



SCAPPOOSE *Oregon*

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 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=oomLZMry4fA.

Call to Order

Mayor Backus called the December 11, 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	Steven Lougal	Police Chief
Tyler Miller	Councilor	Isaac Butman	Assistant to City Manager
Jeannet Santiago	Councilor	Susan M. Reeves	City Recorder
Kim Holmes	Councilor	NJ Johnson	Associate Planner
Andrew Lafrenz	Councilor		
Marisa Jacobs	Councilor		

Remote: Sara Jones; Paul Fidrych (left at 8:08pm); and Beth Rajski (arrived at 7:09pm).

Approval of the Agenda

Councilor Jacobs moved, and Councilor Miller seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

Public Comments

Joel Haugen, Scappoose, read a letter to the Council.

Mayor & Council,

As we bring 2023 to a close, I would like to convey my thank you to you all for your willingness to serve and the time you volunteer to help make Scappoose the best it can be. Present for last week's parks, trails, & open space plan discussion, I could not help thinking that Council is analogous to a board of directors of a company. The shareholders are the citizens like me; and you (Council) delegate your (and the shareholders') vision to the city manager and staff who function as the chief executives and managers of the company. MIG did a fine job assembling the current iteration of the parks plan, but it does not appreciably differ from the 2017 version of the same, which was done at a fraction of the cost. As a grant requirement for Grabhorn development, the 2017 Plan could have simply been updated to include Grabhorn, at minimal effort and cost. My other take away is that MIG's plan does not reflect the aspirational directive of the "shareholders" or citizens, as a can-do approach to the challenges before us. As Councilor Jacobs so aptly noted in her recent interview for Council, we are at an inflection point in Scappoose and we need to improve to win. Improvements to parks, recreation opportunities, and the Scappoose environment, including protection of our green space and floodplain are elemental to a "winning" equation. These are the elements that should be front and center in both our parks plan and SO-year plan as you finalize both of these documents in 2024. Scappoose has the potential to become a more vibrant, livable, and prosperous community. This, I believe, requires bold and inspired leadership, you all are certainly most capable. Everyone benefits from setting the bar high and I encourage Council to be more proactive in shaping our city's future in 2024. Scappoose citizens and beyond will relish proactive efforts to set aspirational policies and vision for our city's growth and prosperity. I and "we" commend you for your dedication to our community.

Joel Haugen

end of letter

Council thanked Joel.

Consent Agenda –Reappointment of Ty Bailey and Michelle Brown to the Budget Committee

Councilor Holmes moved, and Councilor Lafrenz seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda – Reappointment of Ty Bailey and Michelle Brown to the Budget Committee. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

New Business

Hotel Market Study

Economic Development Committee Chair Christine Turner gave an overview of how the Hotel Market Study project started. She explained Columbia Economic Team was able to get the money to create a market study. She explained she has shown Choice; Windham; and Holiday Inn Express local sites and they are most interested in Wauna's property at this point. She explained she was asked what are the incentives that we as a City can offer to encourage

business. She gave some examples of what other cities incentives have been. She explained as the Chair of the Economic Development Committee it would be great if they could look at that as a project and see what other cities have done.

Columbia Economic Team Executive Director Paul Vogel gave an overview of the Hotel Market Study and the process of how it came about. He explained how ever they can help guide this they are happy to do. He stated they are limited in their tools except moral support, informational support, connection support, strategy. They will do what they can do.

Council thanked Christine and Paul.

Community Video

Associate Planner NJ Johnson gave an update of the community video. He then showed the updated version of the community video project. He explained we took your comments back to the video editing team at CGI.

Councilor Miller talked about a call to action being very important.

Council went over more suggestions for NJ to take back to CGI.

Council thanked NJ Johnson.

Recreational Immunity Letter

Councilor Holmes went over the recreational immunity letter draft.

Councilor Jacobs thanked Councilor Holmes for spearheading this. She stated she is in support of this.

Councilor Holmes thanked staff for taking on the draft letters.

Councilor Miller moved, and Councilor Jacobs seconded the motion that Council accept the Recreational Immunity letters as presented. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

Res No. 23-19: A Resolution Declaring Police Department Surplus Property

Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman went over the staff report. Consideration of Resolution 23-19 for declaring surplus equipment of the Police Department. The Scappoose Police Department has identified surplus property that no longer reliably meets the Department's needs. Pursuant to Resolution 23-14, Section I., Disposal of Surplus Property, a declaration of surplus property made by the City Council is required before the City may auction, donate, or dispose of such property. Staff recommends that the property be disposed of via public auction.

Financial Impact: Revenue from auctioned items. Staff recommends that Council adopt Resolution 23-19 – A Resolution Declaring Police Department Surplus Property.

Councilor Miller talked about looking at our policy to see if it specifies different things like computers or any devices that store personal information of potentially confidential information to make sure that we have a defined policy on how we go about disposing of those things.

Councilor Holmes moved, and Council President Greisen seconded the motion that Council adopt Resolution No. 23-19: A Resolution Declaring Police Department Surplus Property. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

Discussion on potentially cancelling the January 2, 2024 City Council meeting

Council discussed this and agreed with cancelling the January 2, 2024 meeting.

They also discussed the training with CIS on 1-22-2024.

Councilor Santiago moved, and Council President Greisen seconded the motion to cancel the January 2, 2024 City Council meeting. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

Announcements – information only

Calendar

Mayor Backus went over the calendar.

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

City Manager Rains explained the holiday dinner is on Wednesday night, and she hopes to see Council there.

Police Chief Lougal wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy New Year. He gave an update on Donut Day and said it was very successful.

Councilor Jacobs explained herself, along with Mayor Backus, Councilor Miller, Council President Greisen, Councilor Santiago, and City Manager Rains went to a reception at OMIC for a potential economic opportunity for St. Helens and Scappoose. She explained it is for a solar manufacturing company and what she learned is this could be a pretty sizable investment for St. Helens as well as for Scappoose. She stated given it appears to be on a fairly accelerated

timeline she is going to connect with some key stakeholders and City officials just to learn more about this opportunity and just find out what this could be for us in the immediate future. She will come back and report findings.

Councilor Santiago wished everyone happy and safe holidays. She explained she attended the Port of Columbia strategic plan meeting, and it was very interesting, and they had a great turnout. She explained the Port did a survey but need more feedback from the community. The draft will be placed on the Port's website, in addition look out for surveys on their website.

Councilor Lafrenz wished everyone happy and safe holidays.

Councilor Holmes explained last week she mentioned trying to connect with the Sheriff to explore kind of what their new level of operations and resourcing can mean to services for those of us in the community. She explained they did get a chance to meet, and they talked about both their opportunity to provide coverage for us in the immediate, which she doesn't believe that we have exercised yet, but look forward to seeing what that can do to help us further get to our coverage goals. She explained they also did discuss the potential of more extended contracting services. She knows this is something that previous Councils or some Council Members have looked into in the past. She thinks it is a good opportunity to understand in the event that we would ever need to exercise another option, you know things can change very quickly sometimes, and that is not the time that you want to be fact finding and trying to find information and make large decisions. She is big into the idea of being prepared. She thinks if we can walk through and just gather a little information about what opportunities, what challenges it could present for is, is an option there that exists. She explained the Sheriff did put together a few numbers. We know that they are currently providing services in Clatskanie and so he sent her the agreement for that. We do know that this is a fairly common agreement for smaller communities that have found it difficult to continue to retain talent and build their force. She explained there is also some fiscal savings available when you start to kind of consultant services and create some efficiencies there and also, she feels it is our responsibility if you have an opportunity to save some tax dollars to look into whether it makes sense for a community or not. She stated we are looking at a tune of about \$375,000 in savings. She stated again, if we were ever in a place that we needed to walk down this road and explore it further. She does think with our goal setting coming up and the budget that we'll be preparing for what it's probably worth taking the time that we have just to continue to put together a list of questions, get a little more information so that we can come back and just have that information to share with Council and we can decide if it warrants continuing further investigation or not if we've just got enough information kind of in our pocket to draw upon in the future if we ever need it. She asked if there were others who would like to be a part of these conversations.

Mayor Backus said he would like to be a part of that.

Councilor Miller would also like to be a part of the conversations.

Councilor Holmes said if Council has any questions to let them know.

Councilor Miller wished everyone a happy and safe holiday. He explained he will be giving updates on the two liaison roles that he has here. He gave an update from attending the Columbia County Board of Commissioners meeting. He also gave an update on the Columbia County 911 District meeting. He explained he is just going to kind of go through a timeline here and he thinks it tells its own story and he may have additional comments here at the end. Early in June 2023, the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, City of Columbia City, City of Vernonia and City of Scappoose entered into an agreement with Adcomm engineering. They are a local engineering firm in Oregon, and they have an actual licensed professional engineer, which is an actual thing. So, if you go and read the ORS chapter 279, there's different exceptions and different requirements for different things related to engineering and the qualifications of the engineer. He wanted to note that it's been discussed several times that the consultant company called Federal Engineering even though the word federal is in there he just wants to be clear that it is a private for-profit company. They don't actually have any professional engineers on their staff. That's what I've been told repeatedly by people in the industry, he has not independently verified that. Part of the scope of work of the agreement that CCSO and the cities that he mentioned had listed in their scope work for a Adcomm to complete was to develop all the need requirements and the specifications for those user agencies and then relay those in the terms of consultants, that engineers use for this type of thing 2901 and their consultant, and that included a request that we had made in the agreement to Adcomm that Susan Ronning, who's the principal and the professional engineer, actually review the things that they were sending to vendors to provide a proposal on because she wanted to make sure that it met the needs of all the agencies that had hired her. On August 31, 2023 Adcomm's principal engineer sent a letter to Mr. Fletcher at the 911 District with a technical memo and need requirements developed on behalf of the County and Cities. There was no reply by Mr. Fletcher. Ms. Ronning checked back on September 6 and received an email September 6 that said "I appreciate your effort" from Mr. Fletcher, who's the 911 District Director. At the October 9, 2023 911 District Board meeting, Mr. Fletcher provided a document to the Board that said, and this is a cut and paste from his document, "Federal Engineering has completed the development of system design requirements and expectations." This document was presented to Motorola as of October 10th, with a deadline of November 17th. There's a likelihood of a request for additional time to due to the holidays. On October 16, 2023, Ms. Ronning from Adcomm Engineering, emailed Mr. Fletcher the following: "Hi, Mike, could you please reply back with a copy of the engineering system design requirements and expectations document those redundant to Motorola as October 10th. I would like to review the document, the respect to the law agencies, user needs and system requirements previously submitted. Regards Susan." On October 16, 2023, Mr. Fletcher responded to Ms. Ronning, saying in part "Columbia 911 does not have a copy of the document you were seeking." On October 16th, Ms. Ronning replied to Mr. Fletcher and pointed out what he said to his Board in his update on October

19th, which he just read, saying that they had a document that they submitted to Motorola. Mr. Fletcher has not replied to Ms. Ronning since her reply on October 16th. On October 15th, he submitted a public records request, which is the District assigned 23455 as the records request number and he asked for all information submitted to Motorola related to the statement by C9CD Executive Director and he again copied and pasted what he said in his document and that was that Federal Engineering had completed the development assistant design requirements and expectations. This document was presented to Motorola as of October 10th and he got a reply back that the Public Directors request said the District has no public record responsive to this request. He explained there are some new Council Members since basically this whole endeavor started and the endeavor being that 911 is trying to replace the radio system and they're going to be asking for from what we've seen from their consultants anywhere from \$20 to \$35 million from the community and from everything they've said, it's going to be in the form of a bond and levy. So, there has been pushback about getting competitively bidding to do request for proposal and not just running to Motorola Solutions as an attempt to sole source. So far, that has not been the direction that they have went. They have, as you heard there, sent that opportunity only to Motorola and so that is a concern, especially concern of his at least because of the amount of money we're talking about and of course, we want to get the best deal that we can get from a qualified vendor that can meet all the requirements and from what we've seen so far that's not what's happening. So that's just an update on where they're at. You know that there's going to be additional revelations obviously in the coming months, but that's an update on what he calls lack of transparency and some very questionable conduct.

Council President Greisen explained the Scappoose Schools have been collecting food items to donate to the Scappoose Fire District Share and Care program. She explained she talks to her children about how others are struggling, and that we support when we can and there are a lot of families that are in need. She stated it is always heart warming to see our community come together for the Share and Care program. She just completed her seventh year as a Councilor, and she is looking forward to starting off the new year. She stated of course everyone at this point knows that her house is for sale, she does still live there and when the time comes, she will have to announce her resignation but until that time happens, she is here to work hard and is excited to be a part of the team.

Mayor Backus thanked Beth, from the City Budget Committee, and Sara, the new alternate on the Planning Commission for hanging in there online all night. He talked about the Historical Society Who-Ville being on Channel 12 news and if you haven't seen it, you should check it out. He thanked staff for helping him get through another meeting. He stated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!


Adjournment

Mayor Backus adjourned the meeting at 8:29pm.



Mayor Joseph A. Backus

Attest:


City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC