

## COUNCILMEMBERS

### Position No.

1. Tod Gunther
2. John Kelly
3. Michelle Gehring
4. Dave Harman
5. Nicola McDonald
6. Greg Hogan
7. Scott Drennen



## ORTING CITY COUNCIL

Study Session Meeting Minutes  
Orting Multi-Purpose Center  
202 Washington Ave. S, Orting, WA  
July 18, 2018  
6PM.

ORIGINAL

### CHAIR, DEPUTY MAYOR DAVE HARMAN

#### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, PLEDGE AND ROLL CALL.

Deputy Mayor Harman called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Councilmember McDonald led the pledge of allegiance.

**Councilmembers Present:** Deputy Mayor Dave Harman, Councilmembers John Kelly, Nicola McDonald, Tod Gunther, Scott Drennen and Greg Hogan.

**Absent:** Michelle Gehring

**Staff Present:** Mark Bethune, City Administrator, Jane Montgomery, City Clerk, Scott Larson, Treasurer, Greg Reed, PW Director, Chris Gard, Chief of Police.

#### 2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Public Works

Councilmember Drennen briefed on the following that is being worked in Committee:

- SR 162 Bridge;
- White Hawk;
- SW Connector;
- Sidewalk Repairs;
- 6" waterline on SR 162.

##### Public Safety

Councilmember Kelly briefed on the following items that the Committee worked on:

- Presentation by Chief Gard on the state of police fleet, down 3 cars due to maintenance issues with the chargers. Proposal is to buy 3 cars and a pickup truck;
- Abandoned house ordinance;
- Recreational vehicle ordinance.

Councilmember Drennen asked about the Fireworks Issue, and asked if it is on the agenda for the Public Safety Committee. Councilmember Kelly stated that the City will likely go up for an Advisory Vote in 2019. Councilmember Drennen would like it to be discussed and worked on in advance.

Mayor Penner suggested that staff work on this for next year's Council goals and have an ordinance prepared in December of 2019.

##### Community and Government Affairs

Nothing to report.

### 3. STAFF REPORTS

#### **Administrator Bethune**

- Would like to change the date of ICS training for Council to September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm;
- Public safety building- making progress. Helix is moving forward on the floor plan, changes were made they went from a 12,000 square foot plan to a 11,000 square foot plan;
- Public works building is in design phase- both projects will likely be ready in the fall;
- In the process of creating a marketing plan for a professional booth for events in the City.

Administrator Bethune asked to add the Comprehensive Plan docket extension to the agenda as item F.

#### **Scott Larson, City Treasurer**

Treasurer Larson handed out a memo titled 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2018 reporting and read the memo to Council and briefed on the report. The report also included a "work in progress" of City projects. Questions/comments followed. Councilmember Gunther expressed a desire to see charts that go beyond to past year to include the past 5 years.

#### **Jane Montgomery, City Clerk**

The City Clerk passed out letter from the Senior Center to Councilmembers asking for their support at an upcoming fundraising event.

#### **Greg Reed, Public Works Director**

Director Reed briefed on 178<sup>th</sup> and the leaks in the spaghetti lines. He would like to do upgrades to connect the service lines. This will encourage the repair of leaks in a timely manner. A letter will be sent out to the affected homeowners. Additionally Director Reed briefed on a tree which was removed at the in Cemetery, and the City is going out to bid to see if any other trees pose a danger.

Councilmember Gunther informed Director Reed that the telephone pole on the corner of Ammons and SR162 is tilting over.

#### **Chris Gard, Chief of Police**

Chief Gard briefed that the FBI released its 2017 crime report. The Chief was pleased to announce that there was a 26.5% drop in the crime rate in the City. The emphasis in Orting is on low level quality of life crimes such as burglary, theft, larceny, and vehicle prowls.

#### **Mayor Penner**

Mayor Penner stated that there was a contingent of students from China present in the audience observing democracy at the Council meeting. Mr. Jimmy Chen came forward and Introduced Amy a young girl who gave a welcome speech to the Council. Mr. Chen stated that earlier when they were observing the Senate, Amy asked if America had a President or a King. The Senator stated America had a President, but he acts like a King.

