



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
33568 EAST COLUMBIA AVENUE  
SCAPPOOSE, OREGON 97056**

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=Rd5woXQJ97U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rd5woXQJ97U).

**Call to Order**

Mayor Backus called the December 4, 2023 City Council meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

Joseph A. Backus	Mayor	Alexandra Rains	City Manager
Megan Greisen	Council President (arrived at 7:22pm)	Steven Lougal	Police Chief
Tyler Miller	Councilor	Isaac Butman	Assistant to City Manager
Kim Holmes	Councilor	Dave Sukau	Public Works Director
Jeannet Santiago	Councilor	Susan M. Reeves	City Recorder
Marisa Jacobs	Councilor	NJ Johnson	Associate Planner

**Remote:** Councilor Andrew Lafrenz

**Also in attendance:** Planning Commissioner Rita Bernhard (left at 7:51pm); Planning Commissioner Ty Bailey (left at 7:49pm); Planning Commissioner Bill Blank; Planning Commissioner Harlow Vernwald; Planning Commissioner Marty Marquis; Park and Recreation Committee Chair Michael Sykes; Park and Recreation Committee Vice Chair JJ Duehren; Park and Recreation Committee Member Paul Fidrych (left at 7:49pm); Park and Recreation Committee Member Terry Brooks; and Consultant Darci Rudzinski with MIG.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Councilor Holmes moved, and Councilor Jacobs seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended to add the continuation of the discussion of the draft Parks Master Plan Review right

after new business. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; Councilor Jacobs, aye.

### **Public Comment**

Sean Surratt, Scappoose, explained he is here to address Council. He stated as some of you know they had a house fire last month and they have been living in their trailer for a little bit. They have been trying to find short term housing, which is very difficult to find for them and their pets. He explained they are here today just to ask for a 30-day permit for their trailer so they can stay with their pets. He explained they have found a rental, but it won't be ready until January so that is why they are here. He knows there is a City code, and they have done the 14-day permit. He explained they are trying to do everything they can, as he has set out cones for the trailer, they even put the slide outs in during the day so there is not impeding traffic. They have talked to all of their neighbors, and they are fine with it for the time being until they can get into the rental. He stated trust me it has been very difficult to find temporary housing for four to six months because nobody really wants to do a lease for that amount of time, especially with a few pets. They are just asking the Council to grant them a 30-day stay, and they will have the trailer moved as soon as possible.

Mayor Backus stated thank you. He explained typically we'll discuss this, and someone will be in contact with you.

### **Work Session continued ~ Draft Parks Master Plan Review**

Public Works Director Dave Sukau explained we are hoping to get everybody's comments that Council agrees with tonight from both the Planning Commission and the Parks & Recreation Committee. He stated hopefully we can all just kind of agree on something that Darcy could take back and put it into a final draft and then it would come to Council as a final draft. He explained that is typically how we do master planning.

Councilor Holmes explained she would appreciate a little more discussion/explanation around the 10-acres per thousand people for the level of service. She would like to see some aspirational goals included if it is at that 10 acres. She would feel a lot better adopting a plan that at least has at us at the National Best Practice level.

Consultant Darci Rudzinski explained the target that you adopt, whether it be aspirational or call it what you will, there's an expectation that goes along with it. That is the system that you're planning for. What we have kind of brought forward from the beginning is that the City probably does not have the funding realistically to develop all those acres. So again, you can apply a standard that you won't ever meet and try to come up with a standard that you could use as a planning tool to make decisions. We kind of split realistic with aspirational and provided you two different targets. It's really up to the City how you want to write that tool or

reference that tool or use that tool or ignore that tool going forward. But she thinks fundamentally the issue really is if you're going to develop all the parks, we'll need to find additional funding.

Councilor Holmes stated she also wonders if being kind of transparent with people about the gap that does exist would compel them to support some additional funding.

Community Development Director Laurie Oliver Joseph explained that if there was a parcel that came available that met the goals and the criteria for acquisition, it closed some of those 10-minute gaps, and we could acquire that land that wouldn't be an issue. While we plan for 20-year land supply, oftentimes we're not especially in the outskirts of town, it is not necessarily going to build out within those 20 years. So likely there could be opportunities to pick up land, especially if it's sensitive lands where there might be floodplain or wetlands or things you want to protect that would make good park land. That wouldn't preclude the city from acquiring that land in the future, and the nice thing again, back to the aspirational is we've generally shown locations where that land would be desirable.

City Manager Rains explained we are looking for feedback this evening and we do have time to make some changes, but as we pointed out earlier, the consideration here is the grant deadline.

There was discussion regarding the extra parking area at Veterans Park, which is only used during the summer. They also discussed pedestrian safety at Veterans Park.

City Manager Rains discussed the grant process.

After a lengthy discussion between Council, Staff and the Committees, the general consensus of Council is to move forward with the draft.

**Consent Agenda – November 20, 2023 City Council work session minutes; November 20, 2023 City Council meeting minutes; and Appointment of Sara Jones-Graham as Alternate on the Planning Commission**

Councilor Jacobs moved, and Councilor Santiago seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda – November 20, 2023 City Council work session minutes; November 20, 2023 City Council meeting minutes; and Appointment of Sara Jones-Graham as Alternate on the Planning Commission. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; Councilor Jacobs, aye.

**New Business**

## **Committee Updates ~ presented by Committee Chairs**

Economic Development Committee Chair Christine Turner gave an update of the Economic Development Committee. (Information from the memo submitted in the Council packet) Following a goal setting workshop at its October 19, 2023 meeting, the Scappoose Economic Development Committee (EDC) unanimously voted on its goals for the upcoming year at its November 16, 2023 meeting. The EDC desires to adopt two EDC goals for itself to work on in the upcoming year. The first goal is to advertise the Urban Renewal Grant Program to eligible businesses in the Urban Renewal District. Now that it has been adopted by the Urban Renewal Agency (URA), the EDC desires to make the Grant Program widely known in the Scappoose business community. The EDC believes that the success of this program is predicated on awareness and participation. This gives the URA and EDC greater choice among applicants, which leads to the most impactful projects being awarded. Additionally, higher levels of participation would allow for more grant funded improvements to be completed. The EDC would also like to do the work to develop a comprehensive downtown strategy for City Council's future consideration. Downtowns are of the most visible and impactful elements of a community's economy. Thriving downtowns allow for local entrepreneurship that keep dollars in Scappoose. The downtown strategy would be a comprehensive document put together by the Economic Development Committee with recommended actions and policies the City can take and adopt to improve the downtown core.

In summary, the EDC is proposing to adopt for itself the following EDC goals:

1. Advertise the Urban Renewal Grant Program to businesses in the Urban Renewal District
2. Develop a comprehensive downtown strategy to present to City Council in furtherance of pursuing a Transportation Growth Management (TGM) grant

We look forward to discussing these goals with you at the December 4, 2023 City Council meeting. Thank you for your consideration

Council thanked Christine.

Parks and Recreation Committee Chair Michael Sykes gave an update of the Parks and Recreation Committee. (Information from the memo submitted in the Council packet) City Council,

The Scappoose Parks and Recreation Committee recommends the following list of goals for Council consideration during their Goal Setting session:

1. Pursue grants to develop Grabhorn property.
2. Identify and pursue grant opportunities.
3. Identify and strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders
4. Explore opportunities to pursue funding options
5. Increase recreational opportunities for the community.

6. Increase volunteer engagement
7. Create a strategic plan for Chapman Landing.

Respectfully,

Michael Sykes, Scappoose Parks and Recreation Committee Chair

Council thanked Michael.

Council President Greisen explained now that we've heard from both of these committees, and they've given us what they think should be their goals moving forward in the year to come. She asked City Manager Rains if she would explain what that now looks like in terms of Council looking at these goals, thinking about what they're presenting to us and how we move forward with what they've given us tonight.

City Manager Rains replied sometimes the Committees will either give you one list of goals, or sometimes will give you a combination of goals they want to do themselves and goals they are suggesting for Council. Council will take them into your goal setting process, which will be in late January. As staff, we're going to run through a big update on your current Council goals. Council will get the recommendations from each committee and then you'll get recommendations and goal suggestions from staff and then essentially during the Council goal setting process, you'll go through all of that information, it will be in the packets, and you can make your decisions about what you want to be your Council goals, essentially giving the green light to committees on whatever you want them to work on, and then the final list will come back to you in March for a formal adoption, and then we'll work off that to build the budget.

### **Work Session**

#### **FY 2023-2024 End of 2023 Calendar Year Council Goal Status Report**

City Manager Alexandra Rains went over the goal status report. She, along with staff answered questions that Council had.

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

#### **Calendar**

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

Chief Lougal gave an update on the Police Department. He explained this year Donut Day will be held on December 9, at the Scappoose Middle School.

Councilor Lafrenz explained he took his children to the breakfast with Santa event at the High School, and he wanted to thank everyone who was involved who helped put that on.

Councilor Holmes stated Who-Ville is amazing. She explained Janet and her whole team does a great job. She gave an update from the 50-Year Plan meeting. She congratulated the Columbia County Sheriff's office. She saw the announcement that they are very close to reaching 24/7 policing levels and that was certainly a levy that this Council supported. She met with the Sheriff when she first came on and talked about what kind of services that they can provide to the communities throughout the County. She is going to meet with him again to see how this might change things and if there is anything of interest she will report back. She would like to wish all of those who celebrate Hanukkah a Happy Hanukkah.

Councilor Santiago explained she is looking forward to attending a couple of events and reporting back to Council at the next meeting. She stated happy holidays.

Councilor Jacobs talked about Who-Ville and how she is amazed. She also talked about the light fight that the Historical Society put on again this year and said it is a really fun activity to do with your family and friends.

Councilor Miller talked about Who-Ville and how impressive it is. He thanked Janet for the amount of effort that she put into decorating/designing Who-Ville is really apparent. He talked about how the discussion of Council goals made him think about infrastructure and how we are in a really good position to where other cities in this County are not. He thinks we really need to thank City Manager Rains and also former Senator Betsy Johnson for the ARPA Funds because if it was not for that money we would be in a really bad situation. He explained even though we did get this ARPA money we still have to save money and the only way that we really do that is through utility rates. He stated we should be very happy to where Scappoose is at, so thank you to staff and Former Senator Johnson. He gave an update on his Council Liaison duties with 911 and the County Commission meetings. He asked where we are at with the biosolids dryer.

Public Works Director Dave Sukau gave an update.

Councilor Miller asked about the public comment this evening and if City Manager Rains could give a brief update.

City Manager Rains explained we are not totally 100% certain how long they've been parking on the street in the RV. What happened is we received a complaint and so that triggered the Officers to be sent out and ask what was going on. At that point they did apply for the permit and our code limits that permit for the RV to be on the street to maximum of 14 days within a 30-day period. We knew that they'd probably been out on the street for longer since we had the complaint, but basically, just to be generous, she gave them the 14-day waiver. She

explained staff then actually did some work to try to help them find a place to park with their trailer. She thinks there was even an empty lot that was identified where some nearby property owner had offered to let them stay there. She doesn't think ultimately, they took that route. She gave them essentially the most flexibility and the longest extension she could give considering our constraints with the code, but at this point the code does not give her any more flexibility and so it was communicated that they would actually have to ask Council for anything else in the future. She stated again, the code doesn't envision for their flexibility, and she thinks it's more of just a question of Council for whatever precedent you want to set.

Councilor Miller asked what is the penalty if they don't move and by when do they have to move?

City Manager Rains replied \$500 a day and they have to move by end of day tomorrow.

Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman explained what he and City Recorder Susan Reeves did to try to find a space for the Surratt's RV.

Mayor Backus explained their concerns with the property that City staff gave them information on was they have pigs and chickens and that they would not be able to take their animals with them. He appreciates staff working with them.

Mayor Backus explained Who-Ville was great.

Council President Greisen thanked Public Works staff for working with Columbia River PUD in getting the banners up.

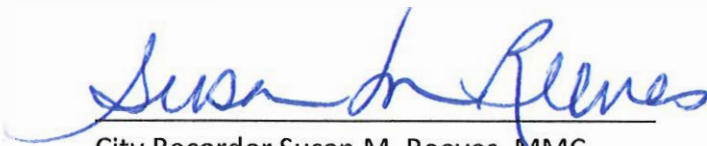
### **Adjournment**

Mayor Backus adjourned the meeting at 8:37pm.



Mayor Joseph A. Backus

Attest:



City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC