

City Council Minutes
October 20, 2016
6:00 PM

City Council present: Frank Cox, Robert Muth, Paul Hendricks, Jenny Taylor, Amy Weissfeld, Mark Peterson.

Staff present: Eric Hansen, Nick Hogan, Ben Shumaker

Public members present: Ben Sciacca, Brian McNamara, Karen Ashley, Dena Marshall (FACILITATOR), Libby Johnson, Craig Klever, Scott Anderson, Orville Hyde, Rob Farris, Don Rosario, Kathy Chassen, Sandy Carlson.

1. Call to order: 6:03 PM
2. There were no changes to the agenda
3. Minutes: **MUTH** motioned, **WEISSFELD** seconded to approve the minutes from September 15, 2016, as presented. Unanimously approved.
4. Consent Agenda: **MUTH** motioned, **HENDRICKS** seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Unanimously approved.
5. Public Comments: No public comments offered.
6. Public Hearing, 7:00 PM – Removal of 1st Street Stop Signs at Russell Avenue:
HOGAN presented all of the relevant historical data and documentation available regarding past actions taken by City Council on the topic. He reiterated the purpose of the meeting is to hear community input about removing the east and westbound stops signs on 1st street at Russell Avenue. He discussed the process and actions which have led to the public meeting, including City Council's vote to remove the stop signs.

HOGAN introduced Ms. Dena Marshall as the public meeting moderator and timekeeper during the public comment period. Ms. Marshall introduced herself and explained her role as a moderator is to keep the discussion focused on the topic. She explained the timekeeping process and the three-minute time limit per person, during the public comment section of the meeting. She also said, once everyone who wanted to speak had a chance, additional speaking time will be made to those with additional comments to the Council.

HOGAN explained the content included in the information packet and walked the group through each item, giving a brief overview of the information. He commented the reason for the removal of the stop sign is solely to encourage eastbound truck traffic on to 1st Street and relieve some of the truck traffic congestion on 2nd Street.

WOODRICH asked **HOGAN** to clarify WSDOT position on maintenance and ownership of 1st Street. **HOGAN** repeated their position, unless 1st Street becomes a one-way couplet with 2nd Street, WSDOT will not take ownership/maintenance cost of the

J. Hunt commented he wants the City to take another look at the one-way couplet. **COX** interjected the topic of the public hearing was to hear public comments on the removal of the stop sign on 1st Street, not to discuss one-way couplet.

K. Ashley commented, she is opposed to removing the stop sign. Her mother lives on 1st Street and she has observed truck traffic speed. She maintains the City's focus has been on safety on 2nd Street but feels they are creating a safety hazard on 1st Street and their decision to remove the stop sign negatively impacts the walkability of the town.

B. McNamara introduced his handout which includes pictures of the intersection. He stated he opposes removal of the stop sign on 1st Street. He commented on speed signage improvements made recently but noted their limited effectiveness. He noted the petition submitted by Mr. Sciacca (2nd Street businesses supporting movement of truck traffic onto 1st Street) did not mention removal of the stop sign and reported in his talks with business owners, many would not support removal of the stop sign. As an example of safety concerns around the intersection, he then presented photos showing multiple stopped trucks, backed up Russell Avenue and around the SW corner of 1st Street, as a train passed.

B. Sciacca presented a drawing of the area in question, explained the intersections, map and indicated where the businesses and single family homes are located. He mentioned easements with BNSF and discussed ways to mitigate the limited line of sight and suggested curb painting and installing no parking signage to insure visibility for vehicles entering at the intersection. He strongly urged Council members to maintain its vote to remove the stop sign.

L. Johnson, until recently, lived on 1st St for 30 years. She praised the photo evidence Mr. McNamara presented. She reviewed her approach to City Council to resolve the vehicle speeding on 1st Street and said removing stop sign will exacerbate speeding. She commented Sheriff Brown reported average speed of 39.5 mph during speed enforcement efforts. She reports, while still residing on 1st St., the new speed signage had little to no effect on the vehicle speed. She reported the U.S. Post Office and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) do not want stop sign removed. She concluded by saying City Council needs to be concerned with pedestrian safety on 1st St. by resolving excessive speeding and then they can talk about the stop sign.

C. Klever is a resident of Stevenson and commented on the length of the discussion surrounding the stop sign. He added good and bad points have been made, on both sides of the argument. Mr. Klever cited 2014 changes in Oregon highway trucking laws, and how those changes have increased truck traffic at the 1st Street intersection since the traffic study was conducted two years ago. He suggested, when the City decides to pursue the one-way couplet to manage traffic in downtown, which includes 1st Street, that would be the time to consider removing the stop sign.

S. Anderson, speaking as the President of Stevenson Business Association (SBA), said because the SBA represents so many businesses it could not commit to a side. Mr. Anderson volunteered to conduct a straw poll to gauge the feelings of businesses owners who would be most impacted. He reported visiting 18 businesses, located along 1st and 2nd Street and the Waterfront. He reported, of the 11 businesses on 2nd Street, all 11 voted to pull the stop sign and a total of 13 of the 18 business owners support removal of the stop sign. He admitted, reported speeds of up to 40 mph is fast, but he

stated he doesn't feel removing the stop sign will contribute to additional speeding. He added, stationary radar detectors have proven to be effective in slowing traffic speed, as evidenced by their installation on 2nd St. and urged Council to lift the stay and remove the stop sign on 1st St.

O. Hyde commented trucks deliver groceries, gas. He claimed he does not see them speeding. He commented, if the one-way couplet were put in place, he doesn't see how traffic would get out of town from the west end. He added many of the trucks traveling through Stevenson are chip and log trucks, which make our city money.

B. Sciacca spoke again to comment, what we're seeing are the growing pains of a small town. He added, Stevenson is the 1st town in a busy corridor and indicated big plans and changes are coming to Stevenson. He also said he feels it's unfair to present pictures of traffic jams at the intersection.

B. McNamara spoke again to suppose the possibility of southbound traffic on the one-way block of Russell Ave could back up and onto/across Highway 14/2nd Street because southbound traffic can't cross 1st St.

D. Rosario commented he opposes removal of the stop sign and cited potential line of sight issues. He added taking out the stop sign removes metering of the traffic at the intersection and recommended the Council have a complete Traffic Flow and Safety survey/study completed before stop sign is removed.

K. Chassen asked Council members if anyone has been in contact with truckers/trucking companies, to ask them if they would use 1st Street with the stop sign removed. Staff confirmed no contact has been made with trucking companies for this type of inquiry. Ms. Chassen commented, she feels the Council is taking action without having any evidence the action would even be effective.

O. Hyde commented on the photos presented by Mr. McNamara and said the image showed illegal driving habits. He added how many Washington residents enjoy shopping sales tax free in Oregon, which is the same as what the truckers are trying to do when they travel from Oregon highways to Highway 14. He summarized his feeling on the topic as "fair is fair".

R. Farris asked what the public communication plan is, for removing the stop sign and what is the incentive trucks to use 1st street. **COX** pointed out the signs displayed around the room, which will be installed when/if the stop sign is removed. Farris asked if the signs were permanent. **COX** responded, the signs only need to be up for two months.

S. Carlson commented how she spends time on the water and added the photos Mr. McNamara presented to Council could have been taken at any time of the day, during summer. She added the average age of the Sternwheeler cruise ship passengers is approximately 80+ yrs old and she is concerned about their slow walking pace across 1st st without the stop sign.

B. Sciacca suggested tour buses take 1st St if they have to go east.

K. Ashley pointed out the numbers of pedestrians counted (in the traffic study) were without any cruise ship docked at the Port and with a cruise ship docked, there is an additional 30-40 people attempting to cross 1st Street, on foot, to access the Post Office and shops.

D. Rosario commented the idea is to improve access from 2nd Street to the Waterfront and questions the action which he feels would cut off half the downtown area. He commented removing the stop sign cuts off 1st Street from downtown by making 1st Street harder to cross on foot.

HANSEN commented to respond to the point of vehicle stacking and not being able to enter 1st Street if the stop sign was removed. He commented, when the reconstruction of Columbia Avenue was done, traffic engineers at the time, did not recommend a stop sign at Vancouver and Columbia, because of concerns about vehicle stacking onto 2nd Street. He commented the situation is a little different but he mentioned it because it seemed relevant to the discussion about vehicle stacking concerns if the stop sign is removed.

Mayor Cox closed the public hearing at 8:02

City Council Discussion:

HENDRICKS commented to repeat several of the suggestions made by the public commenter's and feels very strongly the Council needs more current hard data. He added the traffic study of two years ago was conducted for 14 hours in late September, on a Thursday which he feels is just not enough hard data to make an informed decision on this topic. He added, removing the stop sign is going to cost \$20K and feels the money should be used on a comprehensive traffic study, over a longer period of time, during a higher traffic season. He added, if the last traffic study had been conducted in the middle of the day in July, the results would have been very different. He would leave sign in place and spend the money on a comprehensive study to obtain actual hard data to make a firm decision.

PETERSON said he needs to think about all the citizens of Stevenson and the issues. He stated neighbors approached him in support of removing stop sign. He commented there are over 20 years of graduate study on the Council panel and he is disturbed by the fact the Council can't make a decision on this item. Doesn't feel money should be spent on any more studies and the Council should be able to make this kind of decision.

WEISSFELD commented **SHUMAKER** is already looking at other opportunities to get a traffic study done through the Planning Commission. He added a full traffic study which would include economic impacts, will cost \$60-\$100K. **WEISSFELD** commented her opinion is the Comp Plan involved hundreds of Stevenson citizens and Comp Plan clearly spells out the connection between the downtown zone and waterfront. She's not ignoring businesses in favor of removing the stop sign but places more weight on the opinions and work of the hundreds of people who helped develop the Comp Plan. She summarized by saying she is categorically against removing the stop sign.

COX stated that City Council had voted to pull the stop sign and placed a stay on the decision. He doesn't feel there is a need for further study and doesn't feel any additional money spent on research will find a different solution which will please everyone. He added the only reason the discussion continues is because there were three new members on the Council who had not heard all of the arguments for and against the removal. He repeated the previous decision of the Council and urged Council members to make a motion one way or the other.

J. Mayfield commented that the City just spent \$750K to make a quiet zone which highlights the idea of the waterfront being part of a pedestrian friendly town.

HENDRICKS repeated his desire for a study and more hard data and feels strongly the one-way couplet is inevitable. There was general discussion about hypothetical scenarios. He then asked if there are any grants to apply for to offset the traffic study cost. **SHUMAKER** responded with his recent efforts in finding grant opportunities.

COX commented Sheriff Brown does not support removal of the stop sign. There was general discussion about moving ahead with removal or keeping the stay in place.

HENDRICKS made a motion to leave the stop signs in place and use that money to perform a comprehensive study of downtown traffic. No Second, motion died.

MUTH responded to public comment regarding if the City has asked truckers and the trucking unions if they would use 1st Street without the stop sign. He commented to say the Council has relied on the information provided by WADOT which indicated if the stop sign were removed, more traffic would use 1st Street.

PETERSON motioned, **TAYLOR** seconded his motion to lift the stay on the ordinance to remove the stop signs on 1st Street. Vote: 4 approved – 1 opposed (**WEISSFELD** opposed).

TAYLOR asked **HANSEN** when the in-ground pedestrian crossing signs would be installed. **HANSEN** reported stop signs will be installed next February 2017 because of upcoming winter weather. General discussion about where additional signs could be installed to slow traffic.

7. **Presentations from Outside Agencies**

Stevenson Carson School District (SCSD) Superintendent, Karen Douglass, presented an update on the status of reopening the pool. She commented the pool is a valuable community resource to area residents and discussed previous plans and efforts invested in the trying to reopen the pool. She discussed the ownership of the pool and how the SCSD cannot afford to operate the pool without additional financial support. Mrs. Douglass discussed the partnerships she's formed throughout this process with Nick Hogan (City of Stevenson), Gabe Spencer (Skamania County Auditor), Kari Fagerness (EDC Director), Nick Heuker (student representative), Chris Richards (SCSD Facility Director), and Dave Cox (SCSD Athletic Director), about how to get the pool reopened. She will also be approaching Skamania County Commissioners for funds to help reopen the pool. Mrs. Douglass is working with Kari Fagerness at the EDC to research grant opportunities to offset costs, as well. She commented SCSD's insurance rates remain the same with or without pool, so there will be no additional costs for insurance.

Mrs. Douglass asked the Council to consider partnering with SCSD to reopen the pool and asked the members to commit \$40K towards expenses. She continued to explain she plans to hire a pool consultant, J.P. Moss, who has been involved with previous efforts to reopen the pool over the last four years, and throughout the County's Parks and Recreation levy attempt. She added, Mr. Moss has shown her compelling evidence, if the pool is managed by his plan, it can ultimately become self-sustaining. She reports he has been successful in helping to reopen community pools in the Cities of Astoria and Woodburn, using his formula of management. She is still checking references and negotiating his fee.

HOGAN added some noteworthy points to the discussion about how Mr. Moss plans to, initially, manage operations of the pool himself and his staff, then hire and train local staff to manage the pool. He commented Mr. Moss' ideal pool manager is a local resident who is passionate about the value of

pool in the community and he will teach them management skills to be successful. **HOGAN** added Mr. Moss did a walk through the pool facilities on 10/20/2016 to assess the current conditions.

HENDRICKS asked, if at a future meeting, the Council could review a written proposal with cost projections which may be reviewed in more detail. Mrs. Douglass explained the historical documentation is spread between SCSD and Skamania County because of this, it has proven difficult to locate records and documentation from past years' operations. She continued to say, Mr. Moss feels the information wouldn't be applicable anyway, because he has a different management plan for the pool operations going forward. Mrs. Douglass admitted she doesn't have a good budget at this point, and won't have one until a feasibility study can be completed and acknowledged the awkwardness of the process.

HOGAN added the finances and self-sustainability of the pool are primary considerations but Mr. Moss believes there is enough local support for the pool to pay for itself in time. Mr. Hogan discussed a strategy where Mr. Moss would perform the detailed analysis needed to decide if the community can afford to reopen and maintain the pool. He continued, if at any point, it's apparent the pool cannot be successful, SCSD could end the contract and move ahead with permanently closing the pool. He added SCSD is currently paying \$30K to maintain the pool in mothballed state so the district needs to either reopen and self-sustain, or close it permanently.

WEISSFELD asked Mrs. Douglass to clarify the consultant fee at \$80K for 10 months of consulting. Mrs. Douglass confirmed Mr. Moss fee of approximately \$7,500.00 per month for consultant work and start up operations. She added, the Cities of Astoria and Woodburn both reported recuperating the cost of Mr. Moss' fee in less than two years. Mrs. Douglass went on to explain, historical notes indicate operations of the pool averaged \$150-\$175k/yr to maintain. Mr. Moss strongly believes it can be done much more cost efficiently. **WEISSFELD** asked who else Mrs. Douglass is asking for funds. Mrs. Douglass reported, along with pursuing grant opportunities, she is approaching Skamania County Commissioners, the Port of Skamania and she's also considered including Cascade Locks, in exchange for use their residents having access to the pool at local resident rates. She added the Sheriff's office has contributed a small amount of support in the past, for search and rescue training exercise at the facility. **WEISSFELD** asked if she has included North Bonneville, and Mrs. Douglass said she has not, but certainly could.

HOGAN added the consultant will be paid monthly, so if SCSD decides to close the pool, the City's financial obligation ends at the same time. **COX** asked Mrs. Douglass if she is asking for an ongoing commitment of \$40K per year and Mrs. Douglass said no, she does not believe it will be less in future years of operation. **TAYLOR** confirmed the \$40K being sought is for seed money to get the pool reopened. **COX** asked if Hotel/Motel funds might be an option and **WOODRICH** commented those funds are earmarked very specifically and would not be feasible in the reopening of the community pool. There was continued general discussion about different funding options to reopen the pool.

WEISSFELD commented with an \$80K fee, and asking City, County and District for \$40K each, does not add up. Mrs. Douglass explained the funds will be used to pay the consultants fee and startup costs, the manager-to-be-hired salary and some necessary repairs needed to the pool before it can open account for the remainder of the funds she's asking for. She also discussed, both of the SCSD employee unions have agreed not to obstruct the donation of any labor or services until the pool gets reopened, as an added cost saving measure.

Discussion: **HENDRICKS** asked if the City can afford what Mrs. Douglass is asking for and **HOGAN** confirmed, yes it can, but he would like the chance to work it into the proposed budget for next year to show exactly how it would fit in. **HENDRICKS** repeated his desire to review more

definitive financial estimates before a vote. **WEISSFELD** commented she doesn't want the City to pay anymore than any other entity (ex. Skamania County, SCSD, etc). **COX** commented he wants to review a viable plan for ongoing maintenance costs and to know what the City's ongoing financial commitment will be. He added, he feels strongly the entry and use fees should be set at a reasonably higher rate to see users pay some more towards the actual cost of keeping it open. There was general discussion about pros and cons of reopening the pool or closing it permanently.

TAYLOR motioned, **HENDRICKS** seconded a motion to approve the \$40K requested by Superintendent Douglass, pending the County and SCSD each also pledging the same amount to fund this program.

Discussion: **PETERSON** commented he feels, as a matter of policy, the Council should not hear a new item and vote on it right away. **MUTH** commented he wants to see the budget numbers on November 10. **PETERSON** added, there should be a more thoughtful timeline to review the proposals and their documentation, in more detail before making a voting decision.

WOODRICH commented there should be an Inter-Local Agreement executed between the City of Stevenson, Skamania County and SCSD to document the details of the arrangement. There was general discussion about what the Inter-Local Agreement would include.

HENDRICKS motioned, **MUTH** seconded a motion to table the item until the next meeting where further review can be conducted. Unanimously approved.

8. New Business

c) Remi Short Plat Appeal

SHUMAKER presented to Council, last month's decision on the Remi short plat and explained the property owner appealed four of the conditions. He asked Council members if they wanted to hear the appeal or defer to the hearing examiner. He explained a new process in place since 2015, which provides the option to have an impartial hearing examiner hear the appeal. He added, there has only been one other appeal and was referred to hearing examiner. **WOODRICH** added the hearing examiner typically keeps more detailed records.

MUTH motioned and **WEISSFELD** seconded the motion to send allow the hearing examiner hear the appeal. Unanimously approved.

a) Budget

HOGAN presented the budget update and quarterly financial update. He discussed attachment 8.a.1, Financial Statements and noted the same format as in past versions. **HOGAN** commented he provided additional details electronically by email to Council members. He reviewed page 1 as General Fund information and page two as Other Funds (ex. special revenue, special purpose, etc).

HOGAN discussed the general format of the document and explained major categories and how to interpret the numbers represented. He further explained his budget review process each year. He noted municipal and federal backed bond investments are yielding about \$14K/year, as averaged. He also commented on the savings realized by moving City municipal court to County courts. He then discussed expenditures and provided explanation several line items which stood out as more overbudget.

HOGAN reviewed staff salaries included in the proposed budget and discussed using the Consumer Price Index to calculate cost of living increases for staff, which would result in an increase of 1.7%.

He reminded Council that the City currently pays the full cost of employee health insurance and those costs are expected to increase by 4.6% in 2017. **HOGAN** asked for Council preliminary approval of a 1.7% staff salary increase and to continue paying the full cost of health insurance; formal approval would come later with approval of the proposed budget. Council indicated general approval.

b) Cost Allocation Plan

HOGAN presented a revision to the City's Cost Allocation Plan. He explained the process of charging staff salaries to different funds based on the tasks/projects/ they're working on. **HOGAN** explained his requested revision which would reduce the percentage of his salary charged to water/sewer and streets to more closely reflect the time actually spent on those projects. The allocations for front office staff were updated to reflect the transfer of Municipal Court to District.

MUTH motioned, **HENDRICKS** seconded a motion to approve the revised cost allocation plan (revised 10/2016) to take effect January 1, 2016. Unanimously approved.

d) Contract approval – Fire Hall Site Analysis

HOGAN presented a proposal to hire an outside consultant to review and make recommendation for final top sites. **HOGAN** will share the report at next month's meeting. There was general discussion about the site selection, consultant purpose and review process. **HOGAN** explained the further review of the properties is to determine the sites constructability. **WEISSFELD** asked how this civil engineer was selected. **HOGAN** explained the referral process which resulted in the selection of this consultant. **MUTH** asked if they should have been hired by the RFQ process. **HANSEN** confirmed the selected firm is listed on the small works roster for the city; **WOODRICH** felt use of the small works roster process was appropriate for this selection.

MUTH motioned and **HENDRICKS** seconded the motion to approve the contract with Klein Associates, in the amount listed in Exhibit B. Unanimously approved.

e) Contract approval – Legal Services, K. Woodrich

HOGAN presented a contract to renew legal services with Ken Woodrich and noted a rate change to \$240/hr for litigation services. He added other changes in areas of training reimbursement and liability sections. He noted the new contract includes a retainer to cover his attendance at regularly scheduled meetings. There was general discussion about charging a retainer in lieu of charging for City Council meeting. **WEISSFELD** asked if the amount of the contract is reflective of what he's been paid in the past and expressed concern on what appears to be a \$3k increase over the last contract. **HOGAN** responded that he could analyze the proposed fee structure further if Council wanted by comparing the proposed fee to actual amounts paid in the past. **WEISSFELD** asked when the City last considered hiring another attorney. **HOGAN** said he had not done so in his time as City Administrator but could if that was Council's direction. **WEISSFELD** stated she would like to see any fee increases explained more clearly in future contract proposals.

MUTH motioned, and **HENDRICKS** seconded the motion to approve legal services agreement as presented, effective January 2017, including a retainer of \$960/month. Unanimously approved.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Financial statements

HOGAN presented Attachment 9.a.1 (Financial Statement Audit Report) Attachment 9.a.2 (Performance Audit). He discussed how the City meets the rules for cash basis accounting. He noted cash basis is not GAAP. He reported that there were no findings or audit comments issued. He shared with Council that the State Auditor had praised front office staff for clean and concise bookkeeping.

- b. Nuisance enforcement
HOGAN presented *Guidelines for Nuisance Complaint Investigation and Enforcement* for Council information. **HOGAN** discussed criteria he used in creating the document and briefly introduced the nuisance complaint process as detailed. There was general discussion about the nuisance complaint tracking system and status.
- c. MCEDD Annual Report
Council was provided with a link to view the 2015-16 Annual Report for the Mid Columbia Economic Development District for Councils information.
- d. Letter from Skamania County
HOGAN presented a letter from Alex Hays, Manager of Skamania County Cultural Events and Recreation for Councils information.
- e. Sheriff reports
A copy of the Skamania County Sheriff dept for the month of September 2016. There was general discussion about the data in the report.
- f. Municipal Court cases filed
A summary of Stevenson Court cases was distributed for Council review. **HOGAN** highlighted the traffic citation totals from July through September of 2016, when 28 traffic tickets were issued and compared the number to 15 issued in 2015.
- g. Planning commission minutes, 9/12/16
A copy of the Planning Commission minutes from September 12, 2016 were distributed for Council review and information.
- h. Chamber of Commerce Activity Report
A copy of the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce Activity Report was distributed for Council review and information.

Staff Reports

HOGAN commented he was invited to speak at a hearing on oil trains in the Gorge. He reported the Planning Commission for Wasco County approved installation of double tracks near to the Mosier derailment earlier this year. He reported the City has begun logging the 30 acres approved at last months' meeting. He reported Tourism Advisory applications were due and went on to explain this year's evaluation process. He then updated Council members on the progress of the Bridge of the Gods trail concrete wall (by Skamania Lodge) and reported climbing vines will be planted to decorate the BOG trail and painting of the wall will be done in 2017 in drier weather.

HANSEN reported no damage from the recent "storm" and no big works in Public Works.

SHUMAKER reported on the progress of scheduling a joint meeting with Planning Commission and noted a low number of responses from City Council members and asked if they just didn't want to accept the invitation. **COX** asked for more information about the joint meeting and **SHUMAKER** explained Planning Commission wants to meet with City Council members to discuss planning efforts for anticipated growth. There was general discussion about growth factors pushing the joint meeting.

SHUMAKER then discussed the upcoming Zoning Code Reformat project and talked about the ways he has attempted to make the information easier to read and understand for the anyone looking for answers

to Zoning questions in the City. He explained Use Tables and how their use will reduce the number pages of zoning code by 20 pages. He reported Council could see draft by the end of 2016. He then noted, the reformat of the information is only Phase One of a multiphase project, and he has steered away from all but most necessary policy changes in this first phase.

SHUMAKER reported an increase in Clean Air permit fees of 20% on all application fees, from \$0.33/capita to \$0.53/capita.

SHUMAKER reported submitting a grant application for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a parking audit. He noted the is quite competitive but this cycle, is focused on rural districts which might benefit Stevenson in consideration. He added, if the grant was well written, he hopes to have decision by the end of 2016. The audit will review current state, regulations and provide recommended next steps.

SHUMAKER then reported Portland State University (PSU) is accepting project proposals and may submit for a parking study or interaction with residential growth but he noted the City is competing with organizations like the Friends of the Gorge, for trail system improvements.

Mayor and Council Reports

WEISSFELD reported the Skamania Economic Development Council (EDC) board moved forward with the Executive Committee to tender an offer to Kari Fagerness for the Director position and negotiations are underway. She went on to report a vacancy on the EDC Board was filled by Scott Yarik. She explained, as a former recipient of EDC money, he brings the experience of the process to the Board perspective. She mentioned Bonneville Hot Springs Resort, in N. Bonneville, is likely to be purchased and they are waiting on a hearing examiners decision. **WEISSFELD** then asked how the public access trail behind the Hot Springs will be impacted by the sales of the property. **SHUMAKER** responded to comment that is already being thought about and a plan is being developed.

MUTH reported he attended the Port Commissioner meeting and Kevin Waters will be accepting an appointment to fill the vacant board member position until the next election cycle.

Voucher approval

MUTH motioned, **HENDRICKS** seconded Motion to approve vouchers as presented. Unanimously approved.

Issues for the next meeting

HENDRICKS wants to consider paying a small stipend to Planning Commissioners. **HENDRICKS** wants to look into engineering methods to slow traffic on 1st St.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM

Approved _____; Approved as amended _____

Frank Cox, Mayor

Date

Minutes by: Jennifer Anderson