### 4. AGENDA ITEMS

#### **A.AB18-50-Police Vehicles.**

Chief Gard briefed that there was a large expense being paid towards maintenance of the chargers and the condition of the fleet which has become an Officer safety issue. The Chief proposed that they stop the large expense for maintenance and start fresh with more reliable vehicles. Treasurer Larson briefed on a plan to lease vehicles which comes in under budget for 2018. Council would need to budget an additional \$48,500 for 2019-2020, and 2021, and



\$28,335 for 2022. This will include extended warranty contracts. Questions/discussion followed. Consensus was to move this forward to the agenda at the next meeting but not on the consent agenda.

**B. Discussion- Chief of Police.**

Mayor Penner discussed the process to appoint a Chief of Police which began three months ago. At that time the City Council voted to confirm the appointment of Chris Gard to Acting Chief of Police, and give it three months to explore the idea of open applications, going strictly in house, or going with something else. Ninety days have passed and Mayor Penner expressed that he has evaluated Chris Gard and he is pleased with his performance. He asked Council to confirm Chris Gard to the position of Chief.

Discussion followed regarding a competitive process for perception purposes and morale. Mayor Penner stated that only 2 people are qualified to apply internally, and Chief Gard is the only candidate that has been a Lieutenant in the City.

Councilmember Gunther briefed on the attributes of Chief Gard and stated that he is respected and beloved in the community. He briefed that Chief Gard has a vision to have the Police Department accredited and that he supports community policing and the creation of a world class bike program. He would like the Chief to have additional office support.

Mayor Penner anticipates that the first order of business for a new Chief will be to appoint two Lieutenants. Councilmember Hogan stated that he is in favor of the internal appointment of Chris Gard to Police Chief. Councilmember Kelly expressed the desire to appoint Chief Gard to the permanent position of Chief. Councilmember Kelly stated that he does not feel the need to go thru an external process that would be costly; particularly when he feels that Chris Gard is the best candidate. Councilmember Drennen also supports the appointment of Chris Gard to the permanent position of Chief as he is a known commodity with a 25 year resume and record of performance. Deputy Mayor Harman placed his confidence in the Mayor's choice of Chris Gard to the permanent appointment. Deputy Mayor Harman pointed out that there is precedence for this appointment process as at least two to three chiefs have previously come up through the ranks internally.

Mayor Penner will make a decision and come back to Council with a recommendation.

**C. AB18-57- SR 162 & 178<sup>th</sup> 6" Water Crossing and Service Upgrades.**

This was covered by Public Works Director Reed in his staff report. Consensus was to move this forward to the consent agenda at the next meeting and can be taken off the consent agenda if Citizens showed up and wished to address the upgrades. A new agenda bill will be provided to the City Clerk.

**D. AB18-58- Purchasing Policy.**

Treasurer Larson briefed on the proposed changes to the purchasing policy. By consensus Council agreed to move this forward to the consent agenda for the next Council meeting.

**E. AB18-59-Puyallup River Lift Station.**

Councilmember Drennen stated that the wording is incorrect on the agenda bill. He stated that words are important and that the lift station is not failing. What should be said is that they want an upgrade. By consensus Council agreed to put this on the consent agenda for the next meeting. The language on the agenda bill will be modified.

**F. Comprehensive plan amendment**

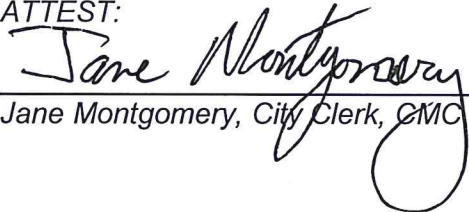
Administrator Bethune briefed that they update the Comprehensive plan yearly and normally they set a deadline at the end of April but at times that is extended. There is a need to extend the docket to change the zoning on the McMahon property that was purchased from commercial to public facilities. There is also a chance there will be a proposal from a developer on the mixed use town center north property, and an extension will afford them the opportunity to make a proposal. The only change requested is to change the deadline from July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup>. By Consensus Council moved this forward to the consent agenda of the next Council meeting.


**5. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilmember McDonald made a motion to Adjourn. Second by Councilmember Gunther.*

Deputy Mayor Harman adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.

ATTEST:

  
Jane Montgomery, City Clerk, CMC

  
Joshua Penner, Mayor