

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 Agenda
104 Bridge Street S, Orting, WA
October 27, 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 7:02pm. Councilmember Belot led the pledge of allegiance, and then roll call was taken.

Councilmembers present: Councilmembers John Williams, John Kelly, Scott Drennen, Tony Belot and Gregg Bradshaw. Virtual – Deputy Mayor Hogan and Councilmember Gunther.

Staff present: Mayor Josh Penner, City Administrator Scott Larson, Finance Director Gretchen Russo, Engineer Maryanne Zukowski, City Attorney Charlotte Archer.

Mayor Penner read the following announcements:

You may attend this meeting virtually via the platform Blue Jeans by clicking on the link on the City's website, by telephone via the number available on the City's website, or in person at the Orting station. Per directives from the Governor and the State Secretary of Health, all in person attendees shall comply with social distancing and are encouraged to wear a face covering if distancing is not feasible.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA.

Councilmember Drennan asked to pull AB21-79, Parking strip ordinance Mayor Penner stated that item will now be agenda item 7E. No other requests were made.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Comments may be sent to the City Clerk at clerk@cityoforting.org by 3pm on October 27th, 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. PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor Penner laid out the rules and procedural steps for the hearing.

A. AB21-91 – Property Taxes.

Mayor Penner opened the public hearing at 7:07pm and read the purpose of the public hearing. Finance Director Gretchen Russo presented a power point presentation on Property Taxes.

Finance Director Russo briefed on the following in regards to property taxes:

- How they are calculated.
- What they are used for
- How it impacts citizens.

Finance Director Russo also briefed on statutory rate limits and stated the City of Orting statutory rate limit is \$3.60 (as allowed under (RCW 27.12.390) and is limited by how much the fire district is allowed to levy (max of \$1.10) and how much rural library district is allowed to levy (max of \$0.50).

Finance Director Russo briefed on property tax basics and what the City is allowed to request. She also presented on property tax limits, and stated that in 2021, the City requested a lower amount of \$1,336,485.000 instead of the higher lawful levy amount of \$1,347,485.00. Finance Director Russo provided a 2021 tax breakout, and how as home values go up, the rate (tax amount) goes down. She provided a breakdown of taxes on the average house value in Orting, and the amount of tax 38% is tax payer authorized. She also briefed on what this will mean for Orting homeowners in 2022.

Mayor Penner asked if there were any public comments on the hearing topic. No comments were made.

Mayor Penner opened the floor for Council comments, which followed.

Councilmember Williams stated he understands the reasoning for raising the taxes, but he does not think this year. Wants to send message to tax payers that we care about their positions, and not raise taxes.

Councilmember Belot stated he would like to see a report for revenue collection from the City over time. Finance Director Russo stated she will get the report to the Council.

Councilmember Gunther stated that he is also not on board for raising taxes.

Councilmember Kelly stated staff was right in their idea for raising taxes, and cited the fire levy that was passed. He stated we should consider the tax increase.

Councilmember Drennan stated he would like to see why the 1% threshold (rule) was implemented and he stated it was his understanding that it is an incremental increase, that protects tax payers from crazy tax increases.

Finance Director Russo stated that years ago, citizens were frustrated and the RCW was set in place to protect homeowners. It is a 2-step process to protect homeowners from dramatic increases, that continues at a slow pace.

Councilmember Kelly stated the Council honored the citizens wishes to remove the \$20 license fee and the increase we are asking for is \$24 a year, and many citizens have multiple cars. With the growth we have, we are only looking for a small increase.

Councilmember Belot brought up data to keep things in perspective and cited rising costs, like food, energy, and index for all items. He stated when we talk about raising taxes, inflation is a tax as well, and we need to keep things in perspective.

Mayor Penner closed hearing at 7:31pm.

No motion was made. The item will continue at the next Council meeting.

4. CLOSED RECORD DECISION AB21-88 – Daycare Amendments

Planner Emily Adams briefed the council on the daycare amendments. The amendments ensure the same terminology for the two types of daycare facilities (centers and family home) are used throughout the code. The second part of the amendments is to add in specific code for daycare centers that wish to serve more than 12 kids in a residence. The code amends the definition of a “daycare center” to be allowed in residences, so it is clear if an in-home daycare wishes to serve more than the state permitted 12 children, it gets bumped out of the “family daycare” category and into the “daycare center” category which requires a conditional use permit.

Mayor Penner asked for council comments. No comments were made.

Deputy Mayor Hogan made a motion to adopt ordinance 2021-1086, an ordinance of the City of Orting, Washington, relating to daycares, amending Orting Municipal Code sections 13-2, 13-3-3, 13-5-3, and 13-5-5; providing for severability, and establishing an effective date. Seconded by Councilmember Belot.

Motion passed (7-0).

5. STAFF RECOGNITION

Public Safety – Gina Palombi, Public Works – Alison Williams, Finance – Margaret O’Harra Buttz.

Mayor Penner briefed that it is his honor to present recognition to staff that goes above and beyond. He stated that elected officials could not do their job without these outstanding individuals. He stated the quarterly recognition program highlights the great work being done by staff each day. Lieutenant Gabreluk, Public Works Director Greg Reed, and Finance Director Gretchen Russo also made statements about their respective employees.

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

- A.** Regular Meeting Minutes of September 29th, 2021 and October 13th, 2021
- B.** Payroll Claims and Warrants.
- C.** AB21-78 – Golf Cart Fees.
- D.** AB21-86 – Pipeline Video Camera Bids.

Councilmember Belot made a motion to approve consent agenda as revised. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hogan.

Motion passed (7-0).

7. AGENDA ITEMS

A. AB 21-81 – Whitehawk Blvd. Extension Additional Design Costs.

Engineer Maryanne Zukowski briefed the Council and stated the goal is to reach a decision of intersection control at Kansas Street and Calistoga. She stated the City received a grant in 2017, under specific scope and conditions and it was undecided if there would be a signal or roundabout for the intersection of Kansas and Calistoga.

She stated a scope for design had been completed for a traffic signal. City Engineer Zukowski received a letter from the Washington State Department of Transportation stated that a roundabout was needed at the intersection, and that scope for design for a roundabout was not completed. She went over the benefits of a roundabout, and where the access points are, and that they can be shrunk down because of the speed on the highway at the intersection. The presented drawings of a traffic signal and roundabout, and that there is not a lot of difference in the impacts. She went over the size of the roundabout, and the design matrix.

Councilmember Williams asked about roundabout versus traffic signals in regards to right in and right out. He asked about the design presented and stated many of these yellow dots in the drawing will remain right in right out in a roundabout regardless. City Engineer Zukowski stated all of them will have full access, by changing two access points.

Councilmember Gunther stated he is not in support of the roundabout. He stated there are benefits to both the traffic signal and the roundabout but reiterated what his decision hinges on is the study the City did back in 2016. He stated citizens number one concerns was that the City retain its small-town feel, and that his vote is against the roundabout.

Councilmember Kelly stated he has spent most of today researching roundabouts and traffic signals and that he does not like any of the designs. He stated the intent was to turn Kansas Street into the major thoroughfare and said if we are going to bypass our business core, and take semi-trucks to a residential street, he is not for it.

Deputy Mayor Hogan stated that everyone is concerned about the impacts on the community, and he believed a roundabout is the correct way to go.

CM Drennan stated is was a difficult decision at the time to move this alignment to Kansas and that the Council decided to move forward with the design and scope of work. He does not want to move from the alignment that they have today and he believes a roundabout is one of the few options we have to get funding through a grant process He stated a lighted intersection will not receive the funding needed and that the City can address traffic through an ordinance, or policy issue.

Councilmember Williams asked about grant funding and funds received and the potential for funds in the future. City Attorney Archer spoke on the grant funding elements and that there is expended grant money in jeopardy. The City would have to pay back money we already received.

Councilmember Williams asked about choke points on SR 162 and Kansas Street. City Engineer Maryanne Zukowski stated that studies had been done, and that it will be stop control on Kansas, non-stop on SR 162, with a left turn out and a right turn out and that the state will most likely only approve a roundabout in the future.

Councilmember Kelly stated that Kansas is already believed to be a truck route and asked if that designation could be removed. City Engineer Maryanne Zukowski briefed on the process to change a truck route and stated it is a modification to the comprehensive plan. The City would need to complete a study, a test and analysis, and cited an approx. cost of \$50,000.00 to change the designation of the route. City Administrator Larson stated that the current grant that we have is based on the fact it is a freight mobility corridor. It is federally funded as a freight mobility corridor

Councilmember Drennan made a motion to approve roundabouts as the preferred intersection control at Kansas/Calistoga/Whitehawk and Whitehawk/HWY 162 intersections. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hogan.

Roll Call vote was taken.

Motion passed (4-3). Williams, Bradshaw, Hogan, Drennan – Yay. Gunther, Kelly, and Belot – Nay.

B. AB21-83 – Right of Way Remediation Costs – 703 Kansas St SW.

City Engineer Maryanne Zukowski briefed on right of way remediation for 703 Kansas St. SW. Staff has requested to change the amount owed to the homeowner to \$38,442.86 per the interest calculation on the sale of the home.

Councilmember Kelly asked about the comparable home presented in Spanaway, and stated there is no such address. He stated there is no comparable address and there is no home there that exists. City Attorney Archer was able to pull the comparable home on the Pierce County Assessor Treasurer website and verified that it is a valid address.

Councilmember Bradshaw made the motion to authorize payment of up to \$38,442.86 in relocation benefits for the former owners of [703 Kansas St SW] for the Whitehawk Boulevard Extension Project. Seconded by Councilmember Drennan.

Motion passed (7-0).

C. AB21-80 - Fee Schedule.

Finance Director Gretchen Russo briefed on the 2021 fee schedule, and what was changed on the fee from the previously adopted fee schedule. She stated staff is recommending authorizing the 2021 fee schedule as presented.

Deputy Mayor Hogan Made a motion to approve the 2021 fee schedule as presented. Seconded by councilmember Williams.

Motion passed (7-0).

D. AB21-74 - Sidewalk Health and Safety Regulations.

Councilmember Belot briefed the Council on activities that Ordinance No. 2021-1088 would prohibit on sidewalks, specifically activities that cause obstruction of sidewalks. The attached ordinance prohibits these activities in the city's business core, roughly from Safeway to City Hall. Councilmember Gunther stated that he is proud that the Council has taken a sensitive topic and that it is the first homeless policy that the homeless could support.

Deputy Mayor Hogan Made a motion to approve ordinance 2021-1088, an ordinance of the City of Orting, Washington, relating to public ways and property; adopting Orting Municipal Code sections 8-9-1 and 8-9-2 prohibiting certain activities on right-of-way and sidewalks; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date. Seconded by Councilmember Gunther.

Motion passed (7-0).

E. AB21-79 – Parking Strip Ordinance.

Councilmember Drennan stated we have not addressed what the planter strip is, and we may need amend that language in the ordinance. He also stated concerns there may be some vagueness in the enforcement.

City Administrator Larson stated Title 4 only talks about parking strips and is focused on the width specifications of specific streets. A lot of streets are old town, and there is a catchall in the bottom portion of the ordinance for the rest of the strips. Councilmember Kelly asked if could we modify the Ordinance to define the specifications of the parking strip from sidewalk to road, or curb to the road. Deputy Mayor Hogan asked for it to be sent back to committee for further clarification. Councilmember Williams asked for the area between the road and the sidewalk or curb. It is not a distance in feet, but more of a specific area. He stated a general description is best.

Action: Send back to CGA Committee for clarification.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

No Executive Session.

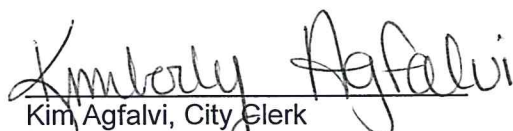
9. ADJOURNMENT.

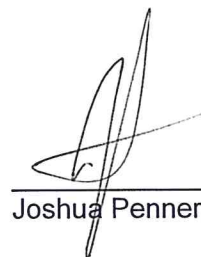
Councilmember Kelly made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Belot.

Motion passed (7-0).

Mayor Penner recessed the meeting at 8:47pm.

ATTEST:


Kim Agfalvi, City Clerk


Joshua Penner, Mayor