

A regular meeting of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 7:00 pm.

Councilors Present: Nemlowill, Jones, Price, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear.

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Parks and Recreation Director Cosby, Finance Director Brooks, Fire Chief Ames, Police Chief Spalding, Public Works Director Harrington, Library Director Pearson, and City Attorney Henningsgaard. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

PRESENTATIONS

Item 3(a): Recology

Carl Peters is the new General Manager for Northern Oregon and Recology Oregon Compost. He will present current participation on the new recycle programs.

Carl Peters, 1290 SW Forest Glen Dr., McMinnville, introduced himself and gave an overview of Recology. He introduced Recology's new Waste Zero Specialist for the area, Rhonda Green [4:37] and gave a brief update on Astoria's participation in the new program that was rolled out last year.

Councilor Nemlowill asked for details about what was being done with the co-mingled recycling since China was not purchasing it. Mr. Peters explained that Councilor Nemlowill was referring to China's National Sword Program. China had indicated that American waste companies were shipping too much garbage mixed in with the recycling. So, they are no longer purchasing 24 materials that the west coast used to ship. China has also put restrictions on the amount of the contamination they are willing to accept. This means more people were hired to pull out contaminates, which has increased costs. In many places, it is cheaper to throw trash away than it is to recycle. Recology is a resource recovery company and does not throw away recyclables. Communities have been educating customers and putting recycling processes in place for 30 years. Recycling has become inconvenient and costly, but that is not a good enough reason to throw it away. There are people in southern Oregon asking the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for permission to throw away recycling. However, Recology is not throwing anything away and they have found outlets for un-recyclable plastics.

Councilor Nemlowill asked if Recology had any goals to recover higher percentages of organics and glass in Astoria. Mr. Peters said one reason Recology has someone in the area is to find out why 30 percent of the people have not signed up for the program. Some people find it easier to take the recycling to the transfer station themselves. He did not believe 100 percent participation was a reasonable expectation, but Recology can keep doing better through education about the value of the program. He would be pleased with 80 percent participation.

Councilor Nemlowill asked if offering a smaller container option is reasonable. Mr. Peters said he would find out, but he believed there was a way to offer smaller containers. He explained the larger containers are usually offered because they do not need to be serviced as often. Typically, people begin throwing their recycling away when their recycling containers get full. He agreed the containers were large and promised to look into other options. He believed inventory and costs were a factor in Astoria's recycling program.

Councilor Brownson asked for an update on the hazardous waste program. Mr. Peters said he understood that fees were collected and money had been set aside for the program.

City Manager Estes added that household hazardous waste was coordinated through Clatsop County. The County plans to break ground on their new household hazardous waste facility, which will be located adjacent to Recology's transfer station.

Councilor Brownson noted the Public Works Department is trying to eliminate the disposal of certain waste products into the sewer treatment system. Mr. Peters stated he brought his environmental team to Astoria to

meet with Public Works and do some water testing. He agreed the county needed an outlet for hazardous household materials.

Councilor Brownson added new laws were passed regulating the disposal of construction materials like asbestos. Local contractors must take these materials to Hillsboro. He asked if the local transfer station would be able to handle the regulated construction materials in the future. Mr. Peters said that was not likely. He believed DEQ's position was that asbestos was best dealt with before it left the building. Getting a permit to handle asbestos takes a lot and Recology's permit requires that they send people with construction materials to other facilities.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

[16:56]

Item 4(a): Councilor Nemlowill had no reports.

Item 4(b): Councilor Brownson encouraged everyone in the audience to vote.

Item 4(c): Councilor Price had no reports.

Item 4(d): Councilor Jones thanked Chief Ames, Chief Spalding, and Staff for working on the fires on 38th Street. He had spoken with the owners of the home that had the fire and learned the neighbors are concerned. People are unable to sleep at night knowing someone could potentially start a fire. He thanked the County and State arson investigators. The neighborhood is planning on starting a Neighborhood Watch program.

Item 4(e): Mayor LaMear had no reports.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

City Manager Estes stated George McCartin requested Item 6(d) be removed from the Consent Calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) City Council Minutes of December 18, 2017
- 6(b) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes of October 25, 2017
- 6(c) Fire Department Update**
- 6(d) Community Development Department Update**
- 6(e) Department of State Lands – Trestle and Bridges Easement (Public Works)
- 6(f) Certified Local Government Grant – Grant Authorization

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Jones, to approve Items 6(a), (b), (c), (e), and (f) of the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Item 6(d): Community Development Update

Mayor LaMear invited George McCartin to speak.

George McCartin stated the City Manager was doing very well at taking on the Community Development Department along with his own department. However, he was concerned about the Planning Commission developing Code amendments dealing with the emergency warming center. The warming center has been very controversial over the last year after going for three or four years without much trouble. This year, the City demanded that the warming center apply for a conditional use permit even though there were no provisions in the current Development Code for the permit. Now, the Planning Commission will make sure no one raises any objections to the warming center by amending the Code. That is fine, but he was concerned about the process. Draft Code language is being prepared by a Planning Commissioner, which will be formally reviewed by the Planning Commission. In the interest of the people of Astoria, having full disclosure and transparency about what governing bodies are doing, he believed the Commissioner drafting the amendments should be named. He also believed information should be posted online.

City Manager Estes noted there was an article in the newspaper about this. Planning Commissioner Daryl Moore decided on his own to prepare a draft and present it to the Planning Commission. The Commission voted to initiate the amendment process to start a review. He offered to give Mr. McCartin a copy of the Planning Commission meeting minutes and the draft Code amendments. It is not common for a Commissioner to draft Code language, but the City will have to review the proposed amendments to determine whether it would fit within the Development Code. A Planning Commission work session would be held for further discussion.

Mr. McCartin said City Manager Estes was already overloaded with work, so it would be more appropriate to have Development Department Staff draft the amendments rather than a volunteer, especially since Commissioner Moore voted against the conditional use permit for the warming center.

City Manager Estes clarified Commissioner Moore was not asked to draft the amendments, he drafted them on his own.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to approve Item 6(d) of the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7(a): Ordinance Readopting Certain State Statutes to Reflect Changes Made by the 2017 Oregon Legislature (2nd Reading) (City Attorney/City Manager)

The 2017 legislation passed by the Oregon Legislature, for the most part, became effective on January 1, 2018. Many of our City ordinances refer to or incorporate state statutes. Every year, the City routinely re-adopts all referenced ORS sections to pick up any changes made by the legislature. This is done by a "global re-adoption", which is the technique recommended by the League of Oregon Cities. The City is legally unable to prospectively adopt Oregon legislative changes, that is, we cannot adopt a state statute "as it now exists and is from time to time amended." The proposed ordinance has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney. It is recommended that Council adopt the proposed ordinance.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Nemlowill, to conduct the second reading of the Ordinance readopting certain State Statutes to reflect changes made by the 2017 Legislature. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Director Brooks conducted the second reading of the ordinance.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Price, to adopt the Ordinance re-adopting certain State Statutes to reflect changes made by the 2017 Legislature. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Jones, Nemlowill, Brownson, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS, MISCELLANEOUS, PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

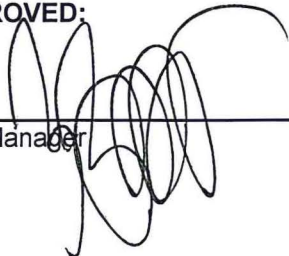
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager