



SCAPPOOSE *Oregon*

**MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
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=WNhoM1vnN08.

Call to Order

Mayor Backus called the March 18, 2024 City Council meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Joseph A. Backus	Mayor	Larry Lehman	Interim City Manager
Tyler Miller	Council President	Chris Fluellen	Police Lieutenant
Kim Holmes	Councilor	Susan M. Reeves	City Recorder
Andrew Lafrenz	Councilor	Dave Sukau	Public Works Director
Marisa Jacobs	Councilor		

Remote: Councilor Jeannet Santiago; Contract Administrator Charlotte Baker (left at pm); Dean Winters; Beth Rajski; Jennifer Massey; FAFO DDS (joined at 7:10pm & left at 8:34pm); Doug Bean (joined at 7:57pm and left at 8:36pm) and Megan Greisen (joined at 8:03pm).

Approval of the Agenda

Councilor Jacobs moved, and Council President Miller seconded the motion that Council approve the agenda. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda ~March 4, 2024 City Council meeting minutes; and March 11, 2024 Special City Council meeting minutes

Councilor Holmes moved, and Councilor Lafrenz seconded the motion that Council approve the Consent Agenda ~ March 4, 2024 City Council meeting minutes; and March 11, 2024 Special City Council meeting minutes. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

New Business

South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce

Jak Massey, South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, gave a semi-annual report on the South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce. She also invited everyone to the annual awards banquet, which is called a Celebration of Excellence. She left a banquet flyer.

Mayor Backus thanked Jak for the information.

GMP (City Manager Recruitment Firm) Presentation

Bob Larson, with GMP, gave an overview of the city manager recruitment process.

Councilor Jacobs explained looking at the time line and given what our time constraints are our Interim City Manager Larry Lehman we are absolutely looking at trying to expedite where we can go fast. She stated she is curious with respect to this first milestone, the profile development, given the information that you have, would it be possible for us to be able to get this finalized by the end of this week so that we can move a little bit more efficiently and get the job posted by the beginning of next week and promise to guarantee that.

Bob Larson explained he would think they could get this done in one week, so maybe early next week. He stated they will certainly do their best.

Councilor Jacobs asked Bob Larson to please keep the line of communication open with Interim City Manager Larry Lehman.

Bob Larson will send information to Mayor Backus, Interim City Manager Larry Lehman, and City Recorder Susan Reeves.

Mayor Backus thanked Bob Larson.

Dutch Canyon Well #3 Contract

Contract Administrator Charlotte Baker went over the staff report. In early 2023, the City of Scappoose entered into a contract with Consor Engineering to for design services for Dutch Canyon Well #3. In March 2023, the City entered into a contract with Jensen Drilling Company to perform drilling services for the Dutch Canyon Well #3 project. Drilling work began in June 2023. Once that work was completed, the City issued an ITB for the final construction services related to the Dutch Canyon Well #3 project. The scope of work for this portion of the well project includes construction of a pit-less well adapter, site piping, electrical improvements for the new and existing wells on-site, SCADA integration and finish grading and seeding. This ITB was advertised in local newspapers as well as the City's website, and organizations known to perform this type of work were directly invited to bid. Ultimately, the City received one bid for this project from Peak Electric Group, LLC. This bid was within budget and staff felt confident that Peak Electric and their subcontractors would be able to satisfactorily perform the work to the required specifications. Staff decided to move forward with Peak Electric as opposed to putting the project out to bid again. The contract price is \$293,931.91 This contract will be funded through ARPA-SLFRF funds distributed by the Department of Administrative Services. Staff recommends that Council authorize City Manager Lehman to enter the City into a contract with Peak Electric Group to perform final construction work for Dutch Canyon Well #3.

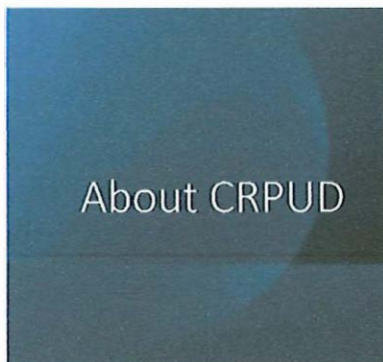
Councilor Holmes moved, and Councilor Jacobs seconded the motion that Council authorize City Manager Lehman to enter the City into a contract with Peak Electric Group to perform final construction work for Dutch Canyon Well #3. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

Electric Supply

Columbia River PUD General Manager Michael Sykes thanked Interim City Manager Larry Lehman for inviting them. He explained this is a really important topic that we all really need to be aware of and in unison work toward solutions. He gave an overview of the BPA system and where Columbia River PUD gets their power just so you understand what they are challenged with, because it's been said that there's been more change in the electric energy field in the last five years than there's been in the last 50 years. As all of you know, Columbia River PUD is a BPA preferred customer and we're one of 132 Public Utilities that get our power from Bonneville and they feel very fortunate with that. He explained there's thirty-one dams and one nuclear power plant that Bonneville manages that provide roughly 7000 megawatts of power to 131 customers. He explained for Columbia River PUD, our biggest bill every month is about a million and a half dollars for power, and we have roughly 20,000 meters that they serve about

35,000 customers and nine large companies. He stated Columbia River PUD is different than PGE in the sense that PGE is an investor-owned utility and they're not a preferred customer, so they don't get their power from Bonneville, they have to have their own Cogen facilities, they have their own wind, their own dams, but of course they have 900,000 customers, so they're a little bit different than we are. One of the things that has been a real concern in the Northwest has been that we're running out of easy energy. Basically, you probably heard about some of the carbon legislation that has been passed in the Northwest and basically what this means is that by those dates, in Oregon it's 2040, it is going to be that the privates have to be carbon free, which they can't use natural gas or coal, so that's really going to put pressure on particularly the privates like PGE to find other sources. So, they have been buying up solar and wind and what other power they can find. He wants to bring to the City's attention that a lot of the supply that we've had in the past has been drying up and we're going to have to replace it with anything and we have to do that at a time when the World is going through electrification, and there's about 15% of the cars in Oregon that were purchased this year that are electric cars and housing is starting to convert to electric and it's the preferred method to try and reduce our carbon footprint.

Columbia River PUD General Manager Michael Sykes gave an overview and Engineering Manager Branden Staehely went over the presentation.



- People's Utility District with 5 elected board members
 - Debbie Reed – Subdivision 1 (Scappoose)
 - Crag Melton – Subdivision 2: (Scappoose/Warren)
 - Garratt Tayler – Subdivision 3: (St Helens/Yankton)
 - Russell Hubbard – Subdivision 4: (St Helens)
 - Neal Sheppard – Subdivision 5: (Columbia City, Deer Island, Prescott, Rainier)
- We serve over 20,000 different metering point
- System peak of 104MW and our system averages around 55 aMW

Western Interconnect Clean Energy Mandates

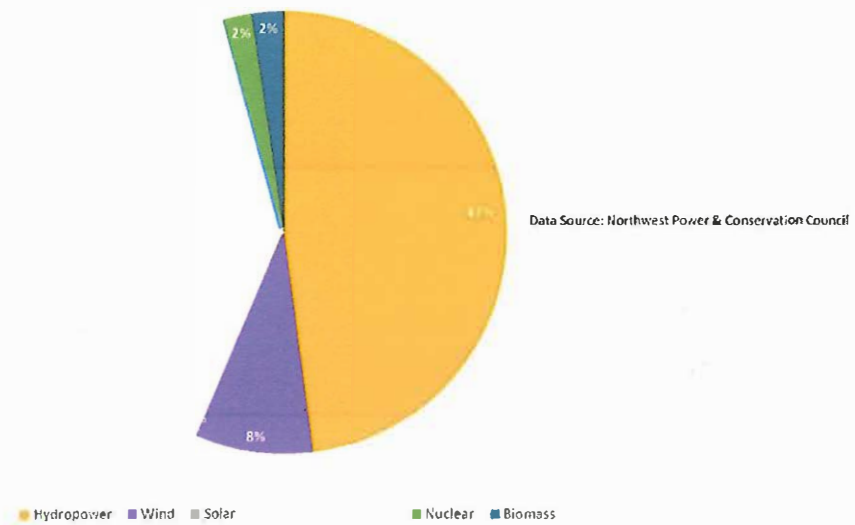
State	Zero Carbon Grid Law	Zero-Carbon Grid Law Deadline
Washington	2019	2045
Oregon	2021	2040
California	2018	2045
Colorado	2019	2045
Nevada	2019	2050

"Lead the charge for the Northwest to realize its clean energy potential using hydroelectricity as the cornerstone"

Projected Coal Retirements

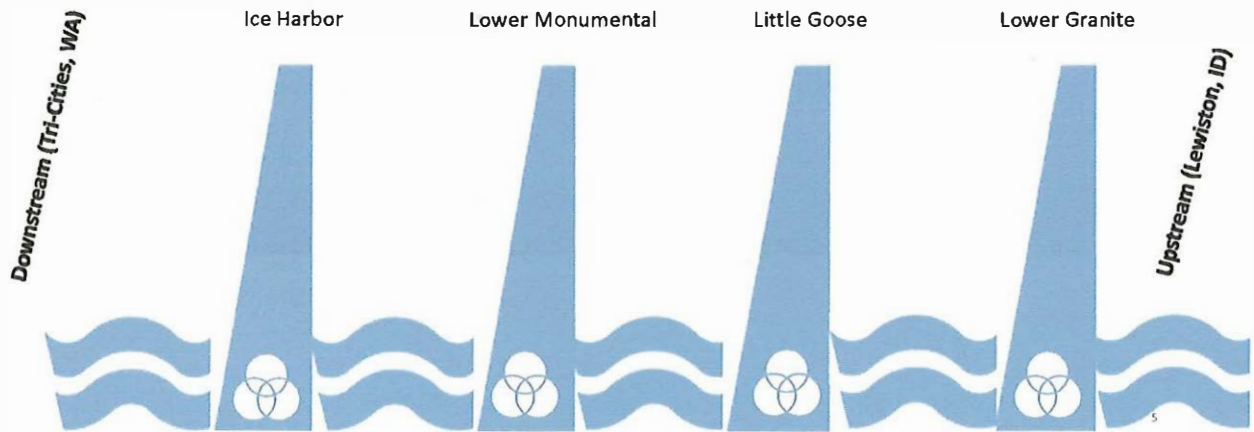
Name	Nameplate Capacity	Retirement Date	Generator	State
Comanche (CO)	383	12/1/2022	1	CO
Martin Drake	75	12/1/2022	6	CO
Martin Drake	132	12/1/2022	7	CO
Jim Bridger	608	12/31/2023	1	WY
North Valmy	290	12/1/2025	2	NV
North Valmy	277	12/1/2025	1	NV
Centralia	730	12/1/2025	2	WA
Comanche (CO)	396	12/1/2025	2	CO
Craig (CO)	446	12/1/2025	1	CO
Naughton	256	12/31/2025	2	WY
Naughton	384	12/31/2025	3	WY
Naughton	192	12/31/2025	1	WY
Nell Simpson II	90	12/31/2025	2	WY
Dave Johnston	255	1/1/2027	3	WY
Hayden	275	12/1/2027	2	CO
Dave Johnston	134	12/31/2027	2	WY
Dave Johnston	400	12/31/2027	4	WY
Dave Johnston	134	12/31/2027	1	WY
Craig (CO)	446	9/1/2028	2	CO
Hayden	190	12/1/2028	1	CO
Jim Bridger	617	12/31/2028	2	WY
Pawnee	552	12/31/2028	1	CO
Rawhide	294	12/1/2029	1	CO
Craig (CO)	535	12/1/2029	3	CO

Pacific NW Electricity Generation Sources



"Lead the charge for the Northwest to realize its clean energy potential using hydroelectricity as the cornerstone"

Losing the Lower Snake River Dams?



Losing the Lower Snake River Dams?

Losing the LSRD means losing...

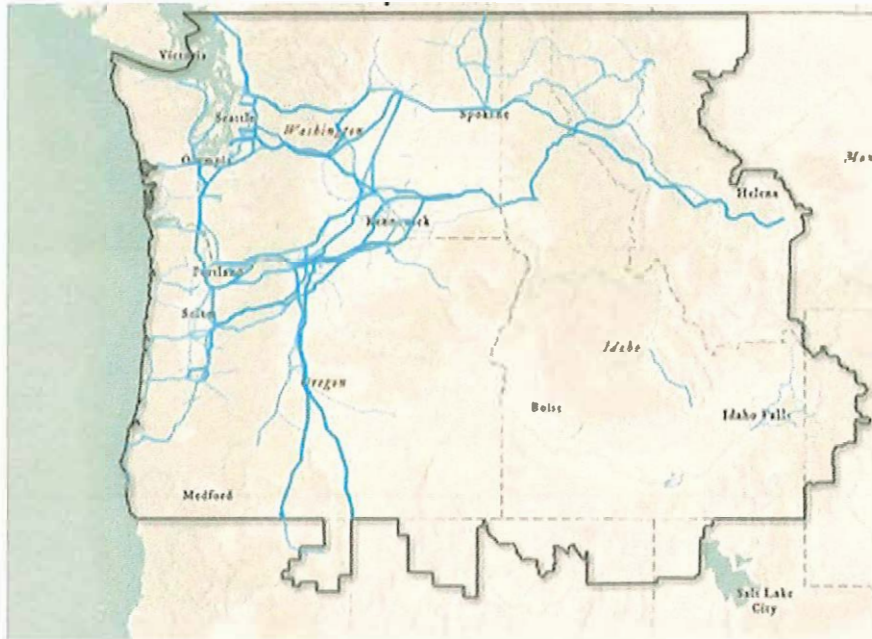
3000 MW of CO₂-free peaking capacity

10% of the nation's wheat export capacity

48,000 acres of irrigated farmland



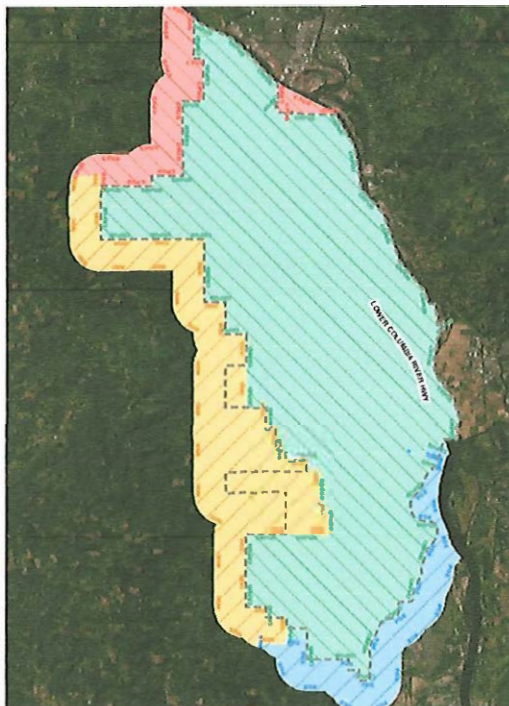
BPA Transmission System

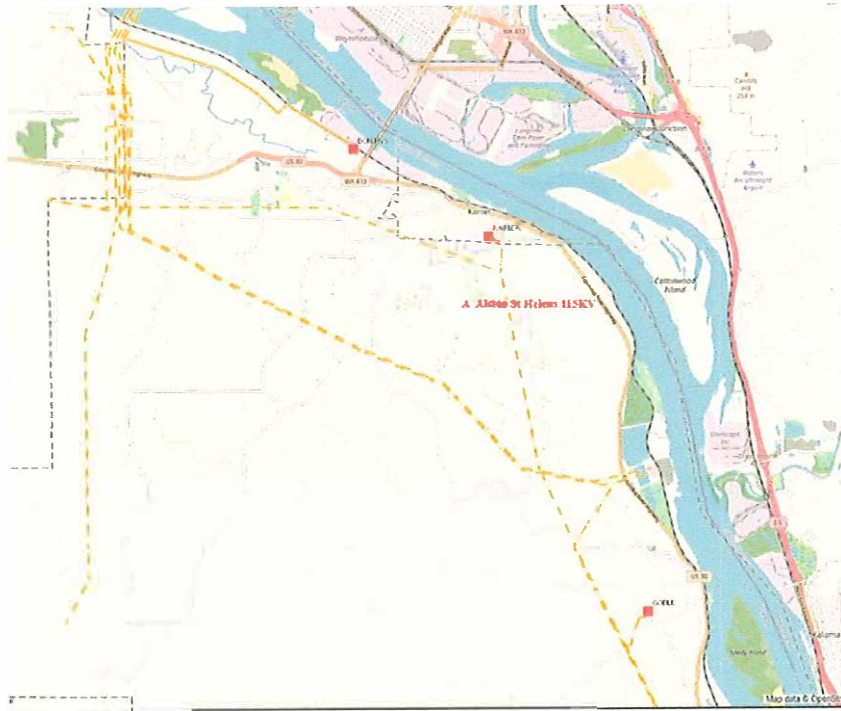
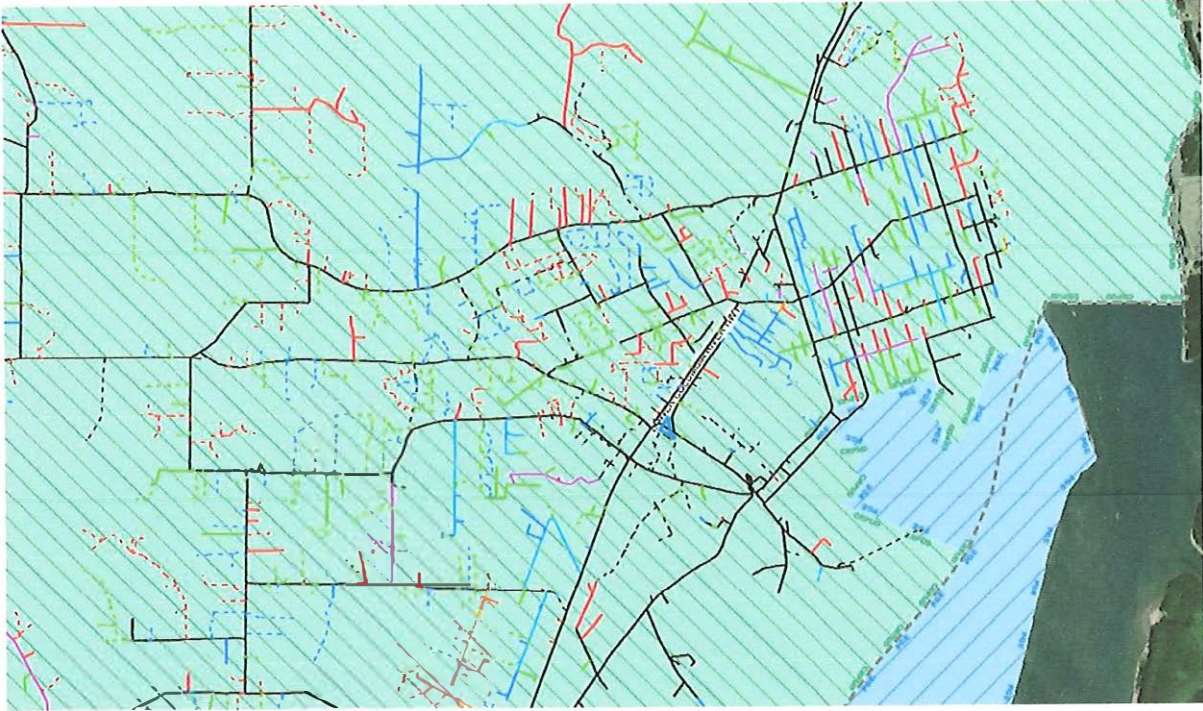


2023 TSEP Cluster Study (CS) Facts

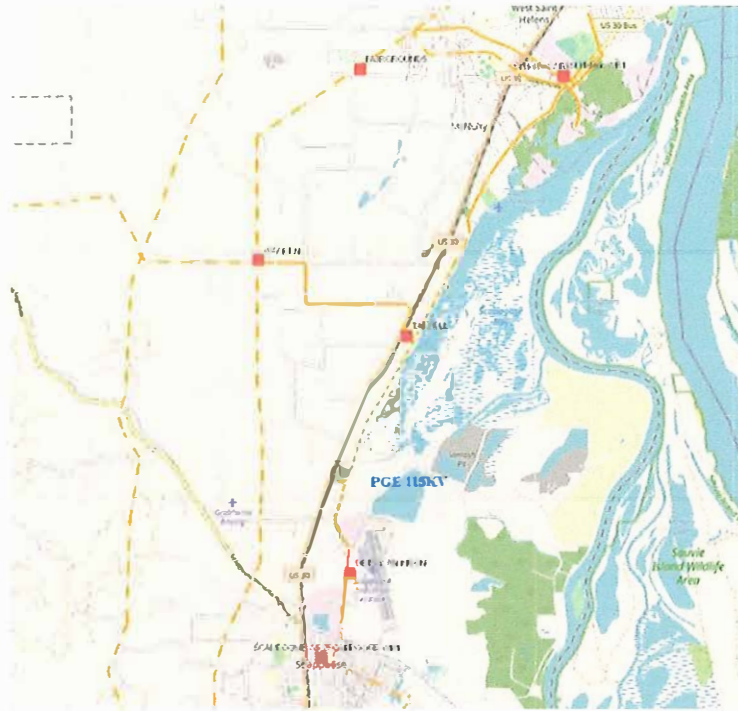
- At the cutoff for participation there were 298 TSRs for 24,190 MW in the queue.
- 16,905 MWs signed Study Agreements
- 222 TSRs for 15,965 MWs finished the 2023 Cluster Study
- 2 TSRs for 88 MW were Awardable without Upgrades
- BPA identified 14 new projects totaling an estimated \$3.9B (Direct)
 - The 2023 TSEP projects are not just stand-alone projects, many build upon the previously identified projects from prior Cluster Studies (See the appendix for a list).

2









Council President Miller asked how are we going to get updates on this topic?

Michael Sykes replied he can come back, probably in July, after they get the LIRR's and he knows what the options are. He stated we are going to need to be united moving forward because it affects the whole County.

Ed Freeman, explained he has been actually out here for 20 years working on this Columbia Commerce Center. He talked about the letter from his partner, and how they have invested 10s of millions of dollars to help create an economic opportunity for Columbia County and jobs for Scappoose specifically. He explained their discussion as they went through the whole effort to bring that property into the urban growth boundary was to keep that citizens here in Columbia County and in Scappoose instead of having to drive to Hillsboro and Portland, why not work right here and make life better for everyone and it's a noble effort and the Sprint project that's being discussed in St. Helens is part of that economic development. He stated if Sprint does decide to go forward on March 29th, they're going to preclude any job growth, any industrial growth here in Scappoose, it sounds like it will be seven or eight years before there's more power here listening to what Brandon is analyzed and studies take a couple of years and then it takes another two years to raise the money and six years to build the infrastructure. So, it's very disheartening after being at this for 20 years here and the effort to create this valuable asset for the City of Scappoose. He explained he just learned of this on February 19th. He received a memo that Paul Vogel from the Columbia Economic Team sent out to Senator Merkley's office and copied Congresswoman Bonamici's office, the Columbia Board of Commissioners, City of St. Helens, Business Oregon, CET members, Columbia River PUD and PGE. He stated it is kind of strange that no one from Scappoose received this memo. The memo addresses this issue, and he didn't learn of it for weeks later and the City of Scappoose is just learning about it now. He explained on the second page of that memo it says regardless if project Sprint commits and makes a deposit on the 35 megawatts by March 29th, PGE is committed to serve them and if they sign this letter saying they are going to do it and it's a done deal, then South Columbia County area will have 0 estimated electrons for other businesses or housing growth for the next five to six year period and that's putting this city out of business and others also in South Columbia County if they take all the available electricity. He stated that is his number one complaint here today is there needs to be a better system, as we should have all been in the loop about this and that that this was coming down the road and he thinks this memo always is well intended to alert for Federal partners that we're going to need some help and dollars to bring more power generation here to Columbia County. He stated it kind of bothers him a little bit that they are going to sell all available electricity to this Chinese company to build solar panels here when they have been here for 20 years creating this business park.

Mayor Backus feels this is an important item that we really need to learn more about.

After more discussion it was asked by Council to continue to get more updates from Columbia River PUD and the Columbia Economic Team.

Mayor Backus thanked Mike and Branden.

Announcements – information only

Calendar

Mayor Bckus went over the calendar.

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

Police Lieutenant Fluellen gave an update on the tragic incidents that have occurred in the City of Scappoose. He explained it was a great effort between all our fellow partners through Columbia County; Sheriff's Office and St. Helens Police Department. He gave an update on Officer McFarland.

Councilor Holmes explained she will take this opportunity to read some prepared comments because she wants to make sure that they are concise and factual since that is at the heart of the issue that she will be addressing tonight. She stated "I'd like to take the opportunity to address a communication that was sent last evening by Mr. St. Pierre to the members of City Council, our Police Department, the group that runs the Facebook Group Columbia County Transparency & Accountability and that group's administrator Jennifer Massey.

The letter is supposedly from an employee of the Columbia County Sheriff's office regarding this Council's exploration of contracted public safety services with the Sheriff's office. The letter is filled with speculation, misinformation and veiled legal threats intended to intimidate members of this Council. Mr. St. Pierre justifies his distribution of this information by saying, "Generally we tend to do a FOIA request to substantiate information but in this case a FOIA would not be able to substantiate anything."

Mr. St. Pierre and the rest of the members of the FAFODDS, I would like to remind you there are many other tools available to substantiate information and I'm going to take this opportunity to walk you through them so you can employ these tools in the future. I will first address the misinformation around the potential employment jeopardy of Scappoose police staff under a potential contracting arrangement with CCSO. Any Scappoose employee that would transfer over to the County would retain union protection and would be protected under current and future CBA's. Officers would be represented by the same Fraternal Order of Police that they are currently represented under. In fact, the terms of the collective bargaining agreement for CCSO employees can be found on the county's website.

Substantiation strategy number one: View the publicly available collective bargaining agreements to understand the extent of officer employment rights and causes for termination. Given the admin's close ties to policing services within the county I'm actually quite surprised no one was able to easily offer information on the protections that are afforded to unionized officers.

Substantiation strategy number two: I would encourage Mr. St. Pierre to go back and review the council discussion of this topic on February 5th. The city attorney has already debunked this

notion that officers could easily be let go after one year. Second, it was extensively discussed that the Level of Service being explored would be 24/7 on duty coverage. For the needs of Scappoose that means 10 officers, 2 sergeants and a lieutenant. If the Sheriff doesn't have the sworn officers to fulfill the LOS, he doesn't get paid. Putting all of the Scappoose police offers on "graveyard jail shifts" would make it impossible for the sheriff to fulfill his contract. This letter alleges the Sheriff "just wants the money that the city will give him" and has little interest in keeping Scappoose officers. Common sense tells you, those two statements cannot both be simultaneously true. CCSO cannot get paid if they don't have officers available to perform the requirements of the contract. A new officer takes 12-18 months to get field ready. The Sheriff cannot start with a "clean slate" of officers. The members of FAFODDS should also be very aware of this and should have been able to debunk that misinformation easily.

Another aspect of this letter I'd like to address are the personal attacks and veiled threats of legal action made toward members of this council. It's alleged that council president Miller is the one "pushing for the CCSO takeover", which is false. Both the Mayor and I made exploring 24/7 police coverage for this community a focus of our campaigns due to the feedback we received from the community. It is no secret that our police department has struggled over the years to reach this level of service. Given CCSOs new success achieving this level of service in December, it made sense to consider this as one option to explore for achieving the 24/7 coverage – being responsive to the concerns raised by our constituents. Given his background and history in law enforcement, Council president miller has been asked to share his thoughts and questions for these phases of discovery. He has not organized meetings with the Sheriff or staff on his own. He has not sent out inquiries on his own or gathered information directly for this discovery process. This is actually one point you could substantiate through a FOIA request. Please feel free to spend time and resources substantiating this point, but I guarantee you it will be consistent with the information I've just provided you.

Further I'd like to remind FAFODDS, whomever wrote this letter and felt the need to single out Council President Miller, that he has advocated for a position with the CC 911 Communication District that is consistent with Scappoose City Council Resolution 23-04, and the position of the cities of Vernonia and Columbia City and Columbia County Sheriff's office. So, singling Council President Miller out on his position amounts to nothing more than a personal attack which devolved into name calling. I would like to remind Mr. St. Pierre and the admins of the CC Transparency & Accountability that is in violation of their own site rules.

And I'll lastly address the veiled legal threats promoted the author of this letter and subsequently FAFODDS in its republication. The letter urges presumably the officers of the Scappoose police department to "file suit against everyone and anyone personally and professionally that had anything to with making this decision." Every person on this council has approached this inquiry with one primary research question, "what is the best way of achieving 24/7 police coverage for the tax payers of our city." We have been incredibly transparent with staff and the public. The members of this Council are doing the job that we've all been elected

to do, and I can assure you there is nothing illegal or improper happening. Our legal counsel has been engaged in this process every step of the way. I want to make it clear, what is being offered in this letter is frankly terrible advice, echoed by FAFODDS, that will only create undue financial burden to the officers that this letter aims to protect.

So, in conclusion, what was sent to council and posted on the Columbia County Transparency & Accountability page was nothing more than misinformation, threats, and frankly negligent advice. This is an unfortunate pattern from this group. If I were the admins of the Columbia County Transparency & Accountability group, I would be increasingly concerned about my own credibility. However, if substantiating facts and information relating to this body remains a challenge for you, I am happy to publicly help you fact checking in the future.

Please join us for a discussion of the Phase II discovery information relating to this inquiry on 4/1. It will be full of factual information. “ **end of Councilor Holmes comments**

Council President Miller stated Councilor Holme's response to Mr. St. Pierre's email and the post that has appeared on social media and then been recirculated by others, was very thorough, so he doesn't need to add anymore. He thanked Councilor Holmes for her thorough response.

Mayor Backus explained there is a Town Hall with Senator Merkley on April 6, and the location to be announced. He thanked all the speakers this evening.

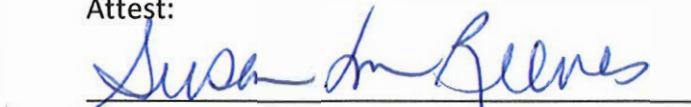
Adjournment

Mayor Backus adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm.



Mayor Joseph A. Backus

Attest:



City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC