

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

Councilors Present: Herzig, Mellin, and Council President Pro Tem Warr

Councilors Excused: Mayor Van Dusen and Councilor LaMear

Staff Present: City Manager Pro Tem Estes, Parks and Recreation Director Cosby, Financial Analyst Snyder, Fire Chief Ames, Planner Johnson, Library Director Tucker, Public Works Director Cook, and City Attorney Henningsgaard. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS:

Item 3(a): Councilor Herzig reported that the Lower Columbia Diversity Project (LCDP) co-sponsored a film screening on Friday, May 30, 2014. The film, *American Winter*, filmed in Portland, Oregon a few winters ago, was about American middle class families living one or two paychecks away from the abyss. The film followed about five families who lost their homes, jobs, and medical coverage. The film was chilling, but was a good presentation. Dr. Larry Galizio from Clatsop Community College introduced the film and a representative from the AFL-CIO was present. He reported that he attended the county commissioners meeting last week where he heard a report on state and county labor statistics. The state has recovered about 80 percent of the jobs lost during the recession, but Clatsop County has only recovered about 37 percent of the jobs. It is important to be aware that people are really struggling to get along. The social safety net needs to be strong enough to keep people from slipping into homelessness, like the families in the film shown last Friday.

Item 3(b): Councilor Mellin reported that on May 21, 2014, Astoria had an environmental assessment and cleanup for the Heritage Square project. A dry cleaners and car repair shop used to be where the large hole is, so the area is contaminated. The presenters, who will be working on the assessment and cleanup, were so enthusiastic about the site because the site is perfect for a rural community like Astoria. The presenters were impressed with the work that has been completed so far. The site is not a hot spot, so cleaning out the contamination would not be too difficult. Core drilling would be done to evaluate the contamination. It appears as if the money granted for the project would cover both the assessment and the cleanup, which would be completed in two phases. Astoria was one of 11 cities to get this national grant. She learned that there is arsenic in the soil naturally, which comes from the basalt in the soil. She also reported that on June 1, 2014, the Parks and Recreation Department held a successful half marathon and 5K with 164 attendees. Marathon runners ran up and down the Riverwalk all day and the weather was perfect. Large ships on the river made a wonderful backdrop.

Item 3(c): President Pro Tem Warr reported that on Memorial Day, he attended the memorial service at the Maritime Memorial, which had a larger crowd than in past years, which he believed was partially due to the weather. The Parks Department did an excellent job of cleaning up the area. The sound system was excellent and he was proud of the event.

City Manager Pro Tem Estes updated Council on a couple issues discussed at recent City Council meetings, as follows:

- Regarding the public hearing City Council requested regarding the vacation of a portion of West Niagara Avenue adjacent to the United States Coast Guard Housing, the Coast Guard has agreed to hold a public neighborhood meeting, but have not yet set a date. More details would be given to City Council when they are available.
- The Olvey Code Enforcement Case resulted from discussion during a property sale hearing at City Council. The potential buyer had a history of Code enforcement issues and the property sale was not approved. After the meeting, Staff immediately sent a Code enforcement violation letter to Mr. Olvey. Policies established by City Council gave Mr. Olvey two weeks to respond. When no response was received within those two weeks, Staff sent a second letter, which gave Mr. Olvey seven days to respond. On Friday, May 30, 2014, Staff received a written response from Mr. Olvey asking for more time to address the Code enforcement

issues, but, he did not provide Staff with a timeframe. Staff will make one last attempt to establish a timeframe. If this is not successful, Staff will begin to issue citations.

CHANGES TO AGENDA:

City Manager Pro Tem Estes stated Item 7(d): Liquor License Application by Brad Smithart, dba The Arc would be removed from the agenda, as the Applicant has withdrawn his application.

PRESENTATIONS:

Item 5(a): Goonies House Neighborhood Report

Catherine Fuller, 344 38th Street, Astoria, said she lives next door to the Goonies house, which was in Stephen Spielberg's 1984 movie, *The Goonies*, and is promoted as a tourist attraction for Astoria. The house is the number one draw to Astoria with more than 2,200 people visiting the house each year. The house is a private residence located on top of a narrow private gravel road. She gave a PowerPoint presentation about issues the neighborhood is experiencing due to the popularity of the Goonies house with these key comments:

- The narrow road can only accommodate one vehicle at a time, which is not usually a problem for the residents, but does become a problem when tourists block the driveway on a regular basis.
 - The road is not safe for foot traffic because there is a blind corner where people often stand to take photographs. These people cannot be seen by drivers as they drive up the hill.
- Most of the photographs she showed depicted people standing on private property, which is a concern. People will often stand in her driveway, usually 6 to 10 people on a nice weekend.
 - One photograph was of a man doing the truffle shuffle, a move done by a character in the movie that involves showing his bare belly. People do the truffle shuffle in her driveway every day. Groups will gloat and yell to encourage someone to do the truffle shuffle. A line from the movie indicates the truffle shuffle never gets old, but it does.
- A variety of signs, made by the owner of the Goonies house, had been placed at the bottom of the hill over the years. The signs reduced car traffic on the private road by about half.
 - Tourists who did not understand they had to travel at an even pace to get up the hill would spin their wheels, making divots in the road. City Code states that residents on private gravel roads are responsible for repairing the road. Neighbors would spend between 30 minutes and an hour repairing the divots with a pick ax every time a driver would spin their wheels on the road, which was done frequently.
 - Tourists would steal the Goonie signs, so the owner of the Goonies house kept replacing them. Finally, a man from out of state made a professional sign that has reduced car traffic by 90 or 95 percent. People will now walk up the road instead, but it is still difficult for her to get in and out of her driveway.
 - The tourists are respectful of signs that look professional and are willing to comply. Every once in a while, a tourist will ignore the sign and find it difficult to turn around.
- She showed a photograph of the road from a different angle and explained that in order to get into her driveway each day, she must stop at the bottom of the hill to see if there are tourists in her driveway. She will either wait for the tourists to move or honk. This situation is very precarious because there is not a lot of room on either side. Some tourists need to be told to move over because they do not realize how narrow the space is. The area is not safe for tourists and the situation is unnerving for her.
- She showed a photograph of the blind corner and pointed out where people stand to take pictures. When a driver is at the bottom of the hill, neighbors just wait on each other so they can pass through one at a time. The road is too narrow for safe foot traffic.
- The unsafe blind corner at the top of the hill is hazardous for tourists. There is an invasion of citizens' privacy, increased noise and a general nuisance as tourists constantly tread on private property around the Goonie neighborhood, mostly on her property.
- She proposed building a simple footpath and landing for taking pictures to alleviate the problems, providing safety for tourists, increasing neighbor's privacy, keeping tourists off private property and reducing noise and nuisance.
 - She displayed examples of foot paths that would be inexpensive; simple wooden paths with dirt that she had seen in some of the parks in Astoria. The foot path would not need to be elaborate or fancy. Her area of the city is the only area that does not have sidewalks, but has the largest amount of foot traffic.

- She showed examples of simple picture-taking landings that could be built at the end of the foot path.
- The City promotes tourism and the Goonie house, which is the number one draw to the city. As long as the Chamber of Commerce was promoting the house, giving tourists directions to the house, it is the City's responsibility to support the tourism being promoted.

Councilor Mellin believed the Goonie fans would come to Astoria even if the house was not promoted because everyone is crazy about *The Goonies*. She agreed with Ms. Fuller and was glad she brought the issues to the City's attention. She asked if the previous owner of her house told her what to expect of the tourists. Ms. Fuller said her great-grandfather built the house, which has always been in her family. Her grandmother owned the Goonie house when the movie was made, so she was well aware of the evolution of the entire situation.

Councilor Mellin said the situation was a blessing and a curse. She believed Ms. Fuller's presentation was magnificent and that the City should do something, but she was unsure about what could be done. The Goonie house is almost like a historical site now and its popularity will continue to grow. The house cannot be removed, but this problem needs to be resolved. She believed the neighbors and the City could come to a solution.

Councilor Herzig agreed. He believed City Council would need to direct Staff to look into possible solutions. He did not know what would be most affordable, installing a sidewalk or a walking trail. Staff should examine the situation and make a recommendation to City Council. He believed the Chamber of Commerce should be involved as much as possible. Since they promote the house, the Chamber may be able to defray some of the costs associated with the solution that is chosen.

President Pro Tem Warr recalled receiving an email from Ms. Fuller about a week ago, asking for some help. He immediately contacted City Manager Pro Tem Estes and asked him to look into the situation. He was unsure about building something because of the private property issues. Usually, sidewalks are paid for by the homeowners, but he was certain there were things the City could do. City Manager Pro Tem Estes said prior to seeing Ms. Fuller's presentation, the Planning, Engineering, and Public Works Departments met to consider some scenarios to recommend. The signage at the foot of the private street could be improved, making it more of a City sign rather than a sign with the Goonies logo on it. A City sign might look more enforceable. The City could place additional "no parking" signs in the area. Staff would need to consider how a foot path would work. He confirmed that the private drive is maintained by adjacent property owners, but the drive is within a public right-of-way. Therefore, the City is unable to keep the public off of the street. Staff can consider the path and present more ideas to City Council for further discussion.

President Pro Tem Warr believed Ms. Fuller's estimate of 2,200 visitors per year was very conservative. He lives two driveways down from the location that was shown in the photograph. No parking is allowed on one side of the street. It is very difficult to get a car up the street if someone parks in the no parking zone. Personally, he loved *The Goonies* and would like to accommodate the tourists, but the situation can be challenging at times. He believed the illegal parking presented some challenges and appreciated Ms. Fuller's frustration. He experiences some of the issues, but not like Ms. Fuller.

Councilor Mellin said it was unusual to be invaded by happy people. The house is a mecca for Goonies' fans.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) Boards and Commission Minutes
 - (1) Library Board Meeting of 4/22/14
 - (2) Parks Board Meeting of 4/2/14

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Mellin, seconded by Councilor Herzig, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: President Pro Tem Warr, Councilors Herzig and Mellin; Nays: None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7(a): Public Hearing and Resolution Adopting Supplemental Budgets for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (Finance)

ORS 294.473 provides a procedure for a municipality to pass a supplemental budget that adjusts for changes that happen during a fiscal year. As the fiscal year 2014-15 reaches completion, staff has determined that the 11th Street Dock and Capital Improvement Funds require adjustments because these funds have resources and expenditures that were not anticipated when these budgets were originally appropriated. Staff anticipated that the reconstruction of the 11th Street Dock would be completed before the end of last fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. As the completion deadline approached, there were construction delays for completion that related particularly to electrical system design and installation of the transformers. The result is that \$284,455.75 of expenses were incurred to complete the dock construction that did not have an appropriation in the budget for FY 2013-14. It should be noted that these expenditures were within the contractually obligated bid for the dock construction. They were just not allocated in the budget for FY 2013-14. The Capital Improvement Fund has received grant reimbursements for prior year expenditures that increase the funds available in this fund. Land and timber sales have provided an increase of resources. During this fiscal year expenditures for departmental copiers, the Parks van, the Heritage Square brown field project and the emergency repairs for the 5th and Duane Street slide were approved by Council at the time they occurred. The appropriate notice was advertised on May 28, 2014. It is recommended that Council hold a public hearing for the advertised supplemental budgets and consider adopting the resolution.

President Pro Tem Warr opened the public hearing at 7:31 pm. and called anyone wanting to speak in favor of, impartial or opposed to the resolution adopting supplemental budgets for fiscal year 2013-2014 to come forward. Hearing none, he called for Council discussion and deliberation. There being none, he closed the public hearing at 7:33 pm.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Mellin, seconded by Councilor Herzig to adopt the resolution adopting supplemental budgets for Fiscal Year 2013 2014. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: President Pro Tem Warr, Councilors Herzig and Mellin; Nays: None.

President Pro Tem Warr requested that Items 7(b) and 7(c) be presented together and combined into one public hearing with two motions.

Item 7(b): Resolution to Elect to Receive State Shared Revenues (Finance)

Oregon Revised Statutes 221.770 requires the City to adopt a resolution to declare its intent to receive state revenue for each new fiscal year. The attached resolution would accomplish that. It is recommended that the City Council consider this resolution for adoption.

Item 7(c): Public Hearing and Resolution Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 (Finance)

Oregon Local Budget Law requires that the City Council hold a public hearing on the budget, as approved by the Budget Committee. Notice of this hearing, scheduled for June 2, 2014, was published in the Daily Astorian on Friday, May 16, 2014. The Budget Committee approved the FY2014-2015 budget at its meeting on April 24, 2014. Copies of the budget were previously distributed to the Council and Budget Committee. They were also posted on the City's website and were available in hard copy at the Finance Department and Library. The attached resolution will adopt resources and appropriations and authorize the collection of taxes at a rate of \$8.1738 per thousand for FYE June 30, 2015. It is recommended that Council conduct the public hearing and consider the proposed resolution adopting the budget.

City Manager Pro Tem Estes explained that Items 7(b) and 7(c) have been combined into one presentation because they both relate to the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, which begins July 1, 2014.

President Pro Tem Warr opened the public hearing for Items 7(b) and (c) at 7:35 pm and called for anyone wanting to speak in favor of, impartial or opposed to the resolutions to receive state shared revenues and adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 to come forward. Hearing none, he called for comments from Councilors. There being none, he closed the public hearing at 7:36 pm

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Herzig, seconded by Councilor Mellin to approve the resolution to elect to receive state shared revenues. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: President Pro Tem Warr, Councilors Herzig and Mellin; Nays: None.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Mellin, seconded by Councilor Herzig to adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: President Pro Tem Warr, Councilors Herzig and Mellin; Nays: None.

City Council proceeded to Item 7(e): Liquor License Application from Marvin James Sawyer, Jr., dba Port of Call.

Item 7(d): Liquor License Application from Brad Smithart, dba The Arc at 1084 Commercial Street, for a New Outlet for a Limited On-Premises Sales License (Police and Finance)

A liquor license application has been filed by Brad Smithart, doing business as The Arc, located at 1084 Commercial Street, Astoria. The application is for a New Outlet for a Limited On-Premises Sales License. The appropriate departments have reviewed the application. After research, which is more fully described in the memo accompanying this item, the Police Department recommends that the City Council deny the application by Mr. Smithart as the applicant made false statements on the liquor license application; has been convicted in violating laws substantially related to maintaining licensing; and has demonstrated an inability to comply with financial requirements associated with other businesses owned by Mr. Smithart.

This item was removed from the agenda as the Applicant had withdrawn his application.

Item 7(e): Liquor License Application from Marvin James Sawyer, Jr., dba Port of Call at 894 Commercial Street, for a New Outlet for a Full On-Premises Sales Commercial Establishment License (Finance)

This item was presented immediately following Item 7(c) Public Hearing and Resolution Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

A liquor license application has been filed by Marvin James Sawyer, Jr., doing business as Port of Call, located at 894 Commercial Street, Astoria. The application is for a New Outlet for a Full On-Premises Sales Commercial Establishment License. The appropriate departments have reviewed the application and it is recommended that Council consider approval.

Councilor Herzig noted that members of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA) were in the audience and asked if they had any opinions on the application as the business is in the downtown area. He noted that ADHDA President Dulyce Taylor gave a thumbs up, but no members of the public spoke. He was concerned about so many bars operating in the area, and Port of Call would also be operating from 11:00 am to 2:00 am. He understood the area was a dead zone in the city and businesses are needed, but he was unsure if this business was the right one.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Mellin, seconded by Councilor Herzig to approve the liquor license application by Marvin James Sawyer, Jr., dba Port of Call at 894 Commercial Street, for a New Outlet for a Full On-Premises Sales Commercial Establishment License. Motion carried 2 to 0 to 1. Ayes: President Pro Tem Warr and Councilor Mellin; Nays: None; Abstentions: Councilor Herzig.

Item 7(f): Ordinance Regarding Vacation of a Portion of West Niagara Avenue Adjacent to United States Coast Guard Housing (2nd reading and adoption) (Public Works)

The City has received a request from the United States Coast Guard (USCG) for the vacation of the north 30 feet of the West Niagara Avenue right-of-way adjacent to Lots 1 to 10, Block 12, West Slope and the south 30' of the West Niagara Avenue right-of-way adjacent to Lots 1 to 11, Block 13, West Slope. The USCG plans to expand their housing development with a road and new housing extending north from Klaskanine Avenue. At their meeting of May 19, 2014, the Council conducted the first reading of the ordinance of vacation. It is recommended that the Astoria City Council conduct the second reading and adopt the ordinance to vacate of a

portion of the West Niagara Avenue right of way adjacent to the United States Coast Guard Housing development.

Director Cook displayed a map of the area on the screen.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Mellin, seconded by Councilor Herzig to conduct the second reading of the ordinance to vacate a portion of the West Niagara Avenue right-of-way adjacent to the United States Coast Guard Housing development. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: President Pro Tem Warr, Councilors Herzig and Mellin; Nays: None.

Director Cook conducted the second reading of the ordinance to vacate a portion of the West Niagara Avenue right-of-way adjacent to the United States Coast Guard Housing development.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Mellin, seconded by Councilor Herzig to adopt the ordinance to vacate a portion of the West Niagara Avenue right-of-way adjacent to the United States Coast Guard Housing development. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: President Pro Tem Warr, Councilors Herzig and Mellin; Nays: None.

Item 7(g): Power Purchase Agreement with PacifiCorp for the Hydroelectric Project at Bear Creek (Public Works)

As part of the installation of a small hydroelectric generator at Bear Creek Dam, the City must sign a Power Purchase Agreement with PacifiCorp. This agreement allows the utility to purchase the excess power generated by the turbine and feed it back into the system. The turbine is estimated to generate an average of 154,645 kilowatt hours (kWh) annually. The City's water treatment system utilizes approximately 90,000 to 100,000 kWh annually, at an approximate cost of \$9,000. This charge would be eliminated by the power generated by the turbine and excess power would be sold to PacifiCorp at regulated rates. These rates are significantly lower than the amount the City is paying, so it is advantageous to "reverse the meter" before selling the power back into the system. The Power Purchase Agreement, if approved, is for 15 years. It is recommended that the City Council approve the Power Purchase Agreement and authorize the Mayor and City Manager Pro Tern to sign the document.

City Manager Pro Tem Estes noted that the excess power sold to PacifiCorp was estimated to be up to 60,000 kWh. The scheduled start date is March 1, 2015. Director Cook confirmed that the power sold back to PacifiCorp would be in excess of what the treatment facilities needed.

Councilor Herzig understood that if excess power was immediately sold back, the City would be making less than what it costs to operate the plant. This is why the City would use the power first to operate the plant, then sell what is left over. Director Cook confirmed this was correct.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Herzig, seconded by Councilor Mellin to approve the Power Purchase Agreement and authorize the Mayor and City Manager Pro Tern to sign the document. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: President Pro Tem Warr, Councilors Herzig and Mellin; Nays: None.

Item 7(h): Authorization to Bid Bear Creek Dam Hydroelectric Project (Public Works)

The engineering firm, Murray Smith Associates (MSA) has completed the plans for the Bear Creek Dam Hydroelectric Project. The engineer's estimate for the project is \$322,000. The City has received funding commitments for the project in the following amounts:

Funding Source	Amount
Infrastructure Finance Authority	\$ 87,600
Pacific Corp Blue Sky Grant	\$169,000
Energy Trust of Oregon	\$143,000
Total Funding	\$399,600

If Council authorizes staff to advertise for bids after June 2, 2014, award of the bid could be on July 21, 2014, with the notice to proceed in late July, 2014. Depending on the winning bidder, assembly and manufacturing of

the vault and the turbine could take three months. Installation of the vault and turbine is anticipated to take about one month. Interconnection and testing will be carried out thereafter, and the project should be complete and operational by the end of January, 2015. This is consistent with the deadlines agreed to by the funding agencies. It is recommended that City Council authorize staff to solicit bids for the Bear Creek Hydroelectric Project.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Herzig, seconded by Councilor Mellin to authorize staff to solicit bids for the Bear Creek Hydroelectric Project. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: President Pro Tem Warr, Councilors Herzig and Mellin; Nays: None.

Item 7(i): Authorization to Award Contract for Mainline Improvement Harvest 2014 (Public Works)

At their May 5, 2014 meeting, the City Council authorized staff to solicit bids for a timber harvest the City's Watershed. The harvest operation will remove selected mature timber and will allow for the planting of seedlings to create a diversity of tree species and age classes as identified in the forest management. Improvements, which will include placing crushed rock and culverts on the Watershed Mainline, will also be part of the project.

On May 28, 2014 the following bid was received: Hampton Tree Farms Incorporated - \$377,749.00.

The City Attorney has reviewed the attached contract and approved as to form. After project costs and reforestation costs, the net revenue is anticipated to be \$300,000 and will be deposited in the Capital Improvement Fund. It is recommended that Astoria City Council award a contract to Hampton Trees Incorporated for the Mainline Improvement Harvest.

City Manager Pro Tem Estes noted the City's watershed is a Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified Forrest. Hampton operates two FSC mills in the area. The certification has enabled the timber to be sold at a higher price because there is demand for FSC certified timber.

Councilor Herzig recalled asking at a previous City Council meeting if some of the revenue, which has now increased by \$100,000, would offset the water and sewer surcharge increase that the citizens of Astoria will experience next year. The increase will be about \$66 per year. He asked if anything had been done about this. City Manager Pro Tem Estes said City Council could give Staff direction on utilizing revenues from this project. Public Works has discussed using Capital Improvement Funds for a future CSO project, but this would need to be directed by City Council. The funds do not need to be committed at this meeting, but in the future, City Council could direct Staff to consider using some of the funds.

President Pro Tem Warr believed the appropriate time to consider this was as the funds were being deposited.

Councilor Herzig asked if funds in the Capital Improvement Fund could be reallocated to offset the water/sewer surcharge increase. City Manager Pro Tem Estes explained that funds in the Capital Improvement Fund are generally used for capital improvement projects. The funds could possibly be used to pay for part of the contract associated with building infrastructure, allowing the City to take less of a loan.

Councilor Herzig reiterated the citizens would see a \$66 increase in their utility bill next year. The City has \$300,000 coming and he was asking that some of it be used to offset the increase. He was not asking that costs of a future CSO project be covered. City Manager Pro Tem Estes said Staff would recommend considering a future construction project, potentially the 16th Street CSO project, which will be started within the next year. Offsetting the water/sewer rates would require a modified budget and City Council could direct Staff to recommend a supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Councilor Herzig said he was not speaking about future construction costs; he was speaking about the utility bills, which will include a \$66 increase this coming year. He was asking if the City could absorb some of the increase so it is not passed on to the water/sewer users. City Manager Pro Tem Estes said this could be done and asked for City Council direction on the matter.

President Pro Tem Warr asked if the funds could be held outside of the Capital Improvement Fund until a decision had been made. Financial Analyst Snyder confirmed that revenues from the timber sale could be

reallocated and used to offset current fees via City Council action. City Manager Pro Tem Estes noted that typically, it has been City Council's policy to use Capital Improvement Funds for capital improvement projects.

President Pro Tem Warr understood, adding he wanted to make sure reallocation the funds was still a possibility. City Manager Pro Tem Estes stated that depositing the revenue into the Capital Improvement Fund would not close the opportunity to reallocate a portion of the funds; however, City Council action at a later time would be necessary.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Herzig, seconded by Councilor Mellin to award a contract to Hampton Trees Incorporated for the Mainline Improvement Harvest. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: President Pro Tem Warr, Councilors Herzig and Mellin; Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS & MISCELLANEOUS, PUBLIC COMMENTS

Suzanna Gladwin, 1039 Lexington Street, Astoria, said she has been promoting truck bypass for several years. She had interviewed many people, thought about the issue a lot, and decided to pass the issue off to someone, as she is just a citizen. Astoria was the most vulnerable to the trucks. Given the livability of Astoria, the city is now becoming a destination place that is getting worldwide recognition for many good reasons. She noted the fragility of buildings, sidewalks and chair walls, and how the vibrations even break windows on some buildings. There is a perception that business owners worry about losing business, but many are very positive about getting trucks off of downtown streets. Businesses cannot open their doors because of exhaust fumes and noise. This issue is being more and more recognized. Astoria is a destination; people come to town for county business and medical care. People on the east side of the county who wish to shop at big box stores go to Longview or Kelso.

- She had some information about the response by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), which does not want anything to do with the issue. ODOT has declined to take any part in this, but they have made statements indicating that it is completely adequate. The Post Office is not adequate. The Transportation System Plan (TSP) indicates that the highways going through protect the infrastructure; however, it does not protect infrastructure. She believed there were many ways to get ODOT to look at the situation differently. ODOT is important for grant funding and the whole issue is finding money. She is on the Clatsop County Planning Commission and believed the county planners may consider taking on this issue if funding was available.
- She has spoken with people at Camp Rilea who would love to have another option. She did not believe they realize how fragile Highway 26 is and how often it is shut down. This is an issue for Camp Rilea because they do not want to take convoys through Astoria and are really tied up if they cannot take Highway 26.
- She envisions a 25-mile per hour truck route that will still be faster than going through Astoria and will be the same distance. The tricky part is that Grimstead Lane is a steep private road. There was an old road that cut through forestry, but it was not zoned for a truck route, so land use would be an issue.
- She wanted to see a survey used to get the community onboard and discussing Astoria as a destination and the pros and cons to help remove fears that a truck route would be bad for business. The survey would provide input from citizens and business owners, especially those who have spoken to her about the truck route from a business perspective. She recalled a retrofitting workshop conducted by John Guttenberger several years ago where retrofitting a façade tied into a chair wall was discussed. Street vibrations must be dealt with before putting money into retrofitting a façade. Mr. Guttenberger had said this was possible in Astoria as this work was being done in Portland. Retrofitting facades is a big deal for many reasons.
- She keeps track of earthquake issues and even a small earthquake could potentially shut down the city, which was another good reason to have a truck route. A strong El Nino pattern was starting that would hit Astoria next winter. This pattern creates a lot of upwelling and good fishing, but the westerly winds have now slowed down. A strong El Nino pattern means more ocean on America's shores, she has heard up to 3 or 4 inches, and the high tides spray and waves could wash over the Riverwalk. She questioned if weather would affect the truck route, noting Highway 202 could be a better route. It would be good to have two options.
- She handed her comments and documents to President Pro Tem Warr at the dais.

President Pro Tem Warr recalled seeing Ms. Gladwin at many traffic meetings, noting that he is personally involved in many traffic issues and that promoting a bypass is a goal of the City.

Ms. Gladwin said truckers have told her that ODOT will not put a sign at the post office indicating a person cannot be beside a truck, although these signs are at the roundabout that ODOT just designed. She understood that when a truck hits a car, the truck is out of its lane and gets cited, which does not seem right. She tried several months ago to get the item on the Council's agenda and confirmed that she should try again.

Martin Beuhl, 859 Glasgow Avenue, Astoria, thanked City Council for opening up further discussion with the Coast Guard about their housing development in his neighborhood. He was concerned with logging the watershed. He believed watersheds were precious and were never touched. The water supply is important to everyone. The last time the watershed was logged, several problems occurred. He assumed that experts have looked into the logging and everything is fine.

President Pro Tem Warr confirmed that an on-staff forester has looked at the situation very carefully. The area being logged is far from any act of water but that forest needs to be managed and forest management always involves some cutting. The City has no desire to anything bad to its water supply, which is very important. Trees will be cut very carefully and thoughtfully over the next few years.

Mr. Beuhl stated he was familiar with forest management, which has been part of his life.

Councilor Herzig added that the cutting is thinning to keep the forest healthy. Some of the trees are diseased, so this is forest maintenance by thinning appropriately in diseased areas, not logging. The areas being cut are small parcels of land.

Mr. Beuhl understood that presentations had been given, but he has only been able to listen as he is blind. He had pictured devastation, but appreciated the reassurance. He wanted to make sure that the watershed is cared for. He believed the watershed was logged 30 years ago and the color of the water changed, which was not a good thing.

Mike Barnes, 33655 NE Crow Creek Drive, Newberg, stated he has been the City's forester for about 12 years. There have been no noticeable turbidity issues with any of the light touch management that has been done on the watershed. Many watersheds in Oregon are managed, some extensively. He agreed that in the 50 years that Crown Zellerbeck owned the watershed, some turbidity may have occurred because they harvested large areas all at once. Astoria is only harvesting one tenth of one percent in an area where there is no water and that is far away from any of the reservoirs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

APPROVED:



City Manager Pro Tem/
Community Development Director