

## **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Position No.

1. Tod Gunther
2. John Kelly
3. Tony Belot
4. John Williams
5. Gregg Bradshaw
6. Greg Hogan
7. Scott Drennen



**ORTING CITY COUNCIL**  
Regular Business Meeting Minutes  
104 Bridge Street S, Orting, WA  
July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
7 p.m.

**Mayor Joshua Penner, Chair**

### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL.**

Mayor Penner called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. Deputy Mayor Hogan led the pledge of allegiance, and then roll call was taken.

**Councilmembers Present:** Deputy Mayor Greg Hogan, Councilmembers John Kelly, John Williams, Scott Drennen, Tony Belot, Tod Gunther, and Gregg Bradshaw.

**Staff Present:** Mayor Josh Penner, City Administrator Scott Larson, Finance Director Gretchen Russo, Engineer JC Hungerford, City Attorney Charlotte Archer.

Mayor Penner read the following announcements:

You may attend this meeting virtually via the platform Blue Jeans by clicking the link on the City's website, by telephone, or in person at City Hall. Per the Governor's directives, all in person attendees shall comply with social distancing regulations and non-vaccinated attendees shall wear a face covering.

### **REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA.**

No requests were made.

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS.** Comments may be sent to the City Clerk at [clerk@cityoforting.org](mailto:clerk@cityoforting.org) by 3pm on July 14th, 2021, and will be read in to the record at the meeting. In person attendees may provide public comment at the meeting. In the case of a question, the chair will refer the matter to the appropriate administrative staff member or committee. Written comments that come in after the 3pm deadline will be read in to the record at the next Council meeting.

No public comments were made.

### **3. PROCLAMATION**

#### **Stefanie Clement – Orting Town Greeter**

Mayor Penner read a Proclamation of the City of Orting honoring Stefanie Clement, Orting Town Greeter. Councilmember Gunther spoke and thanked Stefanie and acknowledged that she was chosen as town ambassador in 2015. Councilmembers Drennan and Bradshaw thanked Stefanie for all the years she has ridden her bike and greeted the town, and Councilmember Drennan asked that the town also preserve the first mile of the Foothills Trail in town.

#### 4. PRESENTATION

##### A. Jones Setback Levee

Harold Smelt, SWM Engineering Manager for Pierce County, presented a power point presentation. Topics covered were:

- History of the project
- Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorization Program (CAP)
- Feasibility Study
- Work that has been done so far
- Proposal
- Next steps
- Schedule
- Frequently asked questions

Council discussion followed.

- Deputy Mayor Hogan stated that when the Wolfe levy was built, he was under the impression that it would be accreditable, and that did not happen.
- Councilmember Drennan asked if Pierce County was funding the levy, would design and construction be approached the same way. He expressed that the opportunity to upgrade the existing levy is being missed in favor of a new levy that greatly impacts homeowners.
- Councilmember Gunther expressed concerns over loss of access to City parks. He stated that parks and river access are vital to the City of Orting and their citizens. He also stated that he would like to know if Pierce County has looked at all ways the existing levy could be utilized, including looking at international flood control measures.
- Councilmember Kelly asked about how many potential acres will be acquired by Pierce County. He questioned whether the new levee will increase sedimentation, and if it will truly benefit citizens downstream.
- Councilmember Belot asked for clarification about what stage the project is in, and when the proposed location was decided. He also stated he would like to see data on what makes the existing levy substandard.
- Councilmember Williams expressed concerns about inflation making the cost of the new levee continue to rise above the projected cost, and whether there will also be a new bridge built.
- Councilmember Bradshaw asked to see data on when the existing levee was breached in prior years. He asked whether the new levee will create a wider flood plain and the effects on the natural beauty that is there now. He questioned whether the new levee will be accredited, and for flood studies to be shared with the Council and the citizens of Orting.
- Mayor Penner asked for clarification on salmon running in the river. He also questioned whether the new levy will be built to the same standards as the Wolfe Levee. He asked about accreditation, and whether Pierce County will be seeking accreditation for the new levy. He stated frustrations with the lack of information shared with the cities on the project.

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA- (Any consent items pulled for discussion).

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- B. Payroll and Claims Warrants

*Councilmember Drennan made a motion to approve consent agenda as prepared. Second by Councilmember Williams. Motion Passed 7-0.*

#### 6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

*Deputy Mayor Hogan made a motion to adjourn. Second by Councilmember Williams. Motion Passed (7-0).*

Mayor Penner recessed the meeting at 9:03pm.

ATTEST:

  
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Kim Agfalvi, Acting City Clerk

  
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Joshua Penner, Mayor