

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
August 18th, 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 6:03pm. Councilmember Belot 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, City Clerk Kim Agfalvi, City Planner Emily Adams, Chief Chris Gard, Public Works Director Greg Reed.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works - CM Drennan & CM Bradshaw

Councilmembers Drennan and Bradshaw briefed on the following topics discussed at the last public works meeting:

- Ad Hoc meeting for the Bridge for Kids and next month there will be a design to bring forward for review and recommendations.

Public Safety - CM Belot & CM Gunther

Councilmembers Belot and Gunther briefed on the following topics discussed at the last public safety meeting:

- Police reform issues.
- No sit, no lie rule that is coming out of the City of Everett.

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 meeting:

- Joe DePinto updated on legislative agenda for next session and asked for ideas the City wanted to be pushed forward for next session.
- Funding cameras for police.
- Parks Plan Survey update provided by City Planner Helen Stanton.
- Cemetery update from Greg Reed and possibility of working with Parametrix on cemetery improvements.
- Land acquisition of the land behind the Hidden Lakes neighborhood and working with Abundant Life Church to firm up access.

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- Storage of the Daffodil Parade float. Met with Tim Lincoln and Greg Reed on possible modifications to the site.
- Updating the fee schedule for the City. Need to come up with hourly rate for new engineer.
- Talked about vending in the park and voted on the ordinance at the last meeting.
- Clock tower – City Administrator Larson is working with Mr. Colorossi on the installation of clocks.
- Wellness packet for new hires. CGA will be partnering with the wellness committee for quarterly meetings.
- Sprucing of military memorial wall located in the main City park.
- Guests Alisha Rasmussen and Debbie Washington both spoke against selling in the park.

3. STAFF REPORTS

Public Works

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

- Crews finished removing trees that were impeding or creating a hazard on sidewalks and removed a total of 19 trees. They ground all stumps and removed others too big for grinding.
- Services abandoned on 177th.
- Installation of 3 hydrants.
- Installation of a blow off.
- Installation of a sample station.
- Bidding of work on Harman tank.
- Pierce County had begun work on street striping.

Finance

Finance Director Gretchen Russo briefed on the following:

- Online registration platform for Parks and Recreation Program.
- Payment plans for utility accounts that are in arrears.
- Continuing working on budget and should have preliminary budget in early September.
- Budget retreat is on September 25, 2021 at 9:00am.

City Planner

City Planner Emily Adams briefed on the following:

- Parks plan survey closes at the end of August and will include info received from Farmers Markets and the dots placed by citizens on the parks used the most. Parks plan includes level of service plan as next step.
- Current work on list of code amendments.

Engineering

City Engineer JC Hungerford briefed on the following:

- Well 1 project – had wrong fitting and will delay the project a little bit.
- Gratzer Park project is delayed because they are waiting for drain field material.
- Lift stations have wet well which is critical component and will be mobilizing in September for installation.
- Valve replacement at WWTP – anticipating bids on 31st of August and then will go to Public Works Committee.

City Clerk

Kim Agfalvi, City Clerk briefed on the following:

- Grant applications due on August 20th.
- Updating of Ordinance, Resolutions, and ILA's on the website.
- Codification of ordinances.
- Fall training conference in Lake Chelan.
- Fall recreation programs the City is planning on having – tot soccer and dance.
- Updating of Parks and Recreation registration forms.

City Administrator

Scott Larson, City Administrator briefed on the following:

- Hired an in-house engineer. Maryanne Zukowski started work on August 16, 2021. She will be meeting with Parametrix and getting up to speed. Maryanne is experienced with streets and transportation projects.
- Jury trial in October.
- Vending in park ordinance goes into effect Friday.
- City received twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars in additional funds from the state to implement new police reforms. Will be getting new less lethal equipment. Discussed the possibility of bringing forward body cam proposal for this year's budget and get first payment for those items out the door this year.
- Buttes intertie will be going back to Public Works Committee.
- United States Geological Survey and how it was helpful for planning.
- Fire chief will be attending council meeting in September and asked if council would like to see any other agencies brief the council in future meetings.
- Geologist indicated that from the time lahar starts until it reaches Orting is 60 minutes but there is a lag time between flow starts and when alarms can be activated which makes evacuation time closer to 45 minutes.
- Received resignation from sewer plant supervisor and will begin the process to hire another person.
- Attended meeting with the school district and they are interested in having a closer relationship with the City.
- Ongoing maintenance obligations on levy for invasive species and managing those.

Executive – Mayor

Mayor Penner briefed on the following:

- Sen. McCune's office reached out to the mayor's office and City Administrator Larson about tour of Electron Hydro.
- Representatives Wilcox and Barkis will be out in September to look at bridge site and talk about general legislative issues.
- Mayor Penner went over the budget process. The Mayor prepares budget and it is the start of the conversation and council will work towards finalized budget.
- Mask mandates – we do not know what the policy is and we believe we know the intent, but nothing has been delivered that has been prescriptive. Once we know, we will communicate to the council.
- Mayor Penner stated he had heard several statements about interlocal agreements creating an administrative like agency and the ability to get out of them. He asked the Community and Government Affairs Committee if they would review the interlocal agreements. The Clerk sent the link to the webpage to the interlocal agreements and the Mayor briefed on several of the ones listed on the City of Orting website.

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Police

Chris Gard, Chief of Police briefed on the following:

- Multi-Jurisdictional lahar full scale exercise will be held on April 29, 2022. All cities in east Pierce County and all school districts will be participating.
- Ordered three pallets of protective equipment from Pierce County Emergency Management which will save the City money in the long run.
- Entry level and lateral application process is open for police officers and the City has received a few applications.
- Police reform – Pierce County police chiefs are 50/50 split on how they are interpreting the laws. Orting is erring on the side of caution, and pulled equipment that is no longer allowed and is researching other items that are allowed to be used.

4. AGENDA ITEMS

A. AB 21-48 – Reducing Hwy 162 Speed Limit.

Scott Larson briefed on reducing the speed limit on highway 162 from 50MPH to 30MPH between milepost 10.31 and 10.34. This item was discussed at the last Public Works meeting held at the beginning of August. The City was approached by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WA DOT) last summer to change speed limit for 158 feet of highway on south side of town. Sarah Ott from WA DOT came to speak to the council and stated they have done statistical and survey work and that the data reflects a reduction of the speed limit is the best course of action. The speed study was based on complaints from citizens, and the study focused on three primary factors – speed data, crash history, and context of highway. Based on the study, 45-mile speed limit is more appropriate than 50 MPH.

Council discussion followed.

Councilmember Belot asked if there were any other factors identified other than speed limit change. Sarah Ott from WA DOT responded that along the corridor they are looking at educating drivers where edge of pavement is. WA DOT is also looking at installing an Orville Road roundabout, which will be in the design stage in 2022-2023, with anticipated construction starting in 2024-2025 timeframe. Sarah briefed that WA DOT is seeing a natural slowdown of cars from 50MPH to 45MPH. Sarah also explained that a properly set speed limit is more in line with what drivers will do and that properly posted speed limits meet the expectations of the driver. If they are already going closer to 45MPH, then the drivers won't feel the need to go 50MPH.

Councilmember Bradshaw asked for clarification from WA DOT on whether they will lower the speed limit to 45MPH even if the City does not lower the portion of the speed limit from milepost 10.31-10.34. Sarah Ott from WADOT stated that she is not sure what the attorney general will do, or what that will look like, but reiterated that studies state that 45 is more appropriate.

Councilmember Drennan thanked her and shared the thoughts that the dynamic has changed on the highway, and that he supports the speed limit reduction. He supports moving the City's portion to 30 MPH to help alleviate issues some of the citizens have in that area.

Councilmember Gunther asked what would have happened if the studies would have showed a need for an increase in the speed limit? Sarah Ott from WA DOT answered and said she would have analyzed the data and the complaints from citizens, and decided based on the data.

Councilmember Kelly questioned majority of drivers driving 45 MPH on that road, and stated he has never once driven that slowly on that road. He questioned the validity to the study, but did state he has seen numerous wrecks on the road at Orville and Patterson Road. He believes that it is not a good action to reduce the speed limit.

Action Item: Move forward to August 25, 2021 as a stand-alone item on next agenda.

B. AB 21-62 - Whitehawk Blvd/Calistoga St/Kansas St SW Intersection Control.

Engineer Hungerford briefed on the intersection control previously presented at PW and last study session. He briefed on pros and cons of signals and roundabouts.

Councilmember Williams asked about cost of roundabouts and whether the higher cost for a roundabout is due to real estate that needs to be purchased? Engineer Hungerford stated that roundabouts initial costs are more expensive due to right of way costs. Councilmember stated he is concerned about tightness of the area for the roundabout and that it may be a choke point.

Councilmember Drennan thinks that it is important that we have continuity on our traffic calming and that if the state does a roundabout, the City would need to do one also to keep things more uniform. He also stated that it is a better possibility that the state will also help to fund the project, and roundabouts are more aesthetically pleasing.

Councilmember Gunther stated would like to have executive session before a vote, to talk about land acquisition needed.

Councilmember Kelly agreed with Councilmember Drennan about uniformity and a roundabout at that location makes sense.

Deputy Mayor Hogan asked about potential roundabouts in other locations, and Engineer Hungerford stated that they are not in design at this time.

Mayor Penner stated that the Whitehawk extension and Kansas intersection control are top priorities, and that the City would be in a better position to advocate for the best possible roundabout instead of a traffic signal.

City Administrator Larson stated he would ask Parametrix to bring back scope and budget for the next meeting.

Action Item: Move forward to August 25, 2021 as a stand-alone item on next agenda.

C. AB 21-65 – Gratzer Park Phase 2 Construction Services Scope and Budget.

Engineer Hungerford briefed on the scope and budget for Gratzer Park Phase 2. He stated the project is going well and that the Public Works Committee recommends approval.

Councilmember Bradshaw asked about time being donated to the project. Engineer Hungerford has donated his time to the project and stops by and looks at project when coming to and from City.

Action Item: Move forward to August 25, 2021 meeting as item on consent agenda.

D. AB 21-67 – Renaming the Waste Water Treatment Plant the Water Resource Recovery Facility.

Councilmembers Drennan and Bradshaw briefed on the project and stated that the name Waste Water Treatment Facility has a negative perception, and renaming it adds a positive connotation to the item.

Action Item: Move forward to August 25, 2021 meeting as item on consent agenda.

E. AB 21-50 – Sign Code Amendments.

Emily Adams briefed on amending the sign code amendments, which would also amend sign code and ADR code. She stated that temporary sign code amendments would include removal of flutter flag signs, would regulate how signs are secured, and length of time signs are allowed to be displayed.

Councilmember Drennan commented on the ADR ordinance and how this will give it room for growth.

Councilmember Gunther asked if it allows internally lit signs. City Planner Emily Adams stated it would in certain circumstances and would also allow the current reader board to be updated.

Action Item: move forward to public hearing on the September 8, 2021.

F. AB 21-66 - Police Reform Resolution.

City Administrator Larson briefed on the police reform resolution, and how the new legislation impacted officers and stated it came out of the Public Safety Committee. Councilmember Belot briefed on the resolution and read aloud the summary statement on the agenda bill and stated several cities have made similar resolutions.

Councilmember Williams questioned what other cities have drafted similar resolutions. He asked how many cities had, and stated that he hoped the City of Orting could start movement that will draw some action.

Action Item: Move forward to August 25, 2021 as a stand-alone item on next agenda.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

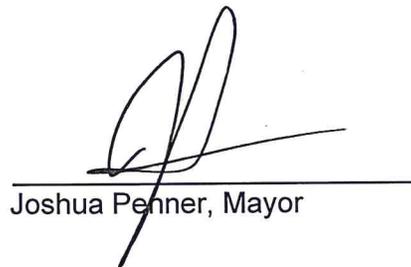
No executive session.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Hogan adjourned the meeting at 7:48pm.

ATTEST:


Kim Agfalvi, City Clerk


Joshua Penner, Mayor