficient. At the City/County meeting, she mentioned the by-pass and received a warm reception to the idea. She suggested that other cities and the county partner with Astoria to consider a gas tax to help fund a by-pass project and see if it gets ODOT's attention. It was nice to see a shared interest in a by-pass to ease the gridlock. She believed a by-pass would enhance resiliency in a natural disaster, be good for the economy, and be good for livability. Staff ran a great open house for the Waterfront Bridges project. Many businesses along the waterfront attended the meeting because access to the businesses would be shut off for up to six months. She believed Staff was doing their best at working with the business owners and suggested the City help the businesses by funding a public relations campaign to advertise that they would remain open during construction.

Item 3(e): Mayor LaMear reported that the City/County meeting was great. Everyone agreed that affordable housing, transportation, and homelessness were statewide issues, not just in Clatsop County. The opportunity to speak with people from around the county was refreshing and she hoped the meeting was the start of a real partnership.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were none.

PROCLAMATIONS

Item 5(a): Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mayor LaMear read the proclamation declaring April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. She announced that on April 11th, pinwheels would be planted near Custard King in honor of abused and neglected children.

Item 5(b): Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Mayor LaMear read the proclamation declaring April 10 through 16, 2016 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Councilor Herzig noted April was also Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Column would be lit teal as part of collaboration between the Parks Department, Friends of the Column, The Harbor, and the Clatsop County Domestic Violence Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) City Council Minutes of 3/7/16
- 6(b) Boards and Commission Minutes
 - (1) Library Board Meeting of 3/23/16**
- 6(c) License to Occupy a Portion of the Hamburg Avenue Right-of-Way Adjacent to 487 West Marine Drive (Public Works)
- 6(d) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) December Storm Damage Public Assistance Grant & Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) Match Grant (Public Works)

Councilor Nemlowill requested Item 6(b)(1) be removed for further discussion.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Warr, seconded by Councilor Herzig, 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)(1): Library Board Meeting of 3/32/16

Councilor Nemlowill said she read the minutes with interest and noted that the Library Board wants to be more involved in the process of moving forward with library options and conveying the need for a new library to the community. She appreciated the Library Board and looked forward to hearing more.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7(a): Astoria Senior Center Renovation Completion – 2nd Public Hearing (Public Works)

The City of Astoria recently completed the Senior Center Renovation project funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Oregon Business Development Department. The Senior Center is located at 1111 Exchange Street, Astoria Oregon. It is estimated that the renovated Center will benefit more than 400 seniors of whom 17 percent are low or moderate income. The purpose of the hearing is for the Astoria City Council to obtain citizens views about the project and to take comments about the local government's performance. This public hearing is required to close out the CDBG funded project. A public hearing notice was published in *The Daily Astorian* on March 28, 2016. It is recommended that the Astoria City Council conduct the scheduled hearing to obtain citizens views about the Senior Center Renovation project and to take comments about the local government's performance.

Mayor LaMear opened the public hearing at 7:27 pm and called for anyone wanting to address the City Council on the Senior Center renovation to come forward with any comments or concerns.

Frank Spence, 5169 Birch, Astoria, said he was a member of the Senior Center and president of Encore, a group sponsored by Clatsop Community College for the continuing education of senior citizens. The Senior Center and Encore have overlapping membership and they are satisfied with the outcome of the renovation. He complimented the City on starting the grant process almost three years ago, even though the bids were higher

than the \$1.5 million grant. Staff was able to overcome unanticipated problems and delays. When the bids came in at \$1.9 million, Staff did a great job reducing them to a level that still produced an excellent product. The grant funds could only be used for construction, so Encore agreed to spend over \$8,000 to equip the classroom at the Senior Center with a television, white boards, and a podium. After the senior meals finish at 1:30 pm, Encore will encroach into the dining area, so maps and a whiteboard will be placed there as well. The facility is wonderful, clean, and airy. In order to reduce costs, work on the basement was eliminated. Therefore, he hoped this project would be considered Phase 1. All of the large expenditures have already been made on a new roof, engineering fees, and architectural fees. He hoped the next round of CDBG funds would allow the Senior Center to work on the elevator and finish the basement. The Senior Center is a great asset for this city.

Mayor LaMear asked John Ryan, Senior Center President, Larry Miller, Senior Center Director, Al Jacques, and Mary McArthur, Astoria's Grant Manager, to stand for a round of applause.

Mayor LaMear closed the public hearing at 7:31 pm.

Councilor Herzig said he hoped that in the future, City Council would go to the Senior Center during hours of operation to hear from the seniors about their usage of the facility because that is the real feedback Council wants to hear. He understood this hearing was one of the tracking responsibilities to comply with the grant. However, it is not always possible for seniors to come out in the evening to participate in a public hearing.

Mayor LaMear said she is at the Senior Center every other Wednesday and has heard that the members are excited about the new facility.

Item 7(b): Authorize Waterfront Bridges Project (Public Works)

The Waterfront Bridges Replacement Project is currently in the preliminary design phase and the project team has been gathering data, coordinating with stakeholders and developing construction strategies. During this process, it has become apparent that there is a need to request additional funding from the ODOT Local Bridge Group for a number of different reasons including deep bedrock and accommodating rail loads. Council will discuss this issue in greater depth during a work session prior to the regular Council meeting. It is recommended Council approve submittal of a project change request to ODOT for additional funding.

Councilor Nemlowill asked if funding would include seismic upgrades. City Manager Estes confirmed the seismic upgrades would be part of the bedrock work. City Engineer Moore added that the last three of the four options listed in the chart of Page 30 of the agenda packet included seismic upgrades.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Herzig, seconded by Councilor Nemlowill to approve submittal of a project change request to ODOT for additional funding to support current rail use and freight [1:34:02] and a separate project change request for the 11th Street extension area. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 7(c): Liquor License Application from Thomas and Elena Shern, dba Capricorn Pub and Fine Dining LLC, located at 1040 Commercial Street, for a Change of Ownership and Greater Privilege for a Full On-Premises Sales Commercial Establishment and Caterer License (Finance)

A liquor license application has been filed by Thomas and Elena Shern, doing business as Capricorn Pub and Fine Dining LLC, located at 1040 Commercial Street. The application is for a Change of Ownership and Greater Privilege for a Full On-Premises Sales Commercial Establishment and Caterer License. The appropriate departments have reviewed the application. It is recommended that Council approve the application.

Councilor Nemlowill declared a potential conflict of interest, as her husband owned Cervecia Gratis, doing business as Fort George Brewery. She did not believe this was a direct conflict so she planned to vote.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Warr, seconded by Councilor Price to approve the Liquor License Application from Thomas and Elena Shern, dba Capricorn Pub and Fine Dining LLC, located at 1040 Commercial Street, for a Change of Ownership and Greater Privilege for a Full On-Premises Sales Commercial Establishment and Caterer License. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 7(d): Pipeline Road Transmission Main Resiliency Study Grant (Public Works)

The Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) is offering grants in the amount of \$20,000 for resiliency studies of important infrastructure. The objective of the grant is to assist communities with water system planning and related activities that promote sustainable water infrastructure. Public Works staff has been reviewing eligible projects for the City of Astoria. The current project concept consists of a resiliency study of the transmission main that delivers water from the City headworks and Bear Creek Reservoir to Reservoirs #2 and #3 in town. At the Council meeting, City Engineer Harrington will give a brief presentation explaining the details of the proposed project. It is recommended that Council authorize staff to proceed with the submittal of a letter of interest and a formal application to IFA for an estimated amount of \$20,000.

City Engineer Harrington presented the details of the proposed project, noting that Staff tries to incorporate resiliency planning into all projects and master plans. All of the work funded by this grant would be incorporated into the City's Water System Master Plan when the plan is updated. He reviewed past resiliency projects, explained how these projects have made Astoria's infrastructure more sustainable, and how resiliency projects are prioritized. He displayed a map and showed which areas were most vulnerable to natural disasters.

City Manager Estes noted that the grant would fund an analysis to determine appropriate next steps. City Engineer Harrington confirmed that \$20,000 would cover the scope of work.

Councilor Price understood that Staff would consider a resiliency pipeline from Bear Creek Dam into Astoria. She has heard from residents of Knappa that the dam would fall apart easily, that Astoria should not bother with the dam, and should run a pipeline from Knappa instead. City Engineer Harrington said the City supplies water to Astoria and five outlying districts. Knappa could not accommodate the usage, which was about 4 million gallons per day last summer. The sand filters and filtration plant must be at optimum capacity to accommodate this level of usage. City Manager Estes added that while the seismic study of the dam is still ongoing, it appears as if the dam is in better shape than originally anticipated.

Councilor Herzig said the Bear Creek Dam was essential to the reservoir with the hydroelectric plant], so the City should not ignore the dam.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Nemlowill, seconded by Councilor Warr to authorize staff to proceed with the submittal of a letter of interest and a formal application to IFA for an estimated amount of \$20,000. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

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

There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

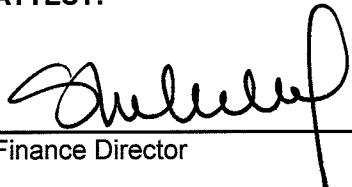
Item 9(a): ORS192.660(2)(e) – Real Property Transactions

City Council recessed to the Executive Session at 7:58 pm to discuss Real Property Transactions. The regular session was reconvened at 8:17 pm.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager