

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
Study Session Meeting Minutes
104 Bridge Street S, Orting, WA
July 21st, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Hogan, Chair

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

Deputy Mayor Hogan made the following statement:

**The City utilized remote attendance for Councilmembers and City employees. Please note: OPMA rules regarding provision for the public in a space were suspended by proclamation of the Governor. The meeting was available to the public by a computer link or by phone.*

Deputy Mayor Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Councilmember Drennan led the pledge of allegiance, and then roll call was taken.

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

Elected Official: Mayor Penner.

Staff Present: City Administrator Scott Larson, Finance Director Gretchen Russo, Engineer JC Hungerford, Acting City Clerk Kim Agfalvi, City Attorney Charlotte Archer, City Planner Emily Adams, Lieutenant Devon Gabreluk, Public Works Director Greg Reed.

Councilmember Drennan made a motion to excuse Councilmembers Gunther and Belot. Seconded by Councilmember Bradshaw. Motion passed (5-0).

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works - CM Drennan & CM Bradshaw

Councilmembers Drennan and Bradshaw briefed on the following topics discussed at the last Public Works Committee meeting:

- Maintenance of sidewalks
- Bridge for Kids Ad Hoc Committee update with next meeting planned for August 2021

Public Safety - CM Belot & CM Gunther

Deputy Mayor Hogan briefed on the following topics discussed at the last Public Safety Meeting:

- Update on new police laws going into effect on July 25, 2021
- Quote for body cameras
- No major incidents on 4th of July
- Drug possession law brief for August study session.

Community and Government Affairs - CM Kelly & CM Williams

Councilmembers Kelly and Williams briefed on the following topics discussed at the last Community and Government Affairs Committee Meeting:

- Update on Parks Advisory Board
- Land acquisition on property located behind Hidden Lakes
- Clock tower update
- Parking issues in front of the post office
- Storage of the Daffodil Parade float
- Ordinance on selling in the park

Americans with Disabilities Act – reasonable accommodations provided upon request (360) 893-2219

3. STAFF REPORTS

Public Works

Greg Reed, Director of Public Works briefed on the following:

- Staff replaced hydrants on Corrin Ave and another one will be replaced on Mill Ave
- Vactor truck was able to clean 678 catch basins
- Updated on cemetery improvements
- Briefed on updating Memorial wall
- Update on upcoming Touch a Truck event
- Maintenance of plantar strips in front of businesses

Finance

Gretchen Russo, Finance Director briefed on the following:

- Financial health of City
- Utility payment plan for accounts that are in arrears
- Budget status

City Planner

Emily Adams, City Planner briefed on the following:

- Abundant Life Church submittal to expand and technical review

Engineering

JC Hungerford, City Engineer, briefed on the following:

- Gratzner Park expansion update
- Lift station projects

City Clerk

Kim Agfalvi, Acting City Clerk briefed on the following:

- Contracts
- Certificate received for completion of first year of clerk school

City Administrator

Scott Larson, City Administrator briefed on the following:

- Touch a truck event
- Interviews for City Clerk
- AD Hoc Committee meetings – One related to street maintenance and ARPA committee that is discussing how to spend the ARPA funds received

Executive

Josh Penner, Mayor briefed on the following:

- Open commission seats
- Cemetery volunteer
- Rock festival
- Interview of potential candidate for engineer
- Meeting with new Superintendent or Orting Public Schools
- Pierce County Regional Council update
- Comprehensive Plan update

Police

Lieutenant Devon Gabreluk briefed on the following:

- 2021 Legislative updates impact to the department
- HB1267 Office of Independent Investigations
- SB5476 Blake Decision
- SB5051 Decertification
- SB5066 Duty to Intervene
- SB5226 Driving with License Suspended (DWLS)
- HB1089 Audits of Investigations
- HB1223 Recording of Interrogations
- HB1140 Juvenile Access to Attorneys
- SB5259 Data Collection
- HB 1054 Police Operations and Tactics
- HB 1310 Use of Force

Lieutenant Gabreluk briefed that the top priority for the Orting Police Department continues to be community safety. He stated change is something the department is used to seeing, as there are new changes each year and they are good at adapting to these changes. He stated however, that the new 2021 legislative updates are the most significant changes they have ever had to adopt, and that it will impact police operations. Lt. Gabreluk stated the Orting Police Department may not be able to act in many circumstances but that this should not discourage citizens from calling 911 to report a crime as they normally would. He also reiterated the Orting Police Department will continue to provide the best possible service to the community within the bounds allowed by law.

Councilmember Drennan stated he is concerned for police officers and their protection and asked about restrictions for officers to use K9 officers. Lt. Gabreluk stated the use of K9 officers is considered use of force, so their services will be limited.

4. PRESENTATION

A. South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP).

Mayor Penner presented a power point presentation on South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP) along with Executive Dammeier and John Howell. Key points included were:

- Housing stock in Orting is currently low.
- Loss of generational continuity in our community is permanent and will change the community identity. Those who grew up in Orting cannot afford to buy homes in Orting.
- Average income in Orting cannot afford a home in the community.
- Orting has highest growth of property value growth and taxation.
- Value of joining SSHAP

Council discussion followed.

Councilmember Drennan stated he is also concerned about the demand for houses. He asked about possible incentives the City could enact for builders to build in Orting.

Councilmember Williams stated he fails to see how joining SSHAP will solve the housing problem. He stated concerns about apartments being built with no public transportation source in Orting. He voiced concerns over the contract, and the ability to leave SSHAP, and whether the City would have any financial or legal obligations after they left. He stated he would rather see the City invest in its own growth management plan.

Discussion with Mayor Penner and Executive Dammeier followed on the topics brought up by Councilmember Williams.

Councilmember Gunther stated he had recently had a conversation with a citizen and asked this person how they thought the City Council was doing at their jobs. He said the citizen stated they were happy with the jobs being done, but that he felt that the Council didn't pursue new ideas. Councilmember Gunther also stated that he is concerned about housing affordability.

Council discussion followed and it was agreed to move SSHAP to the next council meeting as a stand-alone item on the agenda.

Action: Move forward to July 28th meeting as a stand-alone item on the agenda.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

A. AB 21-62 - Whitehawk, Calistoga, Kansas Street Intersection Control Presentation.

JC Hungerford & Jack Wright briefed on intersection control at the corner of Calistoga and Kansas St. They stated that there are two projects in the works for that area, intersection control and the Whitehawk Bypass. Jack Wright discussed the costs of a roundabout at the intersection and the effectiveness it would have at controlling traffic.

Council discussion followed.

Councilmember Gunther said he would not approve a roundabout in the City.

Councilmember Kelly stated he would not approve a traffic signal and would rather see a roundabout at that intersection.

Councilmember Williams agrees with Councilmember Kelly, that a roundabout would be more effective.

Councilmember Bradshaw does not agree with the effectiveness of the roundabouts, but would not be opposed to having one at that intersection.

Deputy Mayor Hogan stated he would like to see an approach speed limit also included if a roundabout goes in that location.

Mayor Penner asked the engineers if the roundabout includes traffic calming by design. The engineers stated the design does include traffic calming.

Councilmember Drennan stated he would want to be consistent with traffic flow measures throughout the town and adopt one kind to be used throughout the city. He also asked about potential homes that may be impacted.

Councilmember Gunther stated that he does not think that a roundabout will support the ADR the City has adopted. Councilmember Kelly stated that if you look at other states and countries, a roundabout can be designed that supports ADR codes.

City Administrator Larson asked about a timeline that the City needs to utilize for their decision making on the item of traffic control. Engineers stated they need a decision within the next month.

Councilmember Williams asked about a conceptual drawing of the roundabout and the engineers stated they would get that to the Council.

Action: No action taken. Informative item only.

B. AB 21-59 - Tahoma Valley Estates (aka Belfair Estates) Final Plat.

Emily Adams briefed on the Tahoma Valley Estates Final Plat that is located off Belfair and Grinnell. This plat is for 32 residential lots and the existing home. Preliminary plat was approved in February of 2017 and staff recommendation is to approve the final plat.

Action: Move forward to August 11th meeting as a stand-alone item.

C. AB 21-60 - Deck Code Amendments.

Emily Adams briefed on deck code amendments that would change the code on decks being built on the side yard of a house. The new code would read as follows: Uncovered porches and decks which do not exceed thirty inches (30") from finished lot grade may project into any setback, provided such projections do not extend more than six feet (6') into a front yard setback or no closer than five feet to the side lot line ~~eighteen inches (18") into a side yard setback.~~

Action: Move to August Planning Commission meeting for Public Hearing.

D. AB 21-51 - Types of Permit Decisions.

Emily Adams briefed the Council on the processes for permits in the City of Orting. She stated there are 5 processes for land use permits, broken down to three types of decisions.

- Administrative Decisions
- Quasi-Judicial Decisions
- Legislative Decisions

Emily briefed the council on what these types of decisions encompass and the processes completed in each type.

Action: No action taken. Informative item only.

E. AB 21-61 - Scope and budget for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Solids Handling Upgrade Design.

JC Hungerford and a Doug Berschauer briefed on the Waste Water Treatment Plant Solids Handling Upgrade Design and the need for this upgrade. Parametrix completed an electrical consumption assessment of the WWTP in 2014. This assessment found that many electrical and mechanical components of the plant were nearing or exceeding the recommended service life of the respective components. Based in part on the findings of the 2014 Electrical Consumption Assessment, the City requested a comprehensive assessment of the WWTP facilities and equipment. This assessment was completed in 2018, and it defines several upgrades and immediate fixes that will be included in this scope of work.

Council discussion followed.

Councilmember Drennan stated this is a critical expansion of the treatment plant and supports it moving forward.

Councilmember Kelly had questions on the inclusion of electrical upgrades that are needed.

Councilmember Drennan stated that one of the benefits of Class A or above biosolids is that it saves work on staying complaint with the Department of Ecology and it could reduce the potential of a future litigation with carbon footprint.

Action: Move forward to consent agenda at July 28th meeting.

F. AB 21-58 – Selling of merchandise in the park.

City Administrator Scott Larson briefed on the current City Code and regulations in regards to vending in the park.

Councilmember Kelly commented and stated that the Community and Government Affairs (CGA) committee has been looking at amending the code so that it would require a vendor to obtain a special event permit and to also carry insurance.

City Attorney Charlotte Archer stated that since the ordinance left the CGA committee, it has been modified to address existing businesses in the City of Orting that use the Orting Station.

Councilmember Bradshaw asked if it is possible to change the areas where vendors are allowed to vend and Deputy Mayor Hogan stated the importance of vendors carrying insurance when they vend in City Parks.

Action: Move forward to August 11, 2021 meeting as a stand-alone item.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

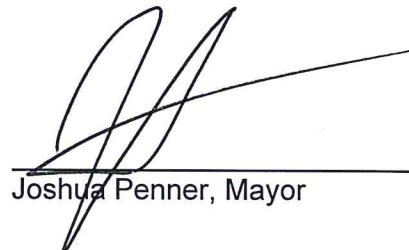
No executive session.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Hogan recessed the meeting at 10:30pm.

ATTEST:


Kim Agfalvi, Acting City Clerk


Joshua Penner, Mayor