

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ~ DOWNTOWN STREETLIGHTS, 6:00 PM

Disclaimer: These minutes are intended to summarize the conversations that took place in this meeting rather than provide a full transcript. Anyone wishing to view the full conversation can find a recording of this meeting on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bjGFBgyX2M&t=22s

Call to Order

Mayor Backus called the work session to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Mayor Joseph A. Backus; Councilor Tyler Miller; Councilor Jeannet Santiago; Councilor Kim Holmes; Councilor Andres Lafrenz; City Manager Alexandra Rains; City Recorder Susan M. Reeves; Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman; City Engineer Chris Negelspach; and Associate Planner NJ Johnson.

Remote: Council President Megan Greisen; Councilor Jeannet Santiago; D. Jones (arrived at 6:18pm).

Excused: Councilor Marisa Jacobs.

Associate Planner NJ Johnson went over the staff report. Staff have identified reasons (described in subsequent sections) to update the Downtown Overlay standards for street lighting, which are governed by Scappoose Development Code (SDC) 17.80.060. Staff is seeking Council feedback on if, in addition to proposing amendments to SDC 17.80.060, the City should seek development grants to replace the existing streetlights on E Columbia Avenue from Columbia River Highway to NE/SE 3rd Street with streetlights that meet the City's new standards. Analysis: SDC 17.80.060[©] currently requires streetlight lamps to be metal halide or another white light source. At a time when SDC 17.80 – Downtown Overlay is reviewed, Staff will recommend this standard be amended to LED (light-emitting diode) lighting and that the streetlight posts are made to be decorative in the Downtown Overlay. LED lights are more energy efficient and durable than metal halide lights, which reduces electric and maintenance costs. Decorative light posts may include features such as unique luminaires, distinct coloration, hanging plant baskets, banner arms with banners, flag poles with flags, and electrical outlets for holiday string lights (see Exhibits A & B in the packet). Unique and artful street light poles and fixtures can be a strategic component of beautifying a downtown and promoting economic growth in the area. Unique street lights which include banners and holiday lighting can establish a sense of place, comfort, identity, and enjoyment for pedestrians and motorists traveling through the downtown core. Development grants are available for cities to apply for in order to

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fund downtown improvement projects such as this. Based on quotes from distributors, the full assembly of pole, luminaire, bulb, and features would be \$4,540-4,701 per streetlight. Installation costs would be in addition to that. Staff is seeking Council's feedback on if the City should devote capacity and resources to applying for a development grant that would replace the existing streetlights on E Columbia Ave from Columbia River Highway to NE/SE 3rd Street (see Exhibit C of the staff report). Staff has identified two grant opportunities worth pursuing.

Fiscal Impact: If Council desires Staff to apply for development grants to fund the installation of downtown streetlights, fiscal impacts would include:

- Designing shovel-ready plans (required for grant application)
- Staff time to apply for grant
- Contracting with an electrician for ongoing maintenance
- Prorated electric bill from Columbia River PUD for holiday string lights in December

Staff does not recommend purchasing a wholescale replacement of downtown streetlights with City funds if a grant is not awarded. If Council does not desire Staff to apply for development grants to fund the installation of downtown streetlights, there would be no fiscal impact.

Recommendation: Staff requests Council direction on this project in one of the following paths: 1. Do not propose amendments to SDC 17.80.060.

2. Propose amendments to SDC 17.80.060 but leave the responsibility of replacement to the property owner or developer when a streetlight needs to be replaced or when development occurs.

Propose amendments to SDC 17.80.060 and apply for development grants to replace the streetlights on E Columbia Ave between Columbia River Highway and NE/SE 3rd Street.
After the conclusion of the Community Branding Project, propose amendments to SDC 17.80.060 and apply for development grants to replace the streetlights on E Columbia Ave between Columbia River Highway and NE/SE 3rd Street.

Councilor Holmes asked in terms of the outlets would it be possible to leave a few of them available year-round for like electric bike charging or if someone needs to charge a cell phone.

Associate Planner NJ Johnson replied he thinks we certainly could. The only thing is that this would open up our bill to the PUD to be year-round, rather than just the month of December.

Councilor Holmes asked about trash cans along this proposed route if there is a trash issue.

City Manager Rains explained staff could check with public works regarding that.

Mayor Backus asked staff if they can look at recommendation number 3.

Associate Planner NJ Johnson replied certainly.

Mayor Backus adjourned this work session at 6:29 pm.

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ~ ADVENTURE FESTIVAL, 6:30 PM

Present: Mayor Joseph A. Backus; Councilor Tyler Miller; Councilor Jeannet Santiago; Councilor Kim Holmes; Councilor Andres Lafrenz; City Manager Alexandra Rains; City Recorder Susan M. Reeves; Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman; City Engineer Chris Negelspach; and Associate Planner NJ Johnson.

Remote: Council President Megan Greisen; Councilor Jeannet Santiago; D. Jones.

Excused: Councilor Marisa Jacobs.

JJ Duehren thanked Council for making the time to see her this evening. She explained she has been putting on the free movies in the park for seven years now, which has been very successful. She explained last year they did their first Earth Day celebration, which was also a very successful event. She gave an overview of her background and explained she has done thousands of events, and she feels very comfortable in this realm, and she has the time to help make our community better. She explained this is something she is very excited about and passionate about. She explained the idea is that we focus on the outdoors and all the great benefits that the City of Scappoose has as the entryway to the outdoors. She explained who she has and who she would reach out to help sponsor/support this event and what activities they would like to have occur during the event. She explained if Council decides they want to move forward on this, which she hopes they do, they have enough time to go and get real sponsors and to get grants.

Council President Greisen expressed her concern on the longevity of the scope. She explained that it does not sound like it is really going in the direction that they were hoping for. She thinks the proposal would make an excellent earth day event, but she is not quite sure the sustainability in this sort of plan for an ongoing summer celebration in our community. She talked about the proposed budget and feels we need to be very clear in defining that this is not a City hosted event, this is a City sponsored event with other sponsors and other grants that are being written. She expressed her concern for the additional \$10,000 in the proposal for staff hours. She explained as Council we were looking to move away from paying an event company for their time to put on an event and so we were looking just to sponsor an event.

JJ Duehren explained having done thousands of events she finds that if you start small you can always get bigger, and she is extremely confident that we're going to raise close to \$20,000 based on what they are projecting right now.

Jeff Weiss, Scappoose Public Library Director, explained from the Library perspective is if they can't get money that they are putting into this guaranteed then they are out because their budget is not large enough to withstand being a part of an event this size.

Councilor Santiago explained she supports the Library hosting a community event.

Councilor Holmes explained she loves the concept. She thanked JJ for all the time she put into this. She feels it is going to be much more reflective of the values of the community and bring a lot more value to the community as well, so she likes where this is going. She stated the date scares her a little bit.

JJ Duehren talked about their rain contingency plan.

Mayor Backus explained they will discuss this further in the Council meeting.

Mayor Backus adjourned this work session at 6:59 pm.

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Mayor Joseph A. Backus

City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC