

## 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 28th, 2021  
7:00 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. Councilmember Gunther 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, Acting City Clerk Kim Agfalvi, Engineer JC Hungerford, City Attorney Charlotte Archer, Lieutenant Devon Gabreluk, Jamey Hattaway.

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 28th, 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.

#### **Tamra Smilanich**

Ms. Tamra Smilanich emailed a comment to the clerk. She stated that she reviewed the May 19, 2021 meeting archive video, and wanted to commend the City Council and the City of Orting for their policy regarding wearing masks and respecting the individual's rights to keeping their medical information private.

#### **Rose Tracy**

Ms. Tracy commented on the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP) coalition, asking Council members to vote against joining it. She stated that she would like to see the City of Orting wait and see how the coalition fares before joining. She also stated concerns that the City has different housing issues than other cities that are considering joining.

### 3. STAFF RECOGNITION

**Administration** - Kim Agfalvi  
**Public Works** – Lane Strassburg  
**Public Safety** – Jamey Hattaway  
*Mayor Penner*

Mayor Penner stated that he is incredibly proud of his staff and that this quarterly recognition program highlights the great work being done by staff. He read a statement provided by supervisors of the employees that were being recognized at the meeting and highlighted their hard work. Finance Director Gretchen Russo, Public Works Director Greg Reed, and Lieutenant Devon Gabreluk also made statements about their respective employees.

### 4. CONSENT AGENDA- (Any request for items to be pulled for discussion?)

- A. **AB 21-61** - Approving Scope and budget for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Solids Handling Upgrade design.
  - B. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
  - C. Payroll Claims and Warrants.
- Motion:** Councilmember Kelly made a motion to approve the consent agenda as prepared. Seconded by Councilmember Drennan.*

Mayor Penner opened the floor for discussion. Councilmember Drennan gave a brief overview of the need for the upgrade of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Solids Handling Upgrade Design. Engineer JC Hungerford also spoke on the need for the upgrade, and stated this upgrade would produce Class A biosolids, which is acceptable for public use.

***Motion:** Councilmember Kelly made a motion to approve the consent agenda as prepared. Seconded by Councilmember Drennan. The motion passed (7-0).*

### 5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **AB21-18** – Authoring the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP).  
*Mayor Penner*

Mayor Penner gave a brief overview of the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP) and what it can do for the community of Orting. He stated it is an opportunity to be stakeholders in the coalition, with no expense to the City general fund. He gave an overview on what SSHAP has the authority to do, and what benefits the City would have by participating.

Councilmember Drennan stated that originally, he was against the City joining SSHAP because he was concerned that the City would be giving up autonomy. He stated that he weighed this matter carefully on his opinions of working with Mayor Penner, and the example he sets forth by working with the Pierce County Regional Council. He stated that he does believe it to be a low risk situation, as it is strictly an advisory board.

Councilmember Belot stated that he believes and trusts the mayor, but is cautious about land use and inclusionary zoning. He does believe having a rep from a City like Orting will bring diversity to the coalition.



***Councilmember Gunther made a motion to authorize the mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement for the City of Orting to join the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Drennan.***

Council discussion followed.

Councilmember Williams stated his concerns that there is a lot in the agreement that is vague. He also stated concerns over a clause that stated that any partner choosing to leave the coalition would be liable for financial and legal obligation. He asked the Council to take time considering joining, and that there is nothing that says the decision has to be made at this meeting.

Attorney Charlotte Archer spoke on the terms of leaving the agreement, and whether any liability would fall on the City if it decided to leave the SSHAP coalition.

Councilmember Williams reiterated his concerns on the vagueness of the agreement, and stated he would like more time to research SSHAP.

Mayor Penner spoke and clarified what the City would be obligated to pay for.

Attorney Archer spoke on the parameters of the contract, and that the City would be able to select which projects it wants to participate in. She stated the legislative body would have to approve the budget and the expenditures before anything can be spent.

Councilmember Drennan stated that the City would not have to give up any of its internal policies, and that the Mayor would have to convince the Council to enter in any agreement, as the Council is the ultimate authority.

Councilmember Gunther stated that if any other inequity within the City was exposed, that the Council would jump on trying to solve it, and that housing affordability is a real problem. He stated that the Council spent forty thousand dollars to look how the City Council could be improved, and that the expense of joining SSHAP is considerably less.

Councilmember Bradshaw stated that this is not an issue of confidence or trust in the Mayor and that he appreciates everything the Mayor has done. He expressed his concerns are that SSHAP is not an administrative agency, and that there is concern that SSHAP would take on a life of its own and that there would be more funds needed than the initial investment to join. His concern is regarding the financial obligation to join if SSHAP is just an advisory board, and that he does not want to delegate power to an outside coalition, as the citizens of Orting voted on the Council, not the members of SSHAP.

Councilmember Kelly stated he was in agreement that there is a need for affordable housing, but he does not believe this is the right approach. He asked why a coalition like SSHAP could not be created in Orting. He stated that he was concerned that SSHAP is a housing authority, and that the agreement is too vague to enter in to.

Mayor Penner expressed concerns over staffing a coalition in Orting.

Councilmember Drennan asked if it was possible to give it six months to see how the SSHAP fares, and would it be an option to join at that time.

Mayor Penner stated it was possible no action will be taken in the first six months that would change the Council's opinion on SSHAP.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

***Motion: Councilmember Gunther made a motion to authorize the mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement for the City of Orting to join the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP).***

***The motion was seconded by Councilmember Drennan.***

***A roll call vote was taken. CM Guther – Yes, CM Kelly – No, CM Belot – Yes, CM Williams – No, CM Bradshaw – No, DM Hogan – No, CM Drennan – Yes***

***The motion was defeated (3-4).***

## **6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion: Councilmember Gunther made a motion to adjourn. Second by Councilmember Williams. Motion passed (7-0).***

Mayor Penner recessed the meeting at 8:01pm.

ATTEST:

  
Kim Agfalvi, Acting City Clerk

  
Joshua Penner, Mayor