

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular meeting 7:00 pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
33568 EAST COLUMBIA AVENUE
SCAPPOOSE, OREGON 97056**

Call to Order

Mayor Burge called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Scott Burge	Mayor	Alexandra Rains	Interim City Manager
Megan Greisen	Council President	Shaun Davis	Interim Police Chief
Joel Haugen	Councilor	Susan M. Reeves	City Recorder
Josh Poling	Councilor	Huell Whitehaus	Assistant to Public Works Director
Brandon Lesowske	Councilor		
Pete McHugh	Councilor		
Tyler Miller	Councilor		
Peter Watts	Legal Counsel		

Also present: CET Executive Director Paul Vogel and Fire Chief Jeff Pricher

Remote: Unknown caller.

Approval of the Agenda

Councilor Poling moved, and Councilor Haugen seconded the motion to approve the 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 ~ Items not on the agenda

Paul Fidrych, Scappoose, explained he is here to talk about the Urban Renewal funds and the Store Front Business Improvement Programs. He explained Consultant Elaine Howard gave a wonderful presentation, at the previous Council meeting, on what city's have done with these funds ranging from simply facelifts in some towns to complete transformations such as in Sandy, Oregon. He explained Elaine said more than once that Sandy is the gold standard for

Urban Renewal. He stated he thinks anyone that has been there recently would agree. He explained he feels this is an opportunity to rebrand Scappoose. Can we transform from a bedroom community of Portland to something truly wonderful, can we transform our downtown into a small, quaint and growing commercial district offering restaurants, shops, and other retail? He stated, by the way, this verbiage came directly from the Jensen Strategies Scappoose City Manager brochure. He stated should Scappoose follow Sandy's lead and use the Urban Renewal funds to transform the City, perhaps we can hire the same design consultant as Sandy and define what the look and feel of our town should be. He asked how would we go about doing that? Maybe we create a citizens committee working with the Council and the design consultant. He stated he has been talking a lot about what our town is all about as part of the centennial committee and a lot of it was talking about our past but also our future, embracing the future. He thinks this is a great chance to embrace the future. He stated one of the things that he has noticed around this town when he asks what we are all about is how beautiful it is, the outdoor and the recreational opportunities. He stated similar to Hood River, who is about the same size as us, we have many amenities that should be amplified, namely our forest topography with panoramic views of the Cascade Mountains, Scappoose Marina's giving access to the Columbia River of boating and water sports, Scappoose Bay offering world class paddle board, kayaking and other water sports, and the CZ trail for running, walking and biking. Rocky Point, for those who don't know, is 3,000 acres of mountain biking trails which is just right outside Scappoose City limits. He stated it is the largest mountain biking area in the greater Portland area and beyond. He stated in the future our plans are for the South Scappoose nature trail, Chapman Landing waterfront park, and many others that he probably missed. He explained the economic development will come, along with increased quality of life. Rebrand the downtown with the focus on the downtown core East Columbia Avenue and SE 2nd Street. Eating establishments, pubs, and shops with the same look and feel will create a holistic experience to help redefine our quaint, small town, big community. He asked the Council to direct the City staff to undertake this exercise. He thanked Council.

Council thanked Paul.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 897: Amendments to Municipal Code Chapter 2.04, Council Meetings

Interim City Manager Alexandra Rains explained in your packets this evening you will see that staff made adjustments from the last meeting, which are in red.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts explained there are some things that are just decision points like the length of public comment and then there are others that Council didn't necessarily give staff direct language to use but they tried to figure out where we are going with it and address Council's concerns with those.

Councilor McHugh thinks under public comments that we are probably better with going with three minutes, versus saying three to five minutes. He explained if we need to extend it beyond three minutes, they can do it at that time.

Mayor Burge reopened the public hearing at 7:07pm.

Marisa Jacobs, Scappoose, thanked Council for reopening the hearing for allowing her to speak on this agenda item. She stated there are two topics as it relates to the body of work Council is covering that she wanted to speak on. She explained after attending the Council session the week prior, there was a lot of conversation regarding meeting minutes. She explained the conversation was trending more toward the removal of written meeting minutes to be replaced with the video recording to meet the documentation requirement. She explained this recommendation is quite concerning given the purpose of meeting minutes is an official record of actions the Council took at a meeting and not a record of everything that was said. She explained they serve as a historical purpose but just as important they serve as a legal purpose documenting the groups adherence to proper procedures. She explained the recording of council session documents everything that was said, however, the recordings are not always 100%, the audio is awful. She explained this issue was raised to the Interim City Manager in March and in April of this year and they have not improved. Please accept this as another request to fix the audio of the recordings. Additionally, this recommendation comes across as a way to limit or detour citizens from keeping up to date with Council activities by referring them to the video session. Unfortunately, not all citizens are able to watch two-hour sessions or if we look at it from a staff perspective, she is sure there is going to be times when they need to review historical meeting minutes for their work and having staff go back and watch videos, she doesn't think is a good productive use of their time. She thinks the right thing to do here for meeting minutes is stick with best practice standards across all government agencies that utilize meeting minutes and please keep with the documented meeting minutes and use the video as a supplement referral for the actual minutes. She explained the second item was with respect to public comment. She explained she is in agreement with Councilor Haugen who has recommending extending public comment to five minutes, versus three. She explained three is definitely not enough time to be extremely thoughtful to bring an issue forward to Council and limiting citizens to speak on topics that are not listed on the agenda is concerning. She stated when the public has an issue, they need your attention. They don't always have the luxury of reviewing the agenda in advance prior to coming to speak with Council and she would hope that the goal would be to encourage citizens input and participation versus limiting participation and making it more bureaucratic. She stated we are a small town, and she would hope that the goal is to encourage more participation versus less, so she is kindly asking that Council remove the restrictions to allow public comments for any topic and to increase the speaking time. She thanked Council.

Council thanked Marisa.

Mayor Burge closed the public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts stated he thinks there are two things; one is if we have a public hearing particularly on land use matters it is really important that we understand what is in the public record or not and so for those public hearings we would want members of the public to

testify on those items during that time versus during a public comment time. He is not aware of any other restrictions from public comment.

Mayor Burge asked does it make sense; the standard is not on items that have public hearings attached? He stated even in a second reading the public hearing has already been had and normally they don't reopen the public hearing like they did today.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied, yes. He explained they can testify about whatever they would like. He stated if we do have a public hearing on the subject though our preference would be that they comment on it during that public hearing itself rather than during the public comment just so that we have one record. He stated that is what we were trying to get at with that. He stated as far as the written minutes, again the reason they suggested that language was we had a situation where the person that normally does the minutes was out and under the prior language, we were concerned that it would be required to have the minutes, which we didn't really have someone to prepare them. He stated we said if prepared, not intending that would eliminate written minutes, but if there was a situation where the minutes were not available to be considered by Council that wouldn't create a problem for us. He stated obviously we want the audio quality of any recording to be as good as possible. He explained sometimes it is tough talking through masks and when we have people on the phone, but he thinks we have all learned to pull the mics towards us, so hopefully we will avoid some of that in the future. He stated as far as the limit for the public comments, he and Interim City Manager Rains were aware that most jurisdictions do three or five, three being the most common number, but it is really whatever Council determines is the right answer for you.

Council President Greisen stated thank you for clarifying the minutes, she was under the impression that we had changed that because it was saying that we had to have minutes prepared by the next meeting for approval and that wasn't happening because whoever was preparing them was out and we weren't able to have them at the next meeting. She definitely doesn't want this to read that a video will replace written minutes. She was under that impression that the written minutes are still our standard, just that the previous language said they had to be ready for approval at the next meeting. She stated as long as it reads, and they all feel comfortable, is that the standard is written minutes, but if they can't be available by the next meeting a video posted serves as those minutes, until the written minutes are able to be prepared.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied that is absolutely correct and he thinks Council would be very concerned if we stopped, and so of course we wouldn't want to stop because we don't want Council to be very concerned.

Council President Greisen explained she is in favor of five minutes for the public comment period.

Councilor Poling agrees that five minutes would be a good number. He asked, regarding the minutes, if a future Council or staff decided they didn't want to do written minutes would they be allowed to go that option with the way the wording is?

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied if you told them to prepare written minutes and they were just defying your directive, he thinks they would probably have a problem with the city manager. And, if the city manager told them to defy your directives, then he thinks the city manager would probably have a problem with the Council. And, generally if it is a priority of yours, we are going to do everything we can in order to make it a priority.

Council President Greisen stated following up on what Councilor Poling talked about, if another Council came in and didn't see this as a priority as they do, is it explicit here that they are still required to have the minutes. She is not seeing that, and she thinks there needs to be more language like, "prepared within 30 days or....". She would rather have a little more detail when it says written minutes if prepared, or not prepared within 30 days the video is the supplement.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied if a future Council decided they didn't want written minutes that wouldn't be something that you as a Council today could prohibit them from deciding. He stated, practically speaking, you can't bind a future council except for on issues of like bonds, would be one example where you could.

Mayor Burge stated he thinks we ran into a timely thing and that is why we want to say the video will be that until the minutes can be done. He explained if a future council wants to change it from written minutes, they need to face the community and tell them they are doing it through changing the ordinance. He feels it should be in there that written minutes will be done.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts stated we could say written minutes shall be prepared in a timely fashion and that would give us a little bit of flexibility as far as if someone was on vacation, but he will make it clear that the expectation is written minutes will be prepared.

Councilor Miller stated he is for five minutes on public comments. He suggested the Council direct staff to put something in there about preparing Council minutes as soon as reasonably possible.

Mayor Burge stated he thinks there is a building consensus for five minutes, so he thinks it is five minutes.

Councilor Haugen stated deleting the, if prepared, and replacing it with, in a timely fashion, or something like that.

Mayor Burge talked about the section of special and emergency meetings, if the Mayor or Council President aren't available, about how to run a meeting. He would like to add after the

city manager or designee will coordinate the time and place of the meeting. He stated or mayor.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied we could say city manager, mayor or designee. He stated that would give us maximum flexibility.

Councilor McHugh asked about meetings starting at 6pm and how would we do public comments?

Mayor Burge replied we would do public comments at 7pm.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts explained the process of having public comments at 7pm, if Council decided to start work sessions/meetings at 6pm. He explained the reason why they did 7pm is we wanted to make sure people knew exactly when they could give public comment.

Councilor Haugen asked we are going to be meeting at 6pm whether there is a work session or not, is that correct?

Interim City Manager Rains replied correct.

Councilor McHugh stated the concern he has is if we start the meeting at 6pm and someone comes at 7pm to give public comment, we've already covered that item that they want to comment on are they just missing the opportunity?

Mayor Burge replied he was just actually thinking that very thought. He explained there are times we have meetings that are short.

Councilor Miller asked what was the intent of going to 6pm?

Legal Counsel Peter Watts explained the intent was we have had a number of incidences where we have had a work session that started at 6pm and it went for fifteen minutes, then there was a forty-five-minute break and then we have had incidences where we had a work session at 6pm that went right into the Council meeting at 7pm and there was no time to get guidance. He explained the idea was that if Council needed an extra fifteen minutes to complete the work session, we would have that flexibility or if the work session only lasted fifteen minutes we could start the Council meeting, and he thinks what we discussed was having the nonpublic hearing agenda items first, something like councilor concerns or councilor updates. Then there was the concern Council had of making sure the public knew when they could comment, which he absolutely understands. So regardless of if it is a work session or council meeting, the public comment would be at a set time and that would meet those community concerns and also give Council the flexibility to conduct the meetings and work sessions as you wish.

Mayor Burge explained his preference is, he is not so concerned about elected council members or staff having to break and wait around. His concern is a meeting that bumps up

against the seven o'clock hour and then people might have to wait. He'd prefer the council meetings start at 7pm or as soon as the work session wraps up or in that case they break out and do the 7pm public comments. He thinks if there is an item on the agenda it's a 6pm meeting and if we say at 7pm they can give public comments, he doesn't want the public comments to be at the end because it tells people we are not interested in what they are saying, we are trying to make them as bored as possible through the entire meeting.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied we can go back to how you've traditionally always done it. He stated the idea was to add flexibility, but it seems like at this point there is a lot of confusion.

Councilor Poling asked about having a work session after the meeting.

Councilor Lesowske replied he would be curious how that would be with scheduling for our guest speakers that would be in the work session. He stated based on the conversation thus far, he would say maybe continuing as our 6pm for work session and 7pm for council meetings would allow for us to have consistency and maybe reevaluate this in the future.

Councilor McHugh replied he agrees.

Councilor Haugen stated the fact that we have conditioned the citizenry for decades for a 7pm meeting, trying to change that kind of behavior is really difficult. He would be leery of going to the 6pm start. He stated we can adjust for the public comment to make sure everybody has an opportunity to express themselves.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied, we can do that.

Mayor Burge explained if the work session needs to be continued what he would recommend is they adjourn the work session, call the meeting to order, then after public comment they would continue the work session and then go through the rest of the agenda.

Interim City Manager Rains asked if Council still wants to state public comments will be at 7pm or get rid of that because she doesn't know that it is needed if you are going back to a 7pm start.

Mayor Burge replied exactly, leaving it where it's at is fine.

Mayor Burge continued Ordinance No. 897 to the next meeting.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Interim City Manager Alexandra Rains explained this is a continuation from two meetings ago where they first broached the topic of how you all want to spend the ARPA funds. She

explained staff has come back with additional information that was requested. She explained staff is looking for some input and direction on next steps.

Marisa Jacobs explained on this topic, again there was a lot of conversation when this came up, a lot of good questions that Council asked. She explained her request for Council is just to, supporting what she heard Council Member McHugh as well as we had a public comment, she believes was Paul who made the public comment, on perhaps putting together a work session on how these monies can be utilized. She explained we have a very wonderful opportunity with these dollars, we also do not have to rush to spend these dollars. We do have a few years in her understanding of reading through the documentation. She thinks it would be most prudent that we spend this money wisely in our town versus just going with maybe what other counties have allocated. She stated there is an opportunity that we have to make an investment in our community that could actually benefit our families. If you read through the fine print, we could actually use some of this money, just as one example she is sharing tonight, to help put in place another childcare facility in Scappoose. She explained that would be extremely helpful for families in our community to help them get back to work by having additional childcare within our community. She is kindly asking that Council be prudent and go slow and really investigate how we can utilize these funds for the betterment of the entire community.

Council thanked Marisa.

Assistant to Public Works Director Huell Whitehaus went over additional City options for funding. He explained he did quite a bit of research on the interim final rule published by the US Department of Treasury, as well as their facts and questions guidelines that were published shortly thereafter, as well as a very informative webinar that the League of Oregon Cities put together. He explained one thing he heard from Interim City Manager Rains and by watching the recording of the last meeting to give him a starting point to do some additional research, there are two examples that are recent and were made publicly known in terms of their use of the premium pay or hazard pay or Covid bonuses, however you want to talk about it, but premium pay is the actual language from the Interim Final Rules. He stated the State of Oregon was the first to do so for their employees, the information is in the packet. He went over the premium pay programs that the State of Oregon has in addition to the City of Sweet Home.

Councilor Haugen stated he is going to take Marisa's suggestion that we take Councilor McHugh's suggestion to form a work session and do a robust work session where we can get all of the elements, there are a lot of moving parts to this particular bill. He explained you can create loan projects through this, you can pool funds for broader projects. He explained there are all kinds of things that we really don't understand and can't get our hands around at this point. He stated if we are thoughtful about the process, and we do a really good community work session and invite the public and we explore some of these things. He explained we can invite, for example, Senator Wyden's staff member to come. He highly encourages Council to

move this forward, to start with a robust thoughtful community work session and then we can really do this right and spend the money the way we should spend it.

Mayor Burge explained his most comfortable areas on funding right now are the water meters, but he does have some questions on that. He would like to see if we do a work session that it is a joint work session with the budget committee. He stated there are some items on the list that he thinks we need to seriously consider, like the premium pay, the water meters, the Fire District request, and the CET request. He stated Marisa was right about the lack of childcare in the community and he was thinking about that over the last couple of weeks because he remembers people coming to Council over the lack of childcare and the high entry to some buildings if there has never been a childcare facility there and what are the numbers that we use for childcare facilities on some of our system development charges and buildings. He explained if there is a program where we can help bump some of these needs in the community through these funds, he thinks we should take a serious look at it. He thinks by bringing in the budget committee and interested citizens to a work session, it could create the ability to have a package that is really good.

Councilor Miller asked what the timeline would be because he is hearing that we have a lot of time, but at the same time he is thinking there are a couple things listed that might be time sensitive, like the premium pay, there are some other issues with that too that he thinks we will want to do sooner than later. He stated if it is the consensus of Council that we do a work session or something similar to that, that maybe we would do it in phases. He asked City Manager Rains if there is anything on the list that she believes is urgent, that has a timeline, because that might be useful for Council to hear.

Interim City Manager Rains replied sure and also, she would want to extend this question Paul and Jeff to get their input on the items that they have requested. She stated for instance, if the premium pay in any fashion is something Council wants to look into further, particularly for the police department, she wouldn't be asking Council to make any solid decision tonight, but it would be good to get some kind of direction that it would be something they are interested in so that staff can go gather more information. She explained that could be somewhat time sensitive. She stated the water meter replacement, again if we could space it out differently, they could not allocate all the money being requested by the public works department but getting some of that going so we could start those replacements would be good. She explained there are some discounts associated with replacing them all at once. She explained they weren't really expecting any final decisions by any means, it's just more if there is anything on the list that Council is thinking is an absolute no and staff can take it off the list. If Council is still interested in it, they can keep looking into it. She explained it is just more of a check in point to see what Council is thinking about these items. She explained Huell did check a little bit into childcare and it is potentially possible depending how you do it, who you give the money to can create certain complications. She stated that is a big question on how do you want to fund that.

She stated some of this is going to be time sensitive but a lot of this was really just that they wanted further direction on what and how you want this to lay out and what comes next.

Councilor Miller explained the only thing he would ask is sooner than later they make a decision on the premium pay portion because if he put himself in the shoes of the employees that are wondering if they are going to get this, he would want to know sooner than later.

Council President Greisen asked if Councilor Miller is specifically talking just about patrol officers and command staff for the police department or just all?

Councilor Miller replied, not necessarily. He doesn't think he can say that he would be concerned as somebody that might be getting that money and only say that it is for police, he thinks it is for the whole City and anybody that could be impacted by that.

Councilor Lesowske asked for clarification on the premium pay. He asked is that including our police department staff and so if we were to increase their base pay utilizing these funds would they be getting an additional payout from the funding of this?

Interim City Manager Rains replied we could do it so they did, or we could do it so they don't, it is really up to Council.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts explained part of the issue with timing is that there are two different unions that represent different City employees, and we would have to negotiate with both because this would be outside of our contracted agreement. He explained we received a letter from one of those unions supporting this. He explained the other thing is for certain positions, depending on the pay, we, as the staff, have to adopt written findings for those so that is going to take a little bit of time. He explained our thought is if this is a nonstarter we would want to know now just because of the amount of work that would be necessary in order to prepare and negotiate with the unions and then tell them it isn't going to happen. He explained there is some flexibility in this, but this round was for some very specific purposes particularly water and sewer infrastructure. He explained on one hand you have some flexibility and on the other hand depending on the category you have to be very specific.

Councilor Miller stated with that context in mind, would it be practical for Council to say that as a Council, yes, we do want to do premium pay or whatever that aspect looks like for employees and it sounds like there needs to be some research done and get started on that?

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied right, we would have to do a little bit more research.

Councilor Lesowske thanked staff for their time and effort to bring Council this information to help in the decision-making process and he is in support further investigating how they can

utilize the funds for premium pay, specifically with our patrol officers and command staff but he would also like for, he guesses as a home work assignment as we prepare for those discussions, an understanding of what the market value of our current staff are in these positions comparatively to others. He stated the investment into this will help bring up, potentially, recruitment of vacant positions, longevity of our staff for these positions, but he is also curious in knowing that after these funds have been utilized that there is an understanding that there would be an additional amount of money coming out of our budget to keep those payments/steps filled. He just wants us to be fully aware that that is to be taken into consideration. He explained, in regard to the Covid premium pay he would say to Huell, thank you for taking the time to reach out and understand, because the information that was provided definitely gives him better insights to understand what like size communities are utilizing or what the State of Oregon has done, and he knows there were folks that were showing up every day and he thinks we need to acknowledge that. He stated being able to help those who helped out the community is something that he would want to put forward with some urgency as well.

Interim City Manager Rains explained she is looking into salaries for comparable police departments and is speaking with some consultants who might be able to do a more thorough salary assessment. She explained this will be helpful for the police department either way.

Councilor Poling stated for everything that is on the list, personally he can agree that there isn't anything on there that he would want to take off, but maybe looking at the different options and having an opportunity to sit down and really dive into these individually would be good, sooner than later. He stated the only other thing he would say is maybe look more into the childcare side for the possibilities. He is wondering about a grant side for the system development charges, some way it wouldn't be specific to one type of person or anything else, but something that we could do to help promote adding childcare to the community.

Councilor McHugh stated he doesn't think we should be talking about this in any great detail at this time. He thinks we need to move this all forward to a work session and go from there. He stated we are having a work session so we can figure this all out. He stated it might be extra work for the City, but we are not on any timeline. His concern is that we get it right and we do what is in the best interest of the community and he has some concerns about premium pay for staff. He doesn't see how it fits in the guidelines and he is probably the most generous person on salaries, and he wants our staff to be the best paid of a community our size anywhere in the State. He doesn't see how that fits and he was told, or we got the guidelines, that it doesn't have to fit as long as the CEO says it does fit. He didn't see that anywhere in the guidelines.

Council President Greisen replied she thinks that is a completely inappropriate comment to make.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied premium pay is specifically addressed in the treasury guidelines. He explained what would probably make sense is for staff to bring in the treasury guidelines so you can get an idea. He stated there is the techno speak, but there is also the spirit of them.

Mayor Burge asked Chief Pricher and Executive Director Vogel what are their timelines?

CET Executive Director Paul Vogel explained their timeline is such that as soon as they have reached their commitment of \$700,000 budget for four years, they will announce the center and begin hiring. He stated the sooner that happens the better. If we're in line for congressional appropriation in 2022 and we don't have the center up and operating, he doesn't know whether that affects the appropriation or not. He stated their timeline is such that they are trying to get this open because they know there are businesses that need it. He received two calls today from people that are looking for business counseling and business advice. He stated he certainly understands the interest in being very strategic about this and they tried to assist in that regard by doing a strategic plan and actually getting the Statewide Network to buy into that and fund almost fifty percent of it. He stated this ask for a four-year period comes down to about \$71 dollars per business in Scappoose. He stated the sooner they have it, the sooner they will make the commitment and get the process started. He explained in regard to childcare, they are involved in a couple ways; one is a County work group around childcare and childcare was complicated before the pandemic and it's even more complicated now. He explained they are working on developing some programs that are modeled after some that are already working in Tillamook. They are also working on some on a regional basis and then last week when he was meeting with the Statewide Small Business Center Director, there is two hundred and fifty million dollars in childcare funding coming to the State. He asked what can he do to help deploy those funds to help childcare businesses be viable businesses. He explained the Small Business Center is now working with the State, not to get a share of that funding, but to make their small business actually probably hire childcare related business advisors on a regional basis.

Fire Chief Jeff Pricher explained with respect to timeline for the Fire District, they are in a situation where they are always trying to replace equipment, so as soon as they get notification from the City that it is something they could move forward on, they would be putting an order in on an ambulance immediately. He explained with the build times today of over a year for equipment, the sooner they can get an order in the better, just because supply and demand is really challenging.

Councilor Miller stated so what he is hearing is Council should probably try to make a decision on these funds sooner than later. He does think that the information the City Manager Rains is working on is important so perhaps we should table this until we get a better answer on how long it's going to take to get that information. Please, he thinks that information is relevant, but

perhaps we should try to get something scheduled as far as a work group sooner than later so we can address how we are going to allocate these funds.

Council President Greisen stated, on the other potential projects researched, the fourth bullet, that was kind of connected to her being the School District liaison. She explained she met with the Superintendent, she knows they received funds, but just asked in the broad scope what are some things they might need. She explained at this point they seemed fine, but if we did have to go back into full distance learning they would need more tablets/laptops. She did talk to the Superintendent about as we are experiencing with our own microphones, her kids are soft speakers, if there was a microphone that they could pass around the classroom so they could hear each other better. She explained the Superintendent and the admin team will be having a meeting and he'll be getting more information back on what their needs are. She asked does the Council feel like we're talking about a work session that you feel comfortable with her saying this is what the Superintendent has suggested, or this is what they need, or do you feel like you need a representative from the School District to prepare something. She just wants to make sure that the best information in detail is coming forward and it's literally from them to her to Interim City Manager Rains.

Councilor Poling replied for him we need a starting point and having a work session gives us that starting point. Now whether they get everything figured out at that point or it takes longer, he thinks we need to get working on this because there are needs for funds even though we do have time he would like to at least put our best foot forward with this.

Mayor Burge stated the great thing is there can be unallocated funds that we can spend later as the need becomes apparent. His preference is that we do a joint meeting with the Budget Committee and then also have an opportunity for community members to comment on what they think the funds should be spent on, but obviously it can't just be spent on anything.

Councilor Haugen stated to Interim City Manager Rains, if you would reach out to Senator Wyden's Portland staff and see if we can't get someone who is knowledgeable and understands the nuance of this whole recovery bill and the same thing with Congresswomen Bonamici's office, and if they are willing to come out and add to the conversation, we can only benefit from that.

Councilor McHugh thinks it is important to include the School District in this process and he is glad Council President Greisen is doing that.

Interim City Manager Alexandra Rains gave a recap of the items she heard Council would like additional information on from staff.

Update on Utility Assistance

Interim City Manager Alexandra Rains explained this is just a quick report. She explained there were some questions a while back on what, if any, assistance the City would provide if someone had a hardship with paying utility bills. She explained we don't have an individual program here. We did have a short-lived program with some previous Covid money, but we don't have one currently. She explained what we do is we either direct people to Community Action Team or the Salvation Army.

Announcements – information only

Calendar

Mayor Burge went over the calendar.

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

Interim City Manager Rains explained there was some follow up to public comment and it is actually in the department head report under the police section. She explained looking back on her notes from public comments, there was a gentleman who talked about a fireworks code update. She stated if that is something Council is interested in, we would just need some direction on how you would want to direct that and when. She explained the other thing is our City Prosecutor has announced that he's going to be retiring so we are preparing an RFP for that position and in years past we had a couple members of Council on the selection committee for that process. She asked Mayor Burge if he wanted to think about some members of Council for that process.

Mayor Burge asked Council if they are interested in assisting with the City Prosecutor process to let him know.

Councilor Lesowske, Councilor Haugen and Councilor Miller volunteered to be on the City Prosecutor interview committee.

Interim Chief Davis explained the public comment follow up is the department report. He explained on Saturday they had the Out of the Darkness Walk and this was the only in person walk in the entire State. They had a very good turnout despite the rain. He explained Oregon Impact, the group that puts out grants and different stuff to the police departments for traffic safety, DUII grants, and pedestrian safety to make our streets safer, dropped off some yard signs to be picked up by the community if they want to emphasize the important traffic safety messages about distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding, pedestrian safety, etc. If any community member is interested in getting a sign, please contact the police department.

Councilor Miller thanked staff for all the work they are doing, especially on the Covid funds and the vision or the ordinance as well.

Councilor Poling stated he likes the follow up information provided in the department reports.

Council President Greisen explained she met with the School Superintendent about funds. Her and Interim Police Chief Davis are going to meet out at one of the elementary schools for drop-off routine. She explained the School District is just kind of concerned about some procedures this year.

Councilor Haugen stated a shout out to staff and Council, everyone has their nose to the grindstone, so that's good. He stated the Park and Rec meeting was this last week. He stated the Park and Rec would like the City to reach out to the School District to recreate the liaison that was on the Park & Rec Committee for a number of years and that was successful. He explained the Park and Rec Committee would like to get some small stuff done, just to feel good about what they are doing, and it is related to the School District as well. They would like to paint pickle ball lines on one of the tennis courts. He explained the Park and Rec Committee would like an opportunity to review all park related RFP's before they go out, they would like to review and comment, because they have a lot of skill and talent, and they might spot something that might be useful.

Councilor Lesowske explained this past weekend he was really excited to see the turnout of local athletics taking place within our community. This is the first time in nearly two years that a lot of our youth programs were able to host events here in Scappoose. He explained it was drawing in people from Hillsboro and the greater Portland area to visit and see our wonderful community here in Scappoose, but more importantly he thinks it was just a great way for people to come together safely and then also that our youth are being able to be active and continue to build on their interests and their bonds with one another. It was really exciting to see. He appreciates that was able to take place. Besides that, he knows that there is always something going on here in the City of Scappoose and he would like to say to staff, thank you for all the work you are doing to keep our community moving forward and also creating a safe community for us.

Councilor McHugh replied he would like to follow up and say the same thing regarding our staff, you do great work for us and he knows every one of these meetings we have, there's work that goes into it and we appreciate that. He would also like to mention that he attended the Out of the Darkness Walk and he is sure there were more than 200 people there. It was by far the largest that we have had. He stated kudos to Timmi Sue for all the work she put into it and everyone else involved. He stated also he would like to follow up on a comment made by Mr. Fidrych that he thinks in our long-term planning, he knows branding is in there somewhere, but he thinks it is really critical that we get moving on that as soon as we can. He stated maybe it can be part of our 50-year plan. He stated that is a big piece that's missing right now, that who are we, we need to have identity and he believes Elaine's comments were very timely and hopefully we can use some of those Urban Renewal funds or other funds. He does think it is important and we need to get rolling as soon as we can.

Mayor Burge explained in the next couple of years 911 is going to be going out for a bond, it looks like, and it is kind of an important thing for our first responders to make sure that they can properly communicate. He stated in that thought process and discussions, he knows that Councilor Miller, who is probably the most knowledgeable person when it comes to communications systems on this Council, so for the time being and since we have an interim chief and will be looking for a new chief, and having a Councilor as a liaison for the 911 Board he was hoping Council would accept his idea for Councilor Miller to be a liaison to the 911 Board to be able to get information for us so that the Council and the City knows that whatever is being put out there is going to meet the needs of not only our police department but the fire district as well. He wants to make sure that everyone is on the same page. He explained the City and the Fire District have put out measures for money and we understand that building a team that understands the message to getting out why do we need this much money to do this is very important. If the message is reduced capacity, you are not going to get the money, people just aren't going to vote for it or support it. He stated we need to make sure whatever gets put out there and any ask for our tax paying citizens because everybody that lives in this community will end up paying as a part of their property taxes for this. We need to make sure that the City, police department, and our partners at the Fire District are on board with whatever 911 is trying to propose. He would like to have Councilor Miller represent us and be able to report back to us and maybe teach us a little bit about communication systems. He asked if it was okay with Council.

The general consensus was yes.

Mayor Burge stated he thinks the Out of the Darkness Walk has been one of the real successes that the Police Department has put on. He likes seeing the Police Department and Officers doing the extra outreach to the community and really getting to know the community and to show there are more sides to being a police officer than just writing them a ticket. He stated it is about being a part of the Cities team to make a better community. He stated we appreciate everything they do.

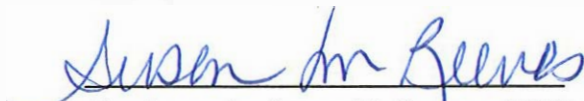
Councilor Poling commended Chief Pricher and his staff on the decent sized fires that happened in our community. They did a phenomenal job at keeping those under control.

Adjournment

Mayor Burge adjourned the meeting at 8:3 p.m.


Mayor Scott Burge

Attest:


City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC