

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

**May 3, 2021**

**Regular meeting 7:00 pm**

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Burge called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Roll Call**

Scott Burge	Mayor	Alexandra Rains	Interim City Manager
Megan Greisen	Council President	Huell White	Program Analyst
Joel Haugen	Councilor		
Josh Poling	Councilor		
Brandon Lesowske	Councilor		
Pete McHugh	Councilor		
Tyler Miller	Councilor		
Peter Watts	Legal Counsel		

**Excused:** City Recorder Susan Reeves

**Remote:** Public Works Director Dave Sukau, Justin Krieck, Carol Sweet, Marisa Jacobs, and Audrey.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Mayor Burge explained there is a revised agenda in front of Council that includes an added item.

Councilor Haugen moved, and Councilor Lesowske seconded the motion to approve the revised agenda. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Poling, aye; Councilor Lesowske, aye; Councilor McHugh, aye and Councilor Miller, aye.

### **Public Comment**

Justin Krieck read over the public comment he submitted via email.

My name is Justin Krieck I am Scappoose's Union Representative for Tualatin Valley Firefighters Union - IAFF Local 1660 -Born and raised in Scappoose, Graduated from Scappoose High School in 2007 -Started as a volunteer with SFD and I have worked as a full-time FF/PM for the past 5 years I am pleased to speak on behalf of the men and women who

proudly serve as firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics for Scappoose Rural Fire District. First, let me pass on an important message from all of us — thank you. Thank you for your past support and your willingness to support additional funding so that we can better serve you. The members of our community call, and we come as fast as we can. However, there are times when the Scappoose main station is only staffed with one ambulance. This means an ambulance must come from another community when there are multiple calls. This takes time, a fast and reliable paramedic response and transport to the emergency room is critical to survivability in the event of a heart attack, stroke, cardiac arrest or significant trauma. When an ambulance must come from another community, critical care is delayed. The levy on the current ballot will provide the residents of Scappoose Fire District with a faster and more reliable response when there are multiple medical incidents as well as residential and commercial fires, motor vehicle crashes and other emergencies. This will be achieved by retaining all current staff, as well as hiring three additional positions. This will allow the fire district to staff two ambulances or one four-person engine 24 hours a day. Your support for this levy will allow us to better serve you. Please join us in voting YES for Measure 5-285, and help us provide you with faster, more reliable EMS and fire protection services.

**\*\*end\*\***

Carol Sweet explained she is doing a public comment and maybe Council would like to add this to the agenda down the line. She wants to give Council a heads up that there is a citizen law enforcement committee starting up which will be County wide. She has been slowly going through the pandemic rituals reaching all the City Councilors, Mayors, Police Chiefs, everybody and they feel that it has to happen. She explained it is not going to be like they are telling the police what to do but it's more of a committee where citizens can come to get information from law enforcement and law enforcement can get information from them. She explained this started back in the Black Lives Matter rally time when they heard there were 500 antifa coming in from Portland, which always cracked her up because her parents were both antifa, they fought in World War II. She explained they asked some law enforcement people how did you hear this and they replied on the internet and they couldn't believe that that was how they were getting their information and it turned out it wasn't and it would have been a lot easier if we could have just had some kind of trusted method where we talk and exchange information. She stated also with all of the things that are going on now the defund the police, do we want change, it feels like this is the time where citizens need to talk to their law enforcement and exchange ideas and as she told Chief Miller, Scappoose will be the shining light on the hill about what to do but we still need to be part of it because it is County wide law enforcement and so it is going to be a County wide program. She has understood from just rumors that maybe some people don't like to mix up the County stuff, but law enforcement is something that we all have to do together. She feels like if somebody in another City is upset and they come to a group and say can you tell me how this works, that makes it better for all of us. She explained it is very much in the infant stages, they have got a little beginning group of people who are very savvy, who have worked on other police projects. She explained she did for years, worked for Portland Police as a community resource person and she thinks it is going to be a very positive thing. She explained we have had a lot of changes, we've had a new chief, a new sheriff, and a new head of mental health, a couple of

years ago and it really changed everything. She has gotten all of the players on board, the CCMH person is on board, she has spoken to Chief Greenway, Norm, the Sheriff. She stated they are slowing working towards getting everybody together. She just wanted to give Council a heads up. She stated if you have any drastic reasons why you think this wont work, she is more than happy to come before Council to discuss it or you can give her the okay to go ahead and start putting it together and she will be back to tell Council where they are.

Mayor Burge thanked Carol.

Marisa Jacobs submitted this public record ~

May 3, 2021 - Scappoose City Council - Public Comment

Good evening Mayor Burge and City Council,

My name is Marisa Jacobs and tonight I'm speaking to you as a resident citizen of Scappoose. I've been following the recruitment process for a new City Manager and would like to offer a perspective for consideration.

Over the past 6 months as I've become connected into the happenings within the City, I've been shocked to learn that most of city staff are not residents of the City of Scappoose. The City Manager is an equivalent of a CEO of a corporation. The manager provides the strategic vision of the how the city should look and operate. They have significant responsibilities and oversight to the budget, personnel and public works. They lead the operation strategies and set the goals for a city. This is an important and significant role. As council is moving through the recruitment process, I urge you to consider appointing a city manager who resides in Scappoose.

A city manager who lives in Scappoose will have a better appreciation, sensitivity and understanding of the local dynamics involving taxation issues, municipal services and resident concerns as a citizen of the City they serve. It is a complement to the community, because community members feel that if you work here, you should live here and be active in events and organizations. As this role sits on various committees, a resident city manager is able to relate and make better inform decisions for the easy and hard topics. A city manager living in Scappoose would be subject to the same rules, fees and costs of the community they manage. Anything a city manager is influencing will affect them too.

One of the primary roles of manager is to be good financial steward for the city, and to help make good sound, informed decisions. If a city manager lives outside Scappoose, they make decisions that don't impact them and therefore are not as invested to see good things happen in our community.

And we all want good things for your city. Take for example the proposed road extension of Cpt Roger Kucera Way. If a city manager lived in Scappoose and utilized the park the way residents

do, they probably would have never brought this half-baked idea to council that is a costly, environmentally damaging safety hazard for the community.

I strongly urge you as our elected officials to keep our city's best interest at heart and appoint a city manager who lives in Scappoose. We do not need another out-of-town worker bringing in their big city ideas. We're not a big city, and the people living here don't want to be a big city.

As always, thank you for your time and service to our community.

Marisa Jacobs Scappoose, OR

\*\*end\*\*

Marisa Jacobs stated good evening Council. She explained she is speaking to Council as a private resident of Scappoose. She had an opportunity to listen to the work session prior. She explained she did submit a public comment, however since then listening to the work session she would like to offer some insights to that meeting that may be beneficial to the City. She explained she found the work session interesting because she is an HR Professional of 20 years and she is very intimate with the aspect of hiring staff. She explained she found it interesting that the consulting firm mentioned that they did a community survey. She explained as you know she is fairly connected into the community surveys, happenings, whatnot, at least she tries to be. She explained she did not notice that there was any communication outbound so she would consider that to be a fail on the consulting firms part that the communication didn't actually make it out to the community. She stated secondarily the attribute, she thinks attributes list that Council all aligned on is a huge, tall list and the main take away is that you are looking for someone who is connected, involved and involved in events of response of things happening in the City and the conversation regarding where the individual lives came up and she can tell Council that it is okay that you can require that someone lives within a certain area. She explained currently she works for a company and they are doing all the hiring over Zoom and it is very rare to do any in person hiring given the Covid situation. She stated you can make it part of the qualifications, part of the requirement for the job is that someone lives within city limits. She stated you can get as prescriptive as possible, however she does think it is very important for someone that does live within some aspect of close proximity within of the City of Scappoose who is close in and can be connected in to the City. She stated this is a very unique area, we are not like a big City like Portland. She stated people who move out here don't want to be a part of any big cities and the people who stay probably are enjoying that it is still a small town. She thinks having that element is super important and critical and she thinks a lot of the Councilors on the call agreed with that. She stated in terms of how close, Council has complete control to do that. She stated if there are any questions, she is happy to answer them. She thanked Council for allowing her the time to speak.

Dixee Partee submitted this public comment via email.

Dear Mayor Burge,

5/2/21

I am writing to express my strong displeasure of the actions the City of Scappoose Council is taking regarding two issues:

I have written in the past about the plans to make Roger Kucera a through street connecting J.P. West to Smith Road. It seems the council meetings which discuss this plan and the money already spent to investigate/validate the process has rejected the opinions of the adjacent community and park users who fear the speeds generated by a through street. Since it is obvious that small town politics are in play with this project, at least consider making Roger Kucera an egress beyond the park for emergency vehicles only.

The second issue is the ridiculous plan being considered for a pool and the necessary taxation it would require to construct and maintain such a structure. We are a small community whose residents are not wealthy enough to support such folly. The City Council has no business pursuing this project and would be wise to close the issue.

I hope in the future discussions that the reality of both plans is given more sane in-depth investigation and that the majority of the Council who seem to be "hell bent" to push these through will be brought to task.

A very disgruntled resident,

Dixee Partee

P.S. Thanks Josh for your efforts to stop the road extension and all your efforts on the council. Wish more wise and considerate people like you were serving.

\*\*end\*\*

Legal Counsel Peter Watts stated he wanted to say something about the letter from Marisa Jacobs because he has seen this issue happen in the past, it happened in Clackamas County. He explained he didn't know what that meant at the time and he found out what that meant, and he thinks it is really important that Council knows what it means. He explained the concept called otherism and what it is, is that there is a group and then there are others, and the group has certain values and morals and certain attributes, and the others don't. He explained the others are often said to want to come someplace to cause harm and so you are in one group or you are in the other and he has watched it just absolutely destroy communities because the other groups are seen as less human, as not belonging. He stated he could give extreme examples, but anytime you have people choose sides, it means you are excluding people and you are excluding ideas and again in all the jurisdictions he has seen this in, it created a toxic mess. He explained he is an "other" because he doesn't live in the City of Scappoose but he would say in addition to being a City of Scappoose as a community, there are people who don't live in the City but they are part of the Scappoose Community. He stated if you care about Scappoose, and he thinks it is kind of offensive reading the letter that Alex Rains or himself wouldn't, because he does care a lot and wants them to be successful. He stated he just hopes that at least everyone has both eyes open because during times of great stress whether it is a pandemic or whether the City is going through rapid growth, then if you go down this road of there's this group that is good and there's

this group that is bad and some people's ideas have less worth or they shouldn't be trusted for whatever reason, it just breaks the whole system and people lose trust in each other instead of working together and working towards understanding. He stated with not trusting each other's decisions what should come very easy, becomes hard. He stated normally I only give you advice on legal risk and I wouldn't say anything but he has seen this otherism of the us versus them to be so destructive in communities that he had to tell Council what is happening here because this is the second week in a row where we have this sort of language that we do not need another out of town worker bringing in their big City ideas, because we are not a big City and people living here don't want to be a big City. He stated we are not a big City, we are Scappoose. He stated the visions and values are not his or Alex's, they are the Scappoose Council's visions and values. He stated our job is to execute the Council's policy and of course you love Scappoose because you wouldn't be serving as an unpaid Mayor and Council if you didn't. He stated he might be an "other" but he cares about this community and he wants the City to be successful.

There was applause.

Councilor McHugh stated, very well said.

Mayor Burge stated just to follow up on that when he moved here in 1977, he can guarantee that they would have been a much bigger other had they had California plates and not Wyoming plates. He stated they were still new to the community. He always thinks about when people say we need to stop people from coming out here, it's getting too big, and he always asks the question "What year do you want the cut off to be?" He stated what year is too new or do we just welcome people with open arms and accept their ideas for what they are. He stated whoever it is if they have a good idea and get the support of the community that's how government works. He stated it might start out as an idea with one person, then years later more people agree with it based on changing environment and what's going on. He stated you don't know what is going to change between now and five to ten years. He stated he feels Council has tried to always welcome people. He stated he knows there is some staff that doesn't live in the community, there is some staff that's lived here for years, then moved out of the community, but still work here. He stated there is a variety of them, but they are dedicated to this community and very dedicated to doing the job and implementing the goals that this Council puts forward and they do the best they can, and they try to do it as transparently and honestly as they can. He stated everyone makes mistakes or falls short here and there, but we don't castigate them for that, we try to help them up and make them better.

### **New Business**

Mayor Burge stated he added this item to the agenda. As many of you know the former mayor and the Columbia County Clerk Betty Huser passed away and he just wanted to have a moment of silence in her honor and then give any member of Council a moment to reflect.

**Moment of silence in memory of Betty Huser, Mayor of Scappoose (1979 – 1988);  
Columbia County Clerk (1989 – 2021)**

Councilor McHugh stated he was Betty's neighbor for 12 years when they first moved to Scappoose and he couldn't have asked for a better neighbor. He stated she was kind and easy to talk to. He stated whenever things came up she was there to help, as a neighbor should be. He stated Betty was a very honorable person and we are going to miss her.

Councilor Haugen stated he also knew Betty a long time and she was truly an extraordinary person. He stated the service she did for our County and community was unbelievable. He stated it is so fitting to honor her this evening. He stated, she will be missed.

Mayor Burge stated she was the Mayor of Scappoose for 10 years and she had some big projects during that time and her impact on the community as Mayor was huge and then she moved on to the County and anything you needed out of that office she was ready to help above and beyond. He stated it was always great getting her feedback and support on being Mayor. She will be missed.

Councilor Poling stated he has known Betty a long time because his parents worked at the County and he said going in as a little kid seeing Betty and she was always bubbly and a great personality and such a big person in this community. He stated during the 100-year celebration it might be a good time to commemorate her.

Councilor McHugh stated the committee has been talking about that and it is definitely going to be part of what they do.

Council President Greisen explained she had worked with Betty yearly at the Share and Care event. She explained she would talk to everyone she was around and was just a hands-on leader and that is something we should all take with us, and she was a very servant leader and lead by example.

Councilor Lesowske stated for those of us who have been in this community for a while we do know the impact and service that Betty provided not just to Scappoose, but to our County as a whole. He did have the honor of being sworn in by Betty and that will be something he gets to hold for the rest of his life. He does feel if there are other ways that we can honor her service to our community moving forward he would ask that we keep her name at the tops of those lists in a way to honor the service that she provided. He expressed his condolences.

Councilor Miller stated his story is about the same as Councilor Poling's, because his mom worked in the Assessor's Office at Columbia County for over 20 years. He explained he knows Betty from kind of a different point of view because he thinks when he started to walk is when he first knew who Betty was. He stated one thing he remembers is when it snowed, Betty would come to their driveway and pick his mom up. He stated if there is anything to illustrate how

caring Betty was, he thinks that is just a very straight forward point to the type of lady that she was.

Mayor Burge stated thank you Council.

### **If I Were Mayor Contest**

Mayor Burge explained the City received one submission from Oliver who is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader.

Council stated Oliver did a very good job.

Councilor Lesowske moved, and Councilor Poling seconded the motion that Council award Oliver If I Were Mayor contest award recipient. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Poling, aye; Councilor Lesowske, aye; Councilor McHugh, aye and Councilor Miller, aye

### **Council Rules and Procedure**

Interim City Manager Rains explained this is a follow up on a request that was made during the April 5, 2021, City Council meeting. She explained Council President Greisen broached the subject of reviewing and potentially modifying Chapter 2.04 of the Scappoose Municipal Code (SMC), Council Meetings, to align more closely with the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Model Rules of Procedure for Council Meetings. Additionally, City Attorney Ashley Driscoll noted that Council may want to consider removing the rules of procedure from the Scappoose Municipal Code and re-adopting the rules as a resolution. Council agreed to revisit these topics at a future meeting and this staff report serves to address that request. First, Staff obtained a copy of the LOC's Model Rules of Procedure and compared its contents to SMC 2.04 and the Council's Team Agreement. The results of that exercise are included below and considering the vast differences between the content and format of the two documents, the comparison should be considered approximate in nature as even content that was covered by both documents did so in distinctly different ways and with varying levels of detail. Additionally, some of the content not covered in SMC 2.04 is discussed during Council Orientations, for example, during the discussion on Municipal Law 101. For reference, the LOC's Model Rules of Procedure, Chapter 2.04 of the SMC and Council's Team Agreement are attached as Exhibits A, B and C, in the packet. She explained what she is looking for from Council is whether or not they want to go down this path.

Interim City Manager Rains explained under next steps for council consideration:

#### **Part 1:**

1. Direct Staff to propose changes to SMC 2.04 (or applicable resolution) based on the LOC's Model Rules of Procedure for Council Meetings
2. Council to discuss and propose changes to SMC 2.04 (or applicable resolution) based on the LOC's Model Rules of Procedure during future work sessions and meetings
3. Mayor forms a small ad hoc committee of Council members, supported by Staff,



to review and propose changes to SMC 2.04 (or applicable resolution) based on the LOC's Model Rules of Procedure

4. Take no action to amend SMC 2.04 (or applicable resolution)

**Part 2:**

1. Rescind SMC 2.04 and re-adopt as a resolution with or without modifications at a future Council meeting

2. Take no action to remove SMC 2.04

Mayor Burge asked if there were any questions?

Councilor Miller stated just for clarification, so we could adopt what we currently have as a resolution or we could take it a step further and go in and edit it.

Interim City Manager Rains replied correct, Council has a lot of options.

Councilor Miller explained he looked at the April 5 minutes and Legal Counsel Ashely Driscoll had said that she really didn't understand if there were issues, because she doesn't spend as much time with Council as Legal Counsel Peter Watts does. He stated if Peter has had time to review this, he would be interested in Peter's input on this.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied he thinks it does make sense to update the Council Rules and the section that gives him the most heartburn, which is the same section that gave Andy Jordan the most heartburn, is 2.04.160, which is the personnel section that has a subcommittee and when that was used in the past it created some potential liability for the City and that is completely unique to your City. He stated there is a lack of clarity as to whether that is a public meeting or not and it is kind of a weird process. He explained it also creates some confusion as to who has the final say on matters. He thinks there are a lot of reasons why it probably makes sense to revisit that and have that discussion. He stated as far as the model rules goes, he doesn't like them and doesn't think they make sense for Scappoose. He stated he thinks if Council would want to use something like the model rules we would want to go through carefully and make sure they weren't process oriented that added a lot of time for staff and also make sure that they reflect who the City is.

Councilor Haugen stated to Peter's point, he is of the mind that you don't make things more complicated than you need to and to him adopting the League of Oregon Cities rules, and he respects the League of Oregon Cities very much, but adopting those rules he feels are a lot more complicated and he doesn't see a rational for that. He stated the resolution approach to Chapter 2.04.160 does make sense, and if that facilitates changes, let's do it.

Interim City Manager Rains stated if Council wants to leave it as an ordinance and change it, we can still do that. She explained making it a resolution makes it easier to suspend it if you wanted to suspend any of those rules. She explained using the LOC model was more of a comparison, she doesn't think the suggestion is that we just adopt that. She explained the idea was to look at what pieces work for us, if that is something Council wants to do and make adjustments to the existing code.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts explained adopting it as a resolution gives it maximum flexibility. He stated he thinks it is always a good idea to go through the rules to see what is working and what doesn't. He stated the question is does it work for all of you and are you willing to agree to all of the rules?

Mayor Burge stated he wouldn't mind having Legal Counsel Peter Watts go through this and make recommendations. He is also in agreeance with getting rid of the 2.04.160 section. He explained after Peter Watts reviews it, he would like Council to look over it as short work sessions with Council.

Council President Greisen thanked Legal Counsel Peter Watts for taking the time to compare and bringing an alternate example of what that would look like. She asked Peter as far as the City Council Team agreement, how would he compare those two in terms of the language that should be on each. She asked how do we take some of the things that are in our team agreement and add them?

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied he thinks some of this we can modify and do a resolution. He explained he has some cities where council and staff read the team agreement once a month which educates the public that those are the expectations that the Council has on themselves and each other and he thinks that helps focus people and remind them of what Council's aspirational goals are as well as the role of Council and the role of staff. He stated whatever Council wants is really the right answer and everyone needs to be very honest and agree to whether they will abide by the rules or not and if there are rules that bother Council, the most important thing is to have a conversation so that people understand each other's perspective and as long as that honest conversation happens, he sees nothing but positive things come out of this.

Council President Greisen explained she feels when people are talking about certain subjects, the level of respect towards staff or other Councilmembers and the language that is being used is not of mutual respect. She explained what Legal Counsel Peter Watts mentioned earlier is exactly why she brought this up. She explained the interactions between Council as a voting body and in the interactions that they have as a voting body and individual members with staff and showing that level of mutual respect towards everybody in their positions.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts explained things don't feel as tight with Council as they once were, and he stated maybe he needs to speak out more if he sees something, because maybe that is what is needed in this moment. He stated he is really proud of Scappoose because for a City your size and with the budget and resources that you have you have done really great things. He stated it has been really inspiring to watch as the City comes together and as you as a Council to come together because other Councils were less supportive of each other and he hopes Council doesn't lose that momentum.

Mayor Burge would still like Legal Counsel Peter Watts to make some recommendations and bring them back to Council and continue the conversation.

Interim City Manager Rains asked if there is any determination on ordinance or resolution or do you want to continue that conversion later?

Mayor Burge replied he doesn't think Council wants to make that decision today.

Interim City Manager Rains explained staff and Legal Counsel will work on this and bring it back during a work session.

### **NW Scappoose Connectivity**

Councilor Haugen stated it is okay to disagree with each other, there's nothing wrong with that, in fact if we didn't have disagreements there would be something wrong.

Mayor Burge stated he agrees 100%. He thinks one other thing we get afraid of as we see what is happening in our world today, is people's idea that if they disagree with you, they have to hate you and he's been involved in politics since he was in college and he was the head of one of the major party's college organizations statewide and they argued about politics, but they were still all friends. He explained he and Councilmembers have argued regarding policies and it is good and healthy. He stated they need to be able to disagree because they don't want to be an echo chamber, but they need to be able to do it respectfully and that is what is important.

Councilor Haugen read over his presentation.

Presentation about Street Connectivity affecting Grabhorn Park By: Joel Haugen, Scappoose City Councilmember Date: May 3, 2021, 7 pm Scappoose City Council Meeting Attachments: Page 5 of DKS Report and Trust for Public Land article 1. The purpose of my presentation today is: (1) To discuss the process to date of researching street connectivity in NW Scappoose. (2) My objections to "Option 3," the favored local connectivity option. (3) An alternative option. 2. In January 2021, City Council hired DKS Associates to research options for local street connectivity in NW Scappoose. 3. DKS Associates looked at three options creating some north-south connectivity that run somewhat parallel to Highway 30. The study was called the NW Local Connection Study. I am including a page from the study that shows the 3 street options. 4. The report says it discusses the benefits of local street connectivity. But it only discusses these benefits in general. The report does not discuss the specific issues that need solved or how the options presented solve these issues. For example, is there congestion in the area? Will diverting the congestion thru the park solve the problem? Will it create other problems? 5. The report compared each of the three options against a range of criteria and option 3 was found to be the only feasible connection option. 6. "Option 3" involves a street from Roger Kucera Way to E.J. Smith Road thru the western edge of the future Grabhorn Park and thru Scappoose Veteran's Dog Park. 7. Option 3 might have been the best of the three options, but it is no way acceptable as a final solution. Here are my concerns that were not addressed or evaluated as consideration in the DKS report: (1) Concern #1. Livability. Experts question whether a constant stream of automobile traffic is appropriate within a city park. Should we follow the lead of Frederick Law

Olmsted in this matter? Writing in the 1850s, Olmsted noted that crowded thoroughfares have “nothing in common with the park proper, but everything at variance with those agreeable sentiments which we should wish the park to inspire.” The Trust for Public Land recently published an article in which they report that from Baltimore to San Francisco, park agencies are closing roads to cars, either temporarily or permanently. The result has been more visitors to the park, improved mental and physical health of park goers, and it has saved money and increased safety too. I enclosed the Trust for Public article “Proceed Without Caution: City parks are closing their roads to cars” for your consideration. (2) Concern #2. Public safety. Vehicle traffic through parks detracts from the park environment and creates safety hazards for users. Numerous criminology studies also point to increased crime when streets travel through parks. (3) Concern #3. Environmental protection. The City and the community have been working hard with partners to rehabilitate South Scappoose Creek salmonid habitat. Construction 1-acre+ of road pavement will undermine this ongoing effort. (4) Concern #4. Public support. A city is comprised of its citizens and for it to function as a community it must have the support of the citizenry. Do a majority of Scappoose citizens and neighbors support this proposed street thru the park? If not, a new street with traffic through Grabhorn-Veterans Park, would be an unwise City action. (5) Concern 5. What is the need? The DKS report cites general benefit of street connectivity, but it does not state the specific need or the specific benefits of constructing the proposed Option 3. For example, what are the specific problems that demonstrate a need for a new street? Is there significant congestion in the area? Will the street thru the park alleviate that congestion? Will there be any negative impacts from diverting traffic thru the park? The list of considerations goes on and on. I do not see that these considerations have been evaluated. Also, connectivity is achieved through sidewalks, bikeways, and service roads, if necessary. ODOT encourages the use of sidewalks and bikeways for connectivity. Without an explanation of the need for an option 3, the benefits and the impacts, we are making decisions blindly. 8. In the event there is a need for additional north-south local access street connectivity, I would like to propose an Option 4, which has 2 parts. I believe this Option 4 adequately satisfies the criteria in the DKS report and also satisfies my concerns above. 9. Option 4: • Part 1: Connect NW 1st Street to Scappoose Vernonia Highway. • Part 2: Create a wide pedestrian and bike path in the pathway of Option 3, thru Grabhorn Veterans Park, but chaining it off to vehicle traffic, making it accessible to emergency vehicles on an as needed basis. Again – Option 4 is only to be considered if there is a quantifiable need for another north-south access in Scappoose as determined by commissioning a specific need-based and cost-benefit analysis, that identifies what traffic problems need solved and if the proposed connectivity solves those problems, without creating more. Option 4 must also be cost-effective. This is a big challenge, but I believe we can do it and continue to make decisions that support, not undermine, our very special community. 10. I am requesting City Council and staff consider my Option 4 as they aim to increase connectivity in Scappoose. If Option 4 is not feasible, I request that City Council and staff keep researching other options and not pursue Option 3 at all. Keep Grabhorn – Veterans Park free of vehicle and commuter traffic! Thank you for your time and consideration.

\*\*end of handout\*\*

## FUTURE CONNECTIVITY OPTIONS

The northwest Scappoose area was reviewed to determine the feasibility for local street connections. Three local street extension options were identified south of E.J. Smith Road including:

- Option 1: View Terrace Place to Eastview Drive
- Option 2: Willow Lane to Maria Lane
- 

Option 3: Captain  
Roger Kucera Way  
to E. J. Smith Road



FIGURE 2. POTENTIAL FUTURE CONNECTIVITY IN NORTHWEST SCAPPOOSE

### DKS SCAPPOOSE LOCAL CONNECTION PLAN • MARCH 2021

Councilor McHugh stated he appreciates this report. He stated the real issue is do we run the road through or not and he is assuming it is part of the Grabhorn Park Committee's responsibility is to take a look at that, is that correct?

Program Analyst Huell White stated the Grabhorn Park Committee does have the latitude to suggest whatever recommendations they so choose to the City Council so as long as they provide recommendations to Council at the end of their duration.

Councilor Poling stated he looks forward to what the committee recommends, but he thinks even though it is part of the park the decision of the road is totally separate from the park.

Councilor Haugen replied which is the point that he just articulated and the bottom line for him is as he expressed earlier, is if the community wants a road and we can afford the road we should

build it but if the community is vehemently opposed to it, we've got a problem and that's what he is trying to convey here as forcefully and lightly as he can.

Mayor Burge explained the decision could just be that we decided to build the road into the parking lot then it's a walking/bike path, but some future Council could then say we need this road.

Mayor Burge thanked Councilor Haugen.

Council President Greisen explained sometimes there are decisions made by Council that can't be vetted by the public, but that doesn't mean that we don't acknowledge their opinions or that we disregard them. She explained sometimes it is just not part of the process they can take.

### **Announcements – information only**

#### **Calendar**

Mayor Burge went over the calendar.

#### **Updates: City Manager, Police Chief, Councilors, and Mayor**

Interim City Manager Rains explained the pool survey is out. She explained it has been online since about mid-March and will be in the newsletter twice and it is also on the app.

Program Analyst White explained last he checked the City had received just over 200 responses. He explained based on the previous surveys once we've reached about 350 responses that's pretty good.

Interim City Manager Rains stated she is sure you're all aware the County has moved back into the extreme category. She explained Travel Oregon did not award us the grant for the mural project.

Chief Miller explained there is a press release in front of Council, as they had a busy weekend and all the Officers and Deputies that responded that night did a phenomenal job and he's very proud of them. He explained it still an ongoing investigation so this is all that he can share right now. He explained he has worked with Legal Counsel Peter Watts a long time and he wanted to tell him, well said tonight, he is very proud of him.

Councilor Miller stated he feels like they have accomplished a lot this evening. He feels this is one of the most successful City Council meetings and he attributes that to Legal Counsel Peter Watts' commentary. He thanked Peter.

Councilor McHugh explained Michael Curry is a big part of the grant, and even though we didn't get funded, his willingness to support this community is very, very commendable and he is sure he'll find other ways to keep things going but he just wanted to acknowledge that we are really fortunate to have him working with us. He said if he's offended anybody by anything he's said, he apologizes. He really thinks this is about as fine of a group of people that he has ever worked with and he is very proud to be a part of this group. He stated also he wanted to say, Peter, thank you very much for your comments because he read those two reports and he didn't know what to do or what to say. He wanted to say something, as it was very offensive to him. He stated when they say things about employees that don't live in the City and make assumptions and they don't even know these employees. He stated if they were here and saw how hard they worked and how dedicated they are, they would never say anything like that. He just wanted to know that he appreciates Peter standing up and saying what he said because he thinks it made a big difference. He stated to Chief Miller nice job with all the activity you had over there on Walnut Street. He appreciates Chief Miller's good work.

Council President Greisen stated she just wants to start off with Peter as well. She explained there were so many things that she wanted to say about the public comments that have been made as of late, some that weren't even spoken but are in written form in front of them and she is very proud to work with Peter. She thanked Chief Miller and his team for everything that occurred. She wanted to encourage the public that wherever you stand with the pool, please share your thoughts and fill out the survey, it's really important feedback for us. She explained because we do want to know what the public is interested in and we know that the cost is so heavy. This is not a light decision for us or process that we take, and it is important knowing how they feel. She explained she has a letter and a little gift; she is speaking on behalf of the Grant Watts Parents Organization, and they would like to thank the Council for their generous and meaningful contribution to the Scappoose sprouts learning garden this year through the Community Enhancement Program. They were honored and overjoyed to be the recipients of these funds last summer and since receiving the community enhancement program funds they have been able to successfully build an incredible outdoor mobile classroom at Grant Watts Elementary. The space is wonderfully complete with a large learning cabinet loaded with supplies and outdoor rolling tables that will stand the test of time with little hands. The space accommodates the classroom of students who are excited to learn outside. This much needed space offers students an opportunity to enjoy fresh air, explore life sciences and safely learn in a creative space. Space became even more important as students returned to school wearing masks. Further, the space is the launching point for the larger garden area which is in motion for this year. Every dollar that you contributed means the world to us for our students as well as the community. Thank you for your support in this project and we look forward to keeping you apprised of our progress. Thank you again, the Grant Watts Parent Organization. She stated as the Vice President of this organization, she personally wants to thank the Council. She explained they are currently wrapping up their auction which ends this Thursday. She explained you can make cash donations, or you can purchase packages in time for Mother's Day and have them delivered.



Councilor Haugen stated he wanted to comment briefly on Legal Counsel Peter Watts assertion. He stated there is no way that anyone here in this room thinks it's us against them or them against us, we just don't think that way and Scappoose is such a welcoming community, but he thinks we also have to be careful that we don't misconstrue concepts or verbiage that comes through sometimes, citizens that don't really feel that way come across the wrong way. He stated he thinks that we need to be careful not to misconstrue what is being said and people could misconstrue what Council says. He stated so we have to be careful going down that road. He stated how about we think about the artistic sphere that we haven't mounted yet, we have it as a Betty Huser commemorative. He stated what a perfect memory for her. He stated the art piece, he doesn't want to give up on that. He explained we've got Michael Curry working on the design and we could conceivably have them submit a CEP application and could have some alternative ways of funding that because what a neat commemoration for our 100-year celebration.

Mayor Burge would like to look at what the cost is for doing that art piece, because maybe there's alternative routes for us to get funding.

Interim City Manager Rains explained we are pretty far into our budget process so if this is something this coming year that Council actually wants to pursue, they would have to move some stuff around and do it quickly because of the upcoming budget meeting.

Councilor Haugen suggested the Community Enhancement Program.

Mayor Burge replied we can do that, but he'd like to at least know more about the cost details.

Councilor Poling echoed what the rest of the Council said to Peter. He stated it takes a lot for people to speak up when they get a feeling. He stated he's often challenged at that point, so he does appreciate that very much. He stated to Chief Miller he and his team did an amazing job especially with all the issues going on Nationwide. He commends them all very much. He explained he was on vacation during the time the Council and other community members signed the letter in strong support of not shutting down our County, he just wanted to make that known. He stated some businesses are hurting already and they need all of our support.

Councilor Lesowske replied he applauded Legal Counsel Peter Watts willingness to stand up and share his thoughts with Council. He stated over 30 years ago as a child to a single mother who was homeless, we came into this community of Columbia County to get our footing and we were welcomed with open arms. He does feel as though our culture is to be open and inclusive of our community and community members and again, he says thank you Peter for taking the time to share that because he thinks that those words were very powerful. He stated to Chief Miller your team did a fantastic job in creating a safe community and we are very proud of that and he asks that he please let the Officers know that we truly do appreciate all of their efforts. He stated ballots were sent out so make sure you fill those out and return them. He stated the Community Enhancement Program applications are due May 24 and he recommends local, nonprofit organization and groups provide an application, so we help support the local community.



Mayor Burge explained the Columbia County Economic Team had a strategic planning session and it went really well. He explained as you know we moved back into extreme risk and he signed the letter that Councilor Poling mentioned. He also got an email from the Governor's office asking for input this week after the announcement. He stated he let them know how he felt. He explained Governor Brown claimed that she was trying to save lives and he pointed out that she could have saved more lives by not changing the order of people and making sure that seniors and those with health issues got the shot first before politically connected groups and then he called her out for coming to Scappoose when she wasn't in line for it, she wasn't eligible to get the vaccine, she's 60 years old and even if she does have health issues which he doesn't know because that's a HIPAA thing, she doesn't qualify and he knows that because he's in the same age group. He knows the day that he became eligible, and she got it a couple weeks before that. He stated, he called her out on that, and he was actually horrified by the response from the Governor's office. They responded that she brought her own vaccine with her. So then he questioned, did she bring a vial of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, what happened to the other four doses? He explained, they responded that they gave it to four seniors in your community. He stated, what bothers him, is it is such an unbelievable statement to make coming out of the Governor's office. He explained in his email he talked about all the upgrades businesses have done and yet there was no consideration, just shut them all down and it doesn't make sense. He wanted to let Council know about the interaction that happened. He stated hopefully when this is all over, we will have a Legislature that decides that they need to take a harder look at the emergency clauses in the State of Oregon and there's more input and activity from the elected legislature than there currently is within the system because his conversations with our State Senators when this was implemented it was never foreseen to be done for a pandemic, it was more an earthquake or some sort of natural disaster.

### Adjournment

Mayor Burge adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

  
Mayor Scott Burge

  
Minutes typed by City Recorder Susan M. Reeves