



# SCAPPOOSE *Oregon*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS\*33568 EAST COLUMBIA AVENUE\*SCAPPOOSE, OREGON 97056

## Call to Order

Mayor Backus called the February 21, 2023 City Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

## Pledge of Allegiance

## Roll Call

Joseph A. Backus	Mayor	Alexandra Rains	City Manager
Megan Greisen	Council President (previously remote/arrived at 8:46pm)	Steven Lougal	Police Chief
Pete McHugh	Councilor	Susan M. Reeves	City Recorder
Tyler Miller	Councilor	Dave Sukau	Public Works Director
Jeannet Santiago	Councilor	Huell Whitehaus	Assistant to Public Works Director
Kim Holmes	Councilor		
Andrew Lafrenz	Councilor		

Peter Watts                      Legal Counsel

**Also Present:** Planning Commissioner Monica Ahlers (left at 7:35pm); Planning Commissioner Rita Bernhard (left at 7:14pm); Planning Commissioner Bill Blank (left at 7:35pm); Planning Commissioner Ty Bailey (left at 7:35pm); and Consultant Darci Rudzinski with Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc. (dba MIG Inc) (left at 7:35pm).

**Remote:** Council President Megan Greisen (left at 8:36pm); Planning Commissioner Marisa Jacobs (left at 8:17pm); Paul Fidrych (left at 8:21pm); Joel Haugen (left at 8:36pm); Mike (left at 9:01pm); and Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman (joined at 7:50pm).

## Approval of the Agenda

Councilor McHugh moved, and Councilor Santiago seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended to add the continuation of the work session on the Parks Master Plan update. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor McHugh, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; and Councilor Lafrenz, aye.

## **Public Comment**

Terry Brooks, Scappoose, explained he has only been on the Park and Rec Committee for just a little over a month. He handed out information on his vision and then went over it.

### **MY VISION**

- New Middle School funding for new construction next to the HS
  - Convert old middle school in a New Rec Center/ Community Center and Senior Center
  - Introduce new activities for all ages: 2-5, K-19, 20-35, 36-55 and 55+
  - New and Existing Activities for recreation, leagues or tournaments
  - Billiards, Ping Pong, Pickle Ball, Roller Hockey, Tennis, 3 on 3 weekend basketball tournaments, 4 on 4 weekend flag football tournaments, 5 on 5 weekend soccer tournaments, 6 on 6 weekend double or nothing baseball tournaments, etc.
  - New Rec Center Calendar to increase "The Activities" for all
  - Utilize the New Rec Center/ Senior Center/ Community Center to support all existing programs etc., Bingo, Quilting, Ceramics, Tai Chi, Wood Working, Gardening
  - Funding
  - Developing the Senior Center land into additional housing would relate to increased property taxes and additional income for Scappoose
  - The Rec Center Calendar with Tournaments, Leagues, Lessons, and Recreational use would generate additional income. Housing for the support programs equipment and meetings could increase income for this project.
  - The community would need to support the programs and see the benefits that it brings to our community.
  - Should consider pre school kids to support ages 2-5 for additional income and give parents an alternative to day care.
- \*\*end of Terry's handout\*\***

Mayor Backus thanked Terry.

## **Continued ~ Work Session ~ Parks Master Plan Update**

Councilor Holmes talked about the level of service numbers. She stated it still seems that our target acres per thousand people are lower than the national average in general but even lower than communities of under 10,000. She stated 12.9 acres per thousand people for cities of less than 20,000. She asked how did we land on 7.9 acres?

Consultant Darci Rudzinski replied just trying to be realistic with the size of the community as well as the assets that you have and the amount of land you have to program and maintain. She stated it is a target, it's a guideline. She explained you could set your level of service to be similar to or greater than what they have suggested but that would also suggest that you need more park land and hence you'd also need to maintain and program more parkland. She explained they are trying to provide direction that is actionable and if you set the target that is

so high that you commit yourself to many more acres of parkland you kind of set up an expectation that something is going to happen on that land.

Councilor Holmes replied she can appreciate that, but her concern is that it was mentioned that this is a document that's supposed to guide us 20 years into the future and we are looking at funding mechanisms to make these goals realities and all of that, are we shortchanging ourselves in some way by saying we are going to set our average at nearly 30% less than the National average or about 25% less than the National average. She doesn't know if she feels real comfortable saying that that's the trajectory of Scappoose for the next 20 years.

Mayor Backus asked if we know is St. Helens acres per 1000?

Consultant Darci Rudzinski replied when you are comparing yourself with communities you also need to look at the funding mechanisms that they have available and that is possible to do. She stated this is something you can revisit as far as a planning tool. She explained her parks planner thought this was quite ambitious. It is definitely moving you towards a kind of a higher standard, if you will, from what you have existing. She explained we are going to be helping the community set some priorities and make some decisions about near-term, medium term, and long-term kind of actions. She explained typically you do revisit long range plans.

Planning Commissioner Ty Bailey asked are we looking at amount of service areas versus distance to service area? Like how many people are in the neighborhood when we are looking at a neighborhood park.

Consultant Darci Rudzinski replied no, we are just looking at the type of land use, basically residential areas.

Planning Commissioner Marisa Jacobs explained she too is concerned that we are not setting very good aspirational goals for ourselves as it relates to our park system. She thinks this is a plan that we should be striving to do better, to at least hit the average, if not more. She would like to see that taken into account. She has heard several times that we are financially constrained. She asked who is going to be showing them what the budget would need to be in order for us to get there, what the staff levels would need to be, and we can go about getting the funding in order to be more of a best in class versus just mediocre.

Consultant Darci Rudzinski replied that is part of the next steps and it is information that will be forthcoming for your consideration.

Councilor McHugh stated he wonders if we should be including the School District somehow.

Consultant Darci Rudzinski replied it is a bit tricky because they do serve a recreational purpose, but they are not owned, operated, controlled, or maintained by the City and all access is really not available either. A relationship with the School District and the level of access the community does have to those properties have been identified in the needs assessment. Those

partnerships are important. The greater that partnership, the more availability, the more opportunity that you have as a community.

Mayor Backus talked about all four schools being basically on one campus with one play structure so that won't do anything for people over in the southwest side of town but maybe that is where he could live with a 7.98% or 8% if he knows we have a really good relationship with the Schools, and they have plenty of parks and stuff for us as well. He explained if they don't then he thinks we need 10% because the community will benefit more. He asked what are the next steps.

Consultant Darci Rudzinski replied we have the prioritization criteria, some framework by which to choose from all the amazing things that you have or could be doing for your parks system. The site recommendations they have a draft of that internal but will be sending that to the Parks and Recreation Committee for their March meeting. She explained there are many recommendations for each park, for each area that doesn't have a park that maybe should have or could have a neighborhood park. They have done a description, a vision statement, for each of those parks and then as part of the next steps for those parks; what should be developed, what could be developed. It is kind of an extensive list for each of the properties. From that then the prioritization criteria will help narrow down. She explained you are probably not going to be able to tackle all of them for every single property. She explained they will come back to hopefully both of these bodies after the Annual Town Meeting.

Mayor Backus explained Councilor Santiago is the liaison to the Park and Rec Committee so if you have information, she can pass it on to them.

Council thanked Darci for all her work.

Darci Rudzinski replied she will transmit that back to the team.

**Consent Agenda ~ January 3, 2023 City Council meeting minutes; January 17, 2023 City Council meeting minutes (January 3 & January 17 minutes did not get voted on at the February 6, 2023 meeting); February 6, 2023 City Council meeting minutes; and Appointment of Beth Rajske to the Budget Committee**

Councilor Holmes moved, and Councilor Lafrenz seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda ~ January 3, 2023 City Council meeting minutes; January 17, 2023 City Council meeting minutes; February 6, 2023 City Council meeting minutes; and Appointment of Beth Rajske to the Budget Committee. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor McHugh, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; and Councilor Lafrenz, aye.

### **New Business**

## City Attorney Contracts

Legal Counsel Peter Watts stepped out of the room.

City Manager Alexandra Rains went over her staff report. The City's current contracts with our legal counsel, Peter O. Watts PC for general services and Beery, Elsner and Hammond (BE&H) for personnel and collective bargaining, are set to reach five (5) years in April, 2023. According to the Request for Proposal (RFP) that was issued in 2018, once these agreements have been in place for five (5) years, Council shall decide whether to extend services or issue another RFP. Mr. Watts is charging the City at a flat rate of \$6,000 per month. This rate has been in place since January 2021. Mr. Watts is entitled to adjust his rates annually per the existing agreement. No rate increases have been proposed at this time. Beery, Elsner and Hammond is charging the City at an hourly rate, top billing is currently at \$285 per hour and we have averaged approximately \$10,000 per month over the last six (6) months. Since the initial agreement was signed in 2018, BE&H has raised their rates twice, most recently in November 2022, although they are entitled to adjust their rates annually per the existing agreement. No additional rate increases have been proposed at this time. If new legal counsel is selected all costs are to be determined. Costs for general counsel services vary greatly depending on the experience of the attorney, whether they are solo practice or part of a firm and other mitigating factors. Labor attorneys often charge \$300 or more per hour, but again, this would all be dependent on the experience of the attorney and other relevant factors.

Councilor Santiago asked how many hours does Peter Watts provide for the \$6,000 a month?

City Manager Rains replied it's a flat rate, it's not per hours.

Councilor Miller stated he would like to offer some perspective because with his business he does work with different attorneys unfortunately and pay a lot of money for them and the going rate that he pays is anywhere between usually \$400 and \$800 an hour. He would be concerned about the financial implications of going to an hourly billing situation with any firm. He stated as far as the employment legal counsel goes that is very unique and specialize. He is okay with keeping the firm separated.

Councilor McHugh asked with the litigation going on now is there a problem with changing attorneys at this stage.

City Manager Rains replied because of some on going things both for our general counsel and personnel counsel she would say that it could be really challenging to switch legal counsel at the moment. She explained it would take a lot of time to onboard new counsel and get them up to speed on what we have going on. She stated anything is possible and we would make it work, but she does think it could be a real challenging time to do that.

Councilor Miller stated as far as the employment law aspect there's only a few handful of firms that he knows about that actually do public employment law. He thinks there is a lot of value of having the large firms.

Councilor Holmes explained she looked at some request for proposals from other cities of similar size in Oregon and also just tried to better understand what kind of general counsel relationship is with Council and a few things just struck her in general. She stated it does seem more often than not they're asking for representation to cover all matters. She would be interested in exploring what the benefits of that is versus parsing services. The term of the contract average is about two years and five years seems very long. She would recommend looking at best practices on terms of the contracts. She explained in terms of the function of general counsel she looked at different cities to see how they were using their legal services and more often than not they are not having an attorney represented at Council meetings. She asked are we using our legal counsel services in ways that other cities are as well. She explained if we went with someone that didn't have a retainer would we need them to attend the Council meetings. She asked what would be the financial implications of moving away from a retainer type model.

City Manager Rains explained there are so many things that go into determining that hourly rate she really can't tell Council what that would be. She explained with respect to one person covering all your needs there's very many different areas of law and they all take a lot of very specific training and practice in that one area. While some smaller cities might be using one attorney for most things, she would bet they are still contracting here and there for specialized services like personnel. She explained even bigger cities that have in-house counsel still tend to have other contract attorneys on retainer or some kind of contract services for things like personnel.

Mayor Backus would like more time to look at this and is fine with maybe going with a shorter term. He explained he is fine with keeping the current counsel for another year and in that year Council could study how much it would cost to change.

Councilor Miller explained if Council is fine with this agreement, he would propose that we extend it a year. He explained if it was a new arrangement, he wouldn't go below two years as it is a lot of effort. He explained if Council does decide to keep the services separate between general counsel and employment, he would like to ask Council to consider staggering those, so we are not having to deal with the renewal of two different attorney contracts in the same year.

Councilor Santiago feels the City should issue an RFP.

Councilor Holmes stated she doesn't see the harm in issuing an RFP to see what all the options are.

Councilor Lafrenz disclosed that he knows the Personnel Legal Counsel Ashley Driscoll. He thinks one stop shop firms makes sense and there's a lot of efficiency there and he generally supports an RFP.

Councilor Miller stated just think about the safety that a flat rate offers. He stated he is not opposed to the RFP, he is just saying there is a lot of realities here that are very scary.

Councilor Holmes asked if we were to go with a one-year extension during that time could we also really be looking at our use of legal resources compared to other cities and figuring out if they are in line or not. She stated because one year later we are going to have the same questions.

City Manager Rains asked Councilor Holmes what is she meaning as far as comparing with other cities?

Councilor Holmes replied just how many billable hours on average and are we aligned in how we are utilizing our legal resources.

City Manager Rains replied we could attempt to gather that information, but she will argue that to a point they are unique circumstances and not necessarily all that comparable and other cities might be dealing with things that legally they are not willing to share with them.

Councilor Miller stated the other thing that he thinks we need to be mindful of is soon there is going to be our Urban Growth Boundary issue and that is going to be an extremely time-consuming matter.

Councilor McHugh stated after a year we should be going out for and RFP.

Council President Greisen stated she is in favor of extending it another year, then going out for an RFP.

Councilor Miller moved, and Councilor Holmes seconded the motion to authorize the City Manager to extend contracts for the City's existing legal counsel, Peter O. Watts PC; and Beery, Elsner & Hammond for a period of one contract year starting in April for a period of twelve months thereafter, and then in the 9<sup>th</sup> month (from April) we construct and publish an RFP for legal services both legal counsel and general counsel. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor McHugh, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; and Councilor Lafrenz, aye.

**Resolution 23-02 – A Resolution Adopting Findings for a Public Contracting Exemption and Authorizing an Alternative Contracting Method for the Smith Road Pump Station Project**

Public Works Director Dave Sukau and Assistant to Public Works Director Huell Whitehaus went over the staff. Should the City Council approve Resolution 23-02 approving the required Findings for an exemption and authorizing an Alternative Contracting Method for procurement of the Smith Road Pump Station Project? The City had multiple projects funded from the State of Oregon's ARPA-SLFRF allocation, the replacement of the Smith Road Pump Station (SRPS) was one of the funded projects. The City was awarded \$900,000 for the project. Staff prepared and issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) utilizing the standard Qualifications Based Selection in July 2022 and anticipated that an engineering firm would design and develop plans that would then be used to procure a construction contractor separately. The City received only one proposal in response by the deadline indicated in the July RFP. Staff attempted to negotiate a contract, however, the price offered by the proposer was 20% higher than anticipated. Additionally, staff was concerned about the proposer's timeline for design. Staff decided it was not in the best interest of the City to enter an agreement with the proposer. As such, staff returned to the drawing board to determine how best to procure the services necessary to complete the project and achieve the best value for the public. City staff is confident that the most prudent approach to take in re-procuring services for the design and construction of the SRPS replacement can be achieved through a Design- Build contract. "Design-Build" means a form of procurement that results in a contract in which the construction contractor also provides or obtains specified design services, participates on the project team with the Contracting Agency, and manages both design and construction. In this form of contract, a single entity provides the Contracting Agency with all of the personal services and construction work necessary to both design and construct the project. The Design-Build method is considered an "Alternative Contracting Method" according to ORS 279C and the Oregon Attorney General's Model Public Contracting Rules (Model Rules). Alternative Contracting Methods are types of procurement processes that deviate from typical methods such as Qualifications Based Selection for design (standard RFP) or Competitive Bidding for construction (i.e., low bid). While the Design-Build method requires an exemption from competitive bidding (a requirement for traditional construction procurement), the method does account for taking advantage of market competition. In practice, the process to procure services for this project would take the form of a singlestep RFP that considers both proposer qualifications *and* price. In order to utilize an Alternative Contracting Method and pursuant to ORS 279C.335, the local contract review board (City Council) may exempt a specific contract(s) from traditional, competitive bidding by showing that an alternative contracting process is unlikely to encourage favoritism or diminish competition and will result in cost savings and other substantial benefits to the Contracting Agency. Additionally, the Model Rules provide for public notice and comment on draft findings in favor of an exemption before their final adoption. Staff has drafted such findings to support the requested exemption and basis for utilizing the Design-Build method (see Exhibit A in the staff report). A draft Resolution has also been included for consideration, should City Council decide to authorize an exemption (see Exhibit B in the staff report). EXHIBITS in the staff report: Exhibit A – Draft Findings in Support of Alternative Contracting Method – Procurement of Design-Build Services for the Smith Road Pump Station Project. Exhibit B – A Resolution Adopting Findings for a Public Contracting Exemption and Authorizing an Alternative Contracting Method for the Smith Road Pump Station Project. Utilizing the Design-Build method of procurement will reduce the amount of staff time required



for the project insofar as there will be a single procurement process, as opposed to the two separate processes characteristic of the traditional design-bid-build method. Additionally, the proposed method of contracting offers greater cost controls to the City, which staff anticipates will result in a project that will be achievable within the budget for the project. Lastly, as design and construction under this method will be done under a single contract, there is no need to create and manage a second procurement process for construction, shaving several months off of the total time to complete the project.

Mayor Backus opened the public hearing at 8:35pm and asked if there was anyone who would like to comment on Resolution 23-02: A Resolution Adopting Findings for a Public Contracting Exemption and Authorizing an Alternative Contracting Method for the Smith Road Pump Station Project? Seeing none, he closed the public hearing and moved it forward for Council to discuss.

Councilor McHugh moved, and Councilor Holmes seconded the motion that Council adopt Resolution 23-02: A Resolution Adopting Findings for a Public Contracting Exemption and Authorizing an Alternative Contracting Method for the Smith Road Pump Station Project. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor McHugh, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; and Councilor Lafrenz, aye.

### **Dutch Canyon Well #3 Engineering Contract**

Public Works Director Dave Sukau went over the staff report. Contract authorization for engineering services for the Dutch Canyon Well #3 replacement project. The City of Scappoose had multiple projects funded from the State of Oregon's ARPA-SLFRF allocation – the replacement of Dutch Canyon Well #3 was one of the funded projects. The City was awarded \$1,200,000 for the project, inclusive of production well drilling, engineering, and construction. The contract (#2023-02) before City Council this evening is specifically for the engineering portion of the project. For engineering projects, a consultant may be direct appointed if the resulting contract is under \$100,000. Staff worked with its Hydrogeologist of Record (GSI Water Solutions) to identify a consultant with the necessary experience and qualifications to design the replacement well. Consor Engineers was selected for the engineering work, due to their extensive knowledge of the City's Dutch Canyon Wellfield, as they provided the engineering services for the design of Dutch Canyon Well #2 and the recent Crown- Zellerbach Well associated with the Airpark Development. It is important to note that, in accordance with the grant funding requirements, the replacement of Dutch Canyon Well #3 must be complete by July 2024. The production well drilling portion of the work is currently open and soliciting bids and is anticipated to start in March. The drilling work will provide the information necessary to the engineering consultant to design final construction plans and specifications. Contract value: \$83,566. Staff recommends that the Council authorize City Manager Rains to enter the City into a contract with Consor Engineers to design the Dutch Canyon Well #3 replacement.

Councilor McHugh moved, and Councilor Lafrenz seconded the motion that Council authorize City Manager Rains to enter the City into a contract with Consor Engineers to design the Dutch Canyon Well #3 replacement. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor McHugh, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; and Councilor Lafrenz, aye.

**Ord. 911: A Ban on the Sale of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits in Stores in Scappoose**

Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman went over the staff report. On August 8, 2022, Kat Balogh came before Council and gave testimony relating to the treatment of pet store dogs and cats and asked that Council consider an Ordinance banning the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores. See Exhibit A for her public comment. ANALYSIS: "Puppy Mills" (also Kitten and Bunny Mills) have long been renowned for the mistreatment of animals. Female animals spend their lives in small, cramped cages with little interactions, their main purpose is to churn out litters of babies to be sent for sale. When a female can no longer breed, they are often abandoned or killed, same for the males. The whole purpose of these operations is to profit off the sweet nature and cute looks of baby animals.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the inhumane practices that these Mills engage in, over 6 million animals enter U.S. animal shelters every year. Of these almost 1 million are euthanized.<sup>2</sup> There is an over abundance of companion animals in the nation, and these Mills only add to the problem. The cute and cuddly baby animals that come from these operations often come with health problems due to the poor conditions they are raised in, the lack of medical attention, and an overall lack of care or concern for their lives. Once purchased health and behavior issues can become clear, the challenges and reality of owning and caring for an animal settle in, and as the animal grows once cute behaviors can become difficulties, or, the novelty of their cuteness disappears, and sometimes these animals are abandoned or sent to animal shelters. Pet Stores have been increasingly moving away from selling puppies, kittens, and bunnies in their stores, and only a handful of pet stores in Oregon continue the practice. As time has gone on, and animal shelters have conducted outreach and education, consumers have been moving away from buying animals at pet stores, spay and neuter rates have been increasing, and the public has become more aware of the realities of breeding mills. Oregon is the only state on the pacific coast left open to the selling of puppies and kittens at pet stores. Beaverton, Oregon and Bend, Oregon recently passed Ordinances like the one presented in this Staff Report.<sup>3</sup> At this time there are no stores in Scappoose that sell animals. Passing an Ordinance banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores would have no impact on current businesses in Scappoose. Exhibit B in the staff report, Ordinance No. 911, is a short and simple ordinance that bans the sales of cats, dogs, and rabbits at pet stores in Scappoose. It is modeled after the Bend and Beaverton Ordinances. It allows pet stores to partner with rescue organizations and animal shelters to offer adoptable animals in their stores and contains exemptions for legitimate animal breeders and rescue organizations. Fiscal impacts from this Ordinance are likely little to none. As many pet stores are moving away from a model of selling dogs and cats in their stores this Ordinance will not likely prevent pet stores from setting up in

Scappoose. Staff recommends that Council adopt Ordinance 911, A Ban on the Sale of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits in Stores in Scappoose as written.

1 <https://www.humanesociety.org/all-our-fights/stopping-puppy-mills>

2 <https://www.aspca.org/helping-people-pets/shelter-intake-and-surrender/pet-statistics>

Mayor Backus opened the public hearing at 8:47pm, and asked if there is anyone who would like to comment on Ord. 911: A Ban on the Sale of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits in Stores in Scappoose?

Adam St. Pierre, Scappoose, stated he doesn't know why we need this ordinance. He asked how many animals are actually sold in the City of Scappoose? He stated it didn't seem like we'd do that here, so it just seems like a waste of resources to put time and effort into this for something that we really don't do here. He thanked Council for their time.

Mayor Backus asked if there were any other comments? Seeing none he closed the public hearing at 8:48pm and moved it forward for Council to discuss.

Council President Greisen explained she spoke with the new owner of the pet store in Scappoose, and they had indicated that this would not affect their business and that it has never been their intention to sell puppies, kittens, or bunnies.

Councilor McHugh thanked Adam for his comments. He explained the reason we are moving this direction is we just want to be aligned with something we think is right and important. We are trying to set a precedence in our community that we just don't want this to happen.

Councilor Santiago moved, and Councilor Miller seconded the motion that Council adopt Ordinance 911: An Ordinance Relating to a Ban on the Sale of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits in Stores in Scappoose is on first reading and will come back to Council at our next regularly scheduled meeting for discussion and potential adoption.

Mayor Backus read the title for the first time ~ An Ordinance 911: An Ordinance Relating to a Ban on the Sale of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits in Stores in Scappoose is on first reading and will come back to Council at our next regularly scheduled meeting for discussion and potential adoption.

#### **Announcements – information only**

#### **Calendar**

Mayor Backus went over the calendar.

**Updates: City Manager; Police Chief; Councilors; and Mayor**

Chief Lougal explained the City offered two new candidates conditional offers. He explained as of yet there is no academy class scheduled. He explained we did post the sergeant's position. The new recruits that we have in the academy are hitting their halfway point.

Councilor Lafrenz gave an update on the Economic Development Committee. He stated overall he thinks the parks plan seems well done but thinks they have missed two opportunities that have come up again when we discuss collaborating with local partners. He thinks the shared use agreement is something we really need to pursue. He explained the consultants did not reach out to the County Public Health Department and they have quite a bit of localized health needs data at the Scappoose level. He feels it is hard to do a master plan without including health data. He would like to work on ways we can more intentionally and efficiently work and collaborate with partners in the community especially those that share our goals and visions.

Council President Greisen moved, and Councilor Miller seconded the motion to extend the meeting past 9:00pm. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor McHugh, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; and Councilor Lafrenz, aye.

Councilor Santiago gave an update on the Parks and Rec Committee. She explained Parks & Rec Committee Chair Cara Heinz connected with her YMCA contact and he was open and excited about extending the services to the teens. They are in the works of putting something together. She explained she has flyers for Earth Day which is on April 22. She thinks on that day they should go as a Council and do cleanup.

Councilor McHugh gave an update about a walking group.

Councilor Holmes talked about having the opportunity to go to the Senior Center and play some bingo. She was able to see the new flooring and paint. She stated the place looks fabulous and she would like to give a shout out to all the volunteers, as she knows that Council President Greisen's father has dedicated a lot of time along with other folks in the community. It reminds her that there are so many good things that happen in this community because of the volunteers that dedicate their time. She stated kudos to success and a new chapter for the Scappoose Senior Center.

Councilor Miller explained the County Commissioners were out last week, so they didn't have a meeting. He stated he apologizes if he already reported on this but if you haven't taken a tour of the new Public Health facility, he highly recommends that you do. He explained there will be a meeting on Thursday at the 911 District and they are going to be talking about Resolution 2023-001, which is a resolution to basically do a sole source proposal with Motorola. He explained the issue is if they pick that proposal then we will never know what we could have got, and we will never know what the price would have been from another company.

Council President Greisen stated thank you for excusing her tardiness. She was at the School District as part of the Bond Advisory Committee. She stated with out giving too many details there are some major possibilities on the horizon if it's chosen to go on an upcoming ballot that we would go for a bond for our School District. She stated that would look like potentially a brand-new middle school, it would look like potentially facility upgrades to every existing building and a potential for quite a number of rec opportunities. She stated there are a lot of options and a lot of potential there. She is also part of a small group at the School District looking to author a land acknowledgement that the School District would adopt for graduating seniors of Native descent. There are a lot of families that feel by having a land acknowledgment they would feel more included or recognized and some people feel the complete opposite. She explained she spoke with City Manager Rains about if the City would want to adopt this as well. She explained as far as the parks discussion she is hearing from the community, which is not new, that they want amenities. She stated we want amenities; we want accessible amenities and really nice amenities and if that is something that we are really passionate about potentially we might need to look into a separate taxing district. She thinks it is worth looking into if we are really serious about delivering on the plan. She thanked the Chief and Lieutenant for their continued police presence.

Mayor Backus stated regarding the parks, since we do get a lot of rain, he thinks we need to look at indoor facilities as well. He stated that is where the Senior Center and the School District use agreement would be a good opportunity. He stated we do have a lot of people outside the City limits that really want Scappoose to build parks for them as well. He explained this week he was able to meet with Life Empowered, which they have one house in Scappoose and about eight in St. Helens and it is nice to see those opportunities and ways we can partner with other groups. He explained Thursday he is having lunch with a bunch of other mayors.

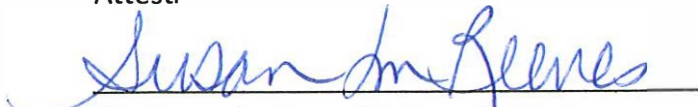
### Adjournment

Mayor Backus adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.



Mayor Joseph A. Backus

Attest:



City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC