

A regular meeting of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 7:00 p.m.

Councilors Present: LaMear, Herzig, Warr, Mellin, Mayor Van Dusen

Staff Present: City Manager Benoit, Community Development Director Estes, Police Chief Curzon, Library Director Tucker, Fire Chief Ames, Finance Director Carlson, City Planner Johnson and Public Works Director Cook. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

## REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

**Item 3(a): Councilor LaMear** reported that she attended the Downtown Revitalization event with Michelle Reeves on April 4, 2013. Ms. Reeves presented her conclusions on the research she did on the community and offered many suggestions on how to revitalize the downtown area. Councilor LaMear appreciated that the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA) invited Ms. Reeves to work on this project because she has offered some great ideas for improving Main Street. Councilor LaMear also attended the Lady Liberty Awards Luncheon. The main award recipient was the late Jill Graham. Many of the attendees were people who do a lot of volunteer work in the community. The event was amazing and she looks forward to next year's event.

**Item 3(b): Councilor Herzig** said he represented City Council at the Welcome Home Veterans' event at Lum's Auto on April 6, 2013. Senator Betsy Johnson and representatives from Seaside and Warrenton also attended. Local Veterans were honored for their service records and community service. He noted the Women's Resource Center hosted a presentation on sexual assault awareness. Members of the Coast Guard and Seaside's Chief of Police, Bob Gross, attended. This event allowed some people to see City Council Chambers and City Hall for the first time.

**Item 3(c): Councilor Mellin** said she also attended the presentation by Ms. Reeves, which was dynamic. She identified more parking in the central part of town. Her presentation was a real revelation.

Councilor Mellin attended the Library's demonstration on renovations. There were many suggestions and a lot of conversation about the library. The main topic was allowing more light into the library.

She attended the Lady Liberty Awards Luncheon for Jill Graham, who was a member of the Assistance League. It was a remarkable event with great food.

Councilor Mellin announced that the celebration of the Ghadar Party will be October 4-5, 2013. The title of the event is "Re-remembering the Sikhs in Astoria" and will take place at the Columbia River Maritime Museum. Several people who are or have been involved in Sikh history have been invited to participate. Speakers will give talks and films will be shown. This event is hosted by the Oregon Historical Society, the Clatsop County Historical Society, the Columbia River Maritime Museum, and the City of Astoria.

**Item 3(d): Councilor Warr** reported that he attended the ADHDA meeting on April 5 and was very impressed with the presentation. Mary McArthur, Executive Director of Col-Pac Educational Development, also told Councilor Warr that the presentation was amazing. He attended the Maritime Memorial Committee meeting. He estimates that the memorial will have 900 or more names on it by the end of the year. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year that the memorial has been on the Riverwalk. It is a nice asset in the community.

**Item 3(e): Mayor Van Dusen** attended the Clatsop Community College auction with Councilor LaMear. The college raised just over \$84,000. He participated in a ride-along with the Astoria Police Department, which was very informative. Mayor Van Dusen learned about dealing with the mentally challenged. On April 16, 2013, an Admiral from the Vietnam Navy will be in Astoria for a tour. He will be visiting the Maritime Museum. Mayor Van Dusen will be representing the community on this tour.

The Friends of the Astoria Column have hired Sherry and Jay Mitchell to work as caretakers and live in the caretaker house at the Column. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell both worked full time for the Coast Guard. Mrs. Mitchell has been working at the Column gift shop for quite some time now. Mr. Mitchell will work for the Coast Guard for four more years. He will work on landscaping at the Column. They expect to be moved in to the caretaker house within a month.

Dr. Frank Preusser, who restored the artwork on the Column in 1995, will be doing more restoration work in August 2013. Councilor Mellin gave some history on the restoration work that he directed, noting that the team used special types of paint and replaced the copula. Mayor Van Dusen added that this renovation was followed worldwide. Dr. Preusser's work this year will be more of a touch up, not as detailed as the work he did in 1995. This will cost more than \$500,000. Resources are available, as the Friends of the Column have been saving for this project. One of Dr. Preusser's original team members will be working with him again this year and plans to return in 15 or 20 more years to continue the maintenance on the Column.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:** City Manager Benoit requested that Item 7(e): Emergency Repairs to the Foot of 10<sup>th</sup> Street be added to the agenda.

## PROCLAMATIONS

### Item 5(a): KMUN Radio Day

Joanne Rideout, Executive Director, Coast Community Radio, 44431 Peterson Lane, Astoria, stated that this proclamation was an honor. April 17, 2013 is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first day that the station went on the air in 1983. KMUN is an example of the can-do spirit of Astoria. In 1983, when the community decided they wanted a radio station, they made one. Many things are done this way in the community. The radio station is operated solely by volunteers. She gave details of some of the volunteer work that community members do for the radio station. She believed April 17, 2013 was Community Radio Day because all the people who live in Astoria make the radio station possible.

She added that emergency preparedness is a priority at the radio station. She wants the station to improve on being available to entities like the City in emergencies. Ms. Rideout is developing relationships with all of the counties the station serves to improve communication.

Mayor Van Dusen stated the City has a great partnership with KMUN. KMUN has helped the City during times of emergency as well as in good times. He read the proclamation declaring April 17, 2013 KMUN Radio Day.

## CONSENT CALENDAR:

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) **City Council Minutes of 4/1/13**
- 6(b) City Council Minutes of 3/18/13
- 6(c) City Council Special Meeting Minutes of 3/13/13
- 6(d) Boards and Commission Minutes
  - (1) Parks Board Meeting of 3/18/13

City Manager Benoit stated two corrections needed to be made to Item 6(a): City Council Minutes of 4/1/2013. He distributed a handout detailing the corrections. [Note: Added language shown in bold, italic text; deleted language struck through]

- The first correction was noted by Councilor Herzig. On Page 3 of 11, Jordan Schnitzer's comment should read, "A master plan is necessary so work does *not* get done haphazardly." On Page 9, the minutes discussed the grant for the senior center. The State requires that specific details be recorded in the minutes. A handout was distributed at the April 1 meeting that provided all these details, however the material was abbreviated in the minutes. The second sentence must be edited to read, "The next step in the process is for the City to appoint a Certifying Officer whose role is to be the official legally responsible contact for the project ***attest to the City's compliance with HUD's environmental review procedures.*** This individual would be the official signator for many of grant related documents. The City Manager is an eligible position that could qualify as a Certifying Officer. It is recommended that the City Council designate City Manager Paul Benoit as the Certifying Officer for the purposes of this grant. ***The Certifying Officer is responsible for the accuracy and validity of the data and the conclusions drawn. The Certifying Officer is***

*typically the highest elected official, but other City officials may be designated by resolution or motion of the City Council."*

Mayor Van Dusen explained that this regards a \$1.5 million HUD grant, so having the wording correct is important so that the City does not lose the grant.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Warr, seconded by Councilor LaMear, to approve Item 6(a) on the Consent Calendar as corrected. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Warr, Mellin, LaMear, Herzig, and Mayor Van Dusen. Nays: None.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor LaMear, seconded by Councilor Herzig, to approve Items 6(b) through 6(d) on the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Warr, Mellin, LaMear, Herzig, and Mayor Van Dusen. Nays: None.

Mayor Van Dusen introduced Planning Commissioner McLaren Innes, who was in the audience knitting socks.

## REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

**Item 7(a): Public Hearing and Ordinance Regarding Amendment Request (A12-04) by Community Development Director to Adopt the Trails Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan Amendments (1st reading) (Community Development)**

The City has partnered with the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a trails inventory and develop an updated Trails Master Plan. The trails master planning process was managed by the Community Development Department and the Plan was created with assistance from the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park's Community Assistance Program. The process included an inventory of existing trails and conditions, multiple public open house meetings, questionnaires/surveys, and development of a master plan for trail development, maintenance, and use within the City. Community Development Department staff worked closely with the Parks and Recreation Department in developing the draft Plan. Information gathered from the numerous public meetings, interviews, and surveys was consolidated by the NPS intern and formulated into specific recommendations and priorities on potential new trails, signage, maintenance, safety, and enforcement. The results of each of the surveys are included in the Appendix section of the Plan.

The draft Plan and proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments was presented and recommended for approval by the Parks Board on February 25, 2013 and by the Astoria Planning Commission on March 26, 2013. NPS Intern Kristina Koenig will be present at the meeting to explain the results of the Trails Master Plan process and to answer any questions.

It is recommended that the Council hold a public hearing and adopt the Trails Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan amendments as recommended by the Planning Commission. If the Council is in agreement with the recommendations of the Planning Commission, it would be in order for Council to conduct a first reading of the Ordinance.

Councilor LaMear noted the Cathedral Tree Trail will be open to bicycle and pedestrian traffic, which she opposes. It has been her experience that trails open to both bicycle and pedestrian traffic often result in pedestrian accidents when bicyclists fail to let pedestrians know they are approaching. She noted that Brad Johnson has stated he wants Pipeline Road available for emergency vehicles and that pedestrian traffic may be a deterrent. She noted that Pipeline Road is a main access into the forest, so she would like further discussion on these two items prior to approving the Trails Master Plan. She appreciated all of the work that has been done on the plan. Community Development Director Estes understood that following the Parks Board meeting where the Pipeline Road issue was discussed, the Plan reflected that the road would remain a pedestrian pathway as well as a vehicular road. The road provides a route to the Public Works facilities and is an emergency route. Planner Johnson added that the classification was changed from trail to connector road.

Kristina Koenig, NPS, stated that Cathedral Tree Trail was originally designated a pedestrian trail and the Parks Board is now encouraging bicycle traffic on the trail. While pedestrian safety is a valid concern, there was not a lot of public feedback about pedestrian safety along this trail, so the issue was not included in the plan. The public did express concern about etiquette on all of the trails, particularly multi-use trails along the Riverfront and

Shively Park Loop. A strong education campaign on trails etiquette has been included in the recommendations. Director Estes believed pedestrian traffic was added to the trail due to input from the Parks Board during the process.

Councilor Mellin also attended the Parks Board meeting where the Cathedral Tree Trail was discussed, and learned that bicyclists were not using the trail, she believed that is because it is too difficult. Director Estes noted the Plan document is still a draft and Council could provide direction to make changes.

Councilor LaMear urged that this trail be pedestrian only as other trails can accommodate bicycles. The Cathedral Tree Trail is narrow and heavily rooted. She would like the trail to remain for pedestrians only for safety and enjoyment of the trail. Councilor Herzig agreed the trail is not safe for both pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Kristina Koenig gave a brief presentation on the proposed Trails Master Plan. Development of the Plan began in June 2012 with most of the work completed in October 2012. Public surveys, several public events, and interviews with various community groups were conducted. This process led to the creation of two maps and a set of recommendations.

- Map 1 shows the list of trails that were agreed upon as official trails in the City of Astoria. She reviewed the details of the trails on this list, which included the Riverwalk, Shively Park Loop, Cathedral Tree Trail, Clatsop Community College Connector, Reservoir Path, Middle School Path and a community Coast Guard trail.
- Map 2 shows both proposed trails and on-road routes. The on-road connectors are considered desired safe on-road routes that connect people from one link to another. A lot of feedback was received from the public about a desire for increased connectivity, which drove many of the proposed trails and on-road connectors.
  - Extensions were added to the Riverwalk. The public requested extensions on the south side of Astoria and possibly eastward, when possible. Extensions would connect the Middle School Path, Shively Loop Path to the new sports complex, and also to Pipeline Road. The Riverfront path would connect better with some of the forested paths, which are also shown as an increased network to allow for more pedestrian use in the urban forest area of Astoria.
- Recommended priorities that reflect the desires of the public were included in the appendix.

Mayor Van Dusen noted Tongue Point has many nice trails and asked why they were not included in the Plan. Ms. Koenig explained that those trails were considered; however, Tongue Point is a National Wildlife Refuge and access issues currently exist concerning getting people from Astoria to Tongue Point. Director Estes added that Staff met with representatives of the Job Corps center and Coast Guard regarding connections to Tongue Point. Many of those trails are under the ownership of the federal government and are not located within a public right-of-way or land that the City of Astoria controls. The federal government was hesitant to share specific trail locations. An arrow on Map 2 indicated that the City would like to extend trails in the direction of Tongue Point in the future. This Plan focuses on trails that are on lands that the City of Astoria would control.

Mayor Van Dusen understood the Job Corps is in a contained compound and students are present. However, Astoria has designated historic homes are sometimes open once a year. He suggested the City work toward having Tongue Point open one weekend a year, which would be easy to maintain and monitor. It is a spectacular area. Director Estes stated many informal trails are not noted in the Trails Master Plan, such as those on private property where the owners allow the public to use them. The Master Plan is for future construction of trails in the City of Astoria.

Councilor Herzig stated Michelle Reeves spoke about the Riverwalk at her presentation and the difficulty in accessing the Riverwalk from downtown. There is little signage directing people to the Riverwalk, especially when crossing the couplet. He asked if there would be addressed by the Plan. Director Estes replied the majority of the Plan focuses on pathways that may not be within public rights-of-way. Some connectors were illustrated in the Plan, such as from the Riverwalk to the Cathedral Tree Trail, so some street right-of-ways are included. Directing people from downtown to the Riverwalk would be implemented via a different mechanism than this Plan, which looks at recreational approaches, like how to get people from the Riverwalk up to the highlands.

Councilor LaMear believed Michelle Reeves had recommended signage, saying she visited Astoria several times before finding out about the Riverwalk. Lack of signage is a critical problem and people need to know

about this amenity. Director Estes stated that is noted in the Trails Master Plan. The Plan tries to identify the trails in place as well as trail heads. Signage would be used at certain, major connections and along well-defined pathways directing people to other key areas.

Mayor Van Dusen asked if anyone objected to the City Council hearing this matter at this time. There were no objections. He asked if any member of the City Council had any conflicts of interest or ex parte contacts to declare. Hearing none, Mayor Van Dusen opened the public hearing at 7:43 p.m. and called for anyone wanting to address the City Council on the Trails Master Plan to come forward with any comments or concerns.

Don Webb, 3555 Harrison Drive, Astoria, expressed concern with washouts along the Riverwalk and number of holes along the railroad track. These washouts and holes are caused by high tides, which are about two feet higher than normal because of ice melt. There is a large washout behind some blackberry bushes near the big building with roof damage and there are washouts are between Pier 39 and Tongue Point. He is unaware of how much work has been done, but he sees the holes when running the trolley. The City needs to address this issue, which will be costly.

Mayor Van Dusen closed the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor LaMear, seconded by Councilor Mellin to adopt the Trails Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan amendments, amending the Plan to make the Cathedral Tree Trail be for pedestrian use only. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors LaMear, Warr, Herzig, Mellin and Mayor Van Dusen; Nays: None.

Director Carlson conducted the first reading of the Ordinance regarding Amendment Request A12-04 by Community Development Director to adopt the Trails Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

**Item 7(b): 11<sup>th</sup> Street CSO Separation – Gibbs & Olson Design Engineering Services Contract Amendment (Public Works)**

In June 2012, Council awarded the 11th Street CSO Separation project design engineering services contract to Gibbs & Olson. During subsurface explorations by the geotechnical sub-consultant, Shannon & Wilson, they encountered unexpected conditions that required the use of more powerful equipment. Therefore, additional expenses were incurred by Shannon & Wilson for additional drilling mobilization, travel expenses and field labor that could not have been anticipated. The requested fee for this additional service is \$3,763.00. Staff has reviewed the additional scope and associated fee and has determined it is reasonable and in line with expected costs. It is recommended that Council execute a contract amendment with Gibbs & Olson for the 11th St. CSO Separation Project in the amount of \$3,763.00 for additional geotechnical services.

Councilor Herzig expressed concerned that this expense was incurred because sub-consultant Shannon & Wilson made an inaccurate assumption. He did not believe the City should pay for this. City Manager Benoit confirmed the company did assume subsurface conditions, because nobody knows what will be found. Shannon & Wilson has done a lot of work in Astoria and he believed the assumption was reasonable. The company had to bring different equipment into Astoria to address the unexpected subsurface conditions. The City would have had to pay for the special equipment if it were brought in initially.

Councilor Herzig stated the company was hired to do subsurface work; it is their job. They made a mistake and now want the City to pay for their mistake. While not familiar with the contract, he does not agree with this.

Mayor Van Dusen agreed, noting Councilor Herzig's concern would be now be on record. He did, however, intend to vote in favor of contract amendment.

Councilor Herzig added that setting a precedent so early in the project could prompt other firms to ask the City to pay for their mistakes. Other projects have revealed that assumptions cannot be made about what is under the asphalt in Astoria. Mayor Van Dusen explained that if the City is too strict on this type of issue, the next bid for subsurface work in Astoria could be high. The bid for this project was very favorable.

Councilor LaMear added that anytime digging is done in Astoria, unexpected results occur. There is so much land movement in the area that conditions are unpredictable. She believes this request was reasonable. This

area is adjacent to a park that Shannon & Wilson has worked on in the past, so their assumption was reasonable. She planned to vote in favor of the amendment.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Warr, seconded by Councilor LaMear, to execute a contract amendment with Gibbs & Olson for the 11th St. CSO Separation Project in the amount of \$3,763.00 for additional geotechnical services. Motion carried 4 to 1. Ayes: Councilors Warr, Mellin, LaMear, and Mayor Van Dusen. Nays: Councilor Herzig.

Mayor Van Dusen recalled a time when there were sewer problems at the football field, which seemed like a simple fix. The area used to be Scow Bay. The sewer lines were 14 feet below the restrooms. Automobiles were found underground between the football field and the sewer pipes.

**Item 7(c): 11th Street CSO Separation Project – Contract for Materials Testing Services (Public Works)**

To ensure quality control during the construction of the 11th Street CSO Separation Project, the City will need to provide materials testing services. Services include testing of asphalt pavement placement, compaction testing for trench backfill, compaction testing for roadway construction and concrete testing. Staff requested proposals and reviewed proposals that were received based on the firms qualifications, and did not consider pricing. This method of selection is consistent with current state statutes.

The proposal presented by Carlson Testing, Inc. was determined by the evaluation team to be the most suitable for the project. Carlson Testing provided a fee schedule on a time and materials basis for an estimated not to exceed amount of \$58,488.00; however, additional materials testing services may be required for various reasons on this large, complicated project. Carlson Testing will only provide services as directed by City staff and our consultants who are cognizant of keeping costs to a minimum while still verifying the integrity and quality of the construction project. It is recommended that City Council execute a contract with Carlson Testing, Inc. for a total not to exceed amount of \$58,488.00. Funding for these services is factored into the Infrastructure Finance Authority funding for the project.

Councilor Herzig confirmed with City Manager Benoit that Carlson Testing will be charging per test and the charges incurred could be less than \$58,488.00.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Herzig, seconded by Councilor Warr, to execute a contract with Carlson Testing, Inc. for a total not to exceed amount of \$58,488.00. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Warr, Mellin, LaMear, Herzig, and Mayor Van Dusen. Nays: None.

Mayor Van Dusen asked for an update on the project at 8<sup>th</sup> and Commercial. Director Cook replied the work is currently one day behind schedule due to challenges with the railroad tracks. Unexpected materials have been found underground and a lot of utility movement must be executed in a tight area. The utilities have been moved and concrete will be poured tomorrow.

**Item 7(d): Sale of Excess City Property – Request for Proposals (Public Works)**

In recent years, the City Council has expressed interest in selling excess City property with the goal of generating revenue, returning property to the tax base, and stimulating development within the community. The City Planner estimates that there are approximately 150 parcels that may be considered "saleable", either available for development for a new dwelling, or in the cases of very small parcels, available to be added to adjacent properties. Note: Parcels of City-owned land located outside the Urban Growth Boundary containing very steep topography, wetlands, or which are reserved for utility issues, would be excluded from consideration. It is staff's opinion that the most efficient way to market these properties would be to retain the services of a real estate brokerage firm within the City. For a relatively small commission (4-6%) the brokers would actively market the properties. If the Council agrees, staff would issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to all local firms. The RFP would request information on the firm's experience, marketing strategy and commission rate. The proposals would be evaluated by staff and presented to the Council, which could decide to award the contract to one firm. It is recommended that the Council authorize staff to develop and RFP and distribute it to local real estate brokerages. At a future Council meeting, staff would present the proposals to the Council for a decision.

Councilor LaMear believed this was a good idea. There is City owned property in her neighborhood that is connected to private property and the City is responsible for maintaining this small piece of land, as well as many other properties in town. Given the shortage of money and workforce to maintain these areas, she supports the request.

Councilor Herzig was concerned about how public input would be incorporated into this process as some citizens may not want certain properties to be sold. He believed the public would want to comment on some of the larger parcels of land. City Manager Benoit stated that while up to Council, Staff suggests that each piece of land would be brought before City Council for consideration prior to being listed for sale. He confirmed that adjoining property owners are automatically notified when the City proposes to sell a property.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Warr, seconded by Councilor LaMear, to authorize Staff to develop and RFP and distribute it to local real estate brokerages. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Warr, Mellin, LaMear, Herzig, and Mayor Van Dusen. Nays: None.

#### **Item 7(e): Emergency Repairs to the Foot of 10th Street**

This item was added to the agenda.

City Manager Benoit stated that emergency repairs need to be made to the overwater section of 10<sup>th</sup> Street. As required by the grant to repair bridges and street ends, the City is under a review process where the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) conducts annual bridge inspections. Under Astoria's agreement with ODOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHA), the City is required to conduct basic maintenance on all facilities to keep them accessible to traffic.

The total cost for the necessary emergency repairs on 10<sup>th</sup> Street is \$22,500. The City currently has a contract with Bergerson Construction who is doing the work. Failing to make these repairs could disqualify the City from the \$8 million grant. The damage was extensive enough that traffic on 10<sup>th</sup> Street would have been rerouted, which would have impacted adjacent businesses. Staff is requesting an after the fact approval to conduct emergency repairs to the foot of 10<sup>th</sup> Street at the cost of \$22,500.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Warr, seconded by Councilor LaMear, to approve an after the fact approval to conduct emergency repairs to the foot of 10<sup>th</sup> Street at the cost of \$22,500. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Warr, Mellin, LaMear, Herzig, and Mayor Van Dusen. Nays: None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS & MISCELLANEOUS, PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tiffany Estes, Vice-President, Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA), 721 Exchange Street, Astoria, announced that ADHDA held their regular public meeting on Friday, April 5, 2013. Positive feedback was given about communications and updates from the City on the CSO project. She believes the traffic detours have been working well.

- She thanked the Council for their support of Michelle Reeves project. The ADHDA would not have been able to complete this project without the support of the City and other supporters. The ADHDA just received Ms. Reeves 85-page report. Her presentation mainly covered the introduction of her report and the ADHDA has not yet had a chance to review the report in detail. The report will be made available to the public as soon as it has been reviewed by the Board.
- Some of the preliminary findings have been discussed by the Board. Sherry Stewart, Oregon Main Street facilitator, will be managing a Board retreat next week to help the ADHDA comprehend all the information provided in the capacity assessment and set priorities to allow the project to move forward.

Councilor LaMear asked if the report addresses parking issues. Ms. Estes replied she was unsure, believed parking was addressed in the report because Ms. Reeves did devote part of her presentation to parking.

Councilor Warr added that Ms. Reeves has strongly advocated for more signage and merchandise on sidewalks, which he supports. However, these are against City Ordinances. Ms. Estes understood that these ordinances were originally requested by ADHDA. The ADHDA would like to have some input about such things going forward as the ordinances should be revisited.

Mayor Van Dusen thanked Ms. Estes for her compliment, adding the City works hard to get their messages out to the public. He also thanked Chelsea Gorrow of *The Daily Astorian* and Terry Wilson at KMUN for helping the City publicize their messages.

Don Webb, 3555 Harrison Drive, Astoria, stated these committees should see that the City has spent thousands of dollars studying parking areas which revealed that customers will only walk half a block. The sidewalk on Commercial Street in front of the post office, between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets, is about four feet narrower than the section between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets. He wanted to know why ODOT did not build a sidewalk that would allow for a better turning radius for trucks. Construction in this area is still occurring and it would be a good idea to widen that to make it better for vehicles.

- People have been asking how much urban renewal funding has been spent in that particular area. He has always noted that urban renewal funds are to be used for reconditioning decayed areas in an effort to increase property taxes. Nothing has been done in this particular area that would increase property tax values. He believed the public should be told how much urban renewal money is been spent there.

City Manager Benoit stated that about \$250,000 were spent on sidewalks. Director Estes added that about \$150,000 was for available for the garden.

Marge Peck, 2850 Marine Drive, Astoria, asked who is responsible for maintaining the sidewalks on Exchange Street between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets. Mayor Van Dusen answered that property owners are responsible for the sidewalks along their properties. Ms. Peck asked why maintenance is not enforced. The sidewalks are dangerous to walk on. City Manager Benoit explained the City currently has an enforcement action on the property owners for those sidewalks. Ms. Peck noted it looks as if springs are coming up through the concrete.

Ms. Peck expressed concern about how the trees and shrubs were removed along the Riverwalk. The work was done poorly and the area looks worse than before.

Councilor LaMear recalled that Councilor Herzig had suggested signs be posted at the Garden of Surging Waves that notify the public of the progress on the project and asked for an update. City Manager Benoit stated the signs have been designed and are being produced. One sign will be 4 ft by 8 ft and will show all of the sequences of the entire project. The second sign is 4 ft by 5 ft and will show the finished rendering of the project. The City expects the signs to be delivered within five to seven days. They will be mounted on a portable framework so the signs can be moved as construction proceeds. The signs should be up by the end of the next week.

Councilor Herzig believed the City needs to do a better job of publicizing the topics discussed at City Council meetings. Many people in the community want more information on how the City decides to fund various projects. People are unaware that the Senior Center renovations are being paid for by a grant and assume the City is funding the project. The community needs to be constantly updated on how much or how little the City is spending. He is often asked why the City is spending money on certain things.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. to convene the Executive Session.

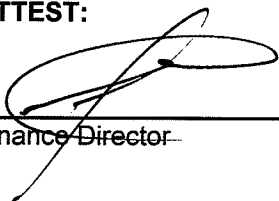
## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council Executive Session was convened at 8:15 p.m.

### Item 9(a): ORS 192.660(2)(d) – Labor Negotiation Consultations

The City Council Executive Session was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

APPROVED:

  
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City Manager