

A regular meeting of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 7:07 pm.

Councilors Present: Brownson, Rocka, Herman, West, and Mayor Jones.

Councilors Excused: None

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

PRESENTATIONS

Item 3(a): Pacific Power Franchise Agreement Update

Alisa Dunlap of Pacific Power will be presenting the Pacific Power yearly franchise agreement report.

Alisa Dunlap, Pacific Power, said the franchise agreement requires that she give an annual update to City Council on the franchise fees paid in Clatsop County. She gave a Power Point presentation that included the required updates, as well as statistics on Pacific Power's service area and customers, information about their facilities, corporate giving programs, volunteerism, customer-focused programs and partnerships, Smart Meter and facility upgrades, educational programs, and grant programs. She invited the public to attend Pacific Power's community presentation on Smart Meters on March 6, 2019 at Fort George from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

Mayor Jones asked if solar incentives would begin to throttle back in 2019.

Ms. Dunlap explained that residential incentives handled by the Energy Trust of Oregon and State funding for the solar incentives are scaling back. The Energy Trust gets most of its funding from Pacific Power and Portland General Electric. She noted this is also the last year for the federal tax incentives for electric vehicles.

Councilor West asked what the deadline was for customers to opt out of the Smart Meter program.

Ms. Dunlap replied there was no deadline. Pacific Power is one of the last utility companies in the state to get Smart Meters and most companies do not have opt-out programs. The fee to opt out is \$36 per month to have meters read manually and an additional fee would be charged to remove a Smart Meter. She added that the Public Utility Commission was working with Pacific Power to lower the opt-out fee to \$9 per month. At the lower price, the meters would only be read three times per year and bills would be estimated based on previous usage. This program, if approved, would be ongoing and under investigation. Customers can sign up for the opt-out program on the Pacific Power's website.

Councilor Rocka asked why someone would want to opt out of a Smart Meter.

Ms. Dunlap said in Pacific Power's opinion there was no good reason to opt out. Pacific Power has made a commitment to its customers to move forward with great technology. The Smart Meters provide insight into energy usage, faster response times, and other great benefits. The Smart Meters were not dangerous in any way. The World Health Organization, American Cancer Society, and other groups have done rigorous studies that show no harmful effects of Smart Meters. Smart phones and baby monitors emit more radio frequencies than Smart Meters.

Mayor Jones called for public comments.

Johnathan Norman, 93 Dresden, Astoria, said as part of Agenda 2030, people who originally invested in oil were now investing in green technology. The controlled grid causes cancer. Dr. Sharon Goldberg, Dr. Angie Colbeck and Senator Patrick Colbeck, and Kevin Motus, Outreach Director of the California Brain Tumor Association

have testified against 5G technology. This information can be found on Google. He suggested Councilors watch *We are Changed – 5G and the Internet of Change is Everything that they Want* and True Stream Media's *Still Unresolved Mystery of the Eugene Signal*. 5G uses millimeter waves and microwaves, which is a silent weapon system developed by the military. The Transportation Safety Administration's body scanners also use 5G. A person would get cancer after standing in a body scanner for a long time. He believed 5G was more powerful than microwaves and gives people cancer over time. Also, 5G meters transmit data wirelessly to governments and corporations. He encouraged people to do research. 5G meters have been known to catch on fire. Pacific Power is a corporation with a lot of influence and they would be manipulating the public. Also, 5G WiFi kills sperm counts, goes through walls, and goes through the human body. There is a 70 percent increase for cancer in the future and he believed that would come from 5G and genetically modified organisms. He made pamphlets available at the dais.

Megan Hodges, 396 38th Street, Astoria, believed there were questions about the safety of Smart Meters. She resented being charged to opt out. She heard that even if a neighbor had a Smart Meter, it could be harmful. She wanted to see more research on the meters. She appreciated all the money Pacific Power was giving to charity, but the customers were paying for it so it was arrogant to say Pacific Power was benevolent to give money to charity. The United Way is one of the lowest rated charities and has a terrible reputation for their huge administrative costs. Nine dollars would be better than \$36.

Josie Pepper, 5276 Ash St. Astoria, asked City Council to do outreach and investigation on the Smart Meter issues. She was concerned about the meters overheating and creating fire risks, which has been documented. There is a class action lawsuit in California for overcharging. She was also concerned about possible health, safety, security, and privacy risks, as well as the high opt-out fee. She hoped someone on City Council could take this issue on and do some in-depth research.

Pamela Matsen McDonald, 22 Nimitz, Astoria, thanked the Council for addressing this critical issue. The Clean Energy Bill was coming before the legislature this session. Power sources for the community are changing and two of the motivations for this are the invasion of Oregon by solar companies widening their markets due to technical advances in solar cells, and the antique nature of the power grid. Spending on wind and solar grew 13 percent in 2018 from the year before rising above \$16 billion according to solar industry watcher Wood Mackenzie. Growth will more than double in 2019. Photovoltaics costs continue to fall and the Chinese have absorbed the tariffs. Average global module prices could fall from \$0.30 per watt to \$0.18 in the next five years. Corporate buyers like Pacific Power are leading the growth while touting their support of alternative energy in marketing campaigns. More and more regional solar trade conventions cater to the business that the Solar Energy International Association started more than a decade ago. The power grid began being built in the 1930s and much of it needs to be replaced because it is fragile. This led the collective power companies in the west to look for decentralized systems where the whole electric generation plant was not vulnerable. Many grids are a string of solar, wind, or dam generated power sources with battery storage that have digital relays to cut off non-functioning units in an emergency without the whole grid going down. As solar penetration increases, states and solar companies are turning to storage. Energy storage can smooth electricity prices through arbitrage, managed evening energy ramps, mitigate the risk of curtailment, and provide backup power and more. With the resources available now, power security for isolated areas such as the mouth of the Columbia have the ability to include solar energy storage as part of the Public Works, Community Development, and Emergency Preparedness Departments. The cost of lithium ion batteries has fallen rapidly as manufacturers scaled up to support electric grid applications and electric vehicles. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory's analysis suggests that increasing solar penetration in California creates a market for 7,000 mega watts and four-hour storage. Texas and New England are beginning to experience the same conditions that create this opportunity. Storage can compete for as much as 82 percent of projected new combustion turbine capacity over the next decade.

David Oser, 254 W Irving, Astoria, thanked Ms. Dunlap and said Pacific Power has been a tremendous asset to the school district. The school district passed a bond last fall for building improvements. One thing the bond did not include was help for lighting improvements. The lighting in many buildings, particularly the middle and high schools, is terrible. The bond did not ask for that money because the school district will be working with Pacific Power to improve the lighting so that students and teachers can work easier. This will save about \$25,000 a year in energy costs.

Ms. Dunlap stated that Pacific Power appreciates that customers are frank and willing to comment publicly. She explained that the corporate giving is provided by shareholder dollars, not customer dollars. And while there are articles online about Smart Meters causing fires, this was happening about 10 or 15 years ago with the very first meters installed in California. Technology has improved since then and the fires were one reason Pacific Power waited so long to consider the technology and invest in it. Pacific Power's meters have gone through four or more rounds of testing, both internally and externally. Underwriter Laboratories has given Smart Meters the gold standard. She believed Pacific Power had the most secure network it could build. The meters are only transmitting whole house energy data, which Pacific Power already has access to now. No personal data is transmitted. Pacific Power will continue to look at reducing the meter reading fee for those who opt out. The Public Utility Commission, which regulates Pacific Power, does not allow cost sharing among customers. Pacific Power's website provides information about third party studies done on the health effects of Smart Meters.

Councilor Brownson added that the third-party studies are not funded by the industry. He suggested that those who have issues with Smart Meters read the Neurologica blog. He believed that a Smart Meter periodically throwing out a radio wave was pretty harmless. The technology helps facilitate solar panels and renewable energy. The country needs a stronger grid and needs to be smart about using power because it is essential to maintaining quality of life. The upgraded digital grid will be safer and more efficient. Climate change is a serious issue and renewables and smart use of energy is an important aspect of that.

Item 3(b): Merina and Associates Financial Audit Presentation

Tonya Moffitt of Merina and Company, LLP will be presenting the audited financial statements for the City of Astoria and Astoria Development Commission at the February 4, 2019 Council Meeting.

Tonya Moffitt, Merina and Company, presented the audit of the June 30, 2018 financial statements for the City and the Urban Renewal Agency. The audit resulted in a clean opinion, which is the highest level of opinion given, and no compliance issues were found. She explained the auditing process in detail and noted Staff readily provided Merina will all the documentation necessary to complete the analysis. The only significant accounting change between the June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2017 financial statements was due to a change required by the Government Accounting Standards Board. She provided Councilors with her contact information and encouraged them to let her know if they had any questions throughout the year.

REPORTS OF COUNCILORS

Item 4(a): Councilor Rocka reported he and Councilor Herman toured the Public Works Department and the Library. He was impressed by how much work each department had to do. He encouraged people to attend the Uniontown Reborn meeting on Wednesday at 4:30 pm at the Holiday Inn Express.

Item 4(b): Councilor West No reports.

Item 4(c): Councilor Brownson reported he lobbied for the City and the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) on Capital Day, where he met with Senator Johnson and Representative Mitchell in their offices. Senator Johnson worked with the legislature to help the Coast Guard get financial help from the state if there is another federal government shutdown. He also met with other small city leaders in Manzanita to plan their next three meetings. He would provide more information on his Facebook page. Small cities are designated by the LOC as having populations under 7,500 people. Astoria was the only municipality in the county not considered a small city because it has a larger population. He suggested the designation apply to cities under 10,000 people because a lot of state statutes apply when cities get to 10,000 people. He joined the Lower Columbia Diversity Coalition and attended the Chamber of Commerce's awards dinner. He congratulated Jennifer Holland and Ray Merit on winning awards for their work in the community.

Item 4(d): Councilor Herman reported the tours for new Councilors were informative and fun. She enjoyed going behind the locked gate at the sewage treatment ponds. She met with the Astoria Visual Arts Association to learn about the arts community. She encouraged everyone to visit the new studio at 10th and Duane. Her first Meet the Councilor event would be on Wednesday, February 13th from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm in the Flag Room at the Library.

Item 4(e): Mayor Jones reported that he also attended the Lower Columbia Diversity Coalition meeting with Councilors Brownson and Herman. He attended the Homelessness Solutions Taskforce meeting with Chief Spalding. It was good to see so many different people representing the organizations working to assist people suffering from homelessness. He spoke to fourth graders at the elementary school and attended the Chamber of Commerce banquet. His first Meet the Mayor would be February 5th at the library in the Flag Room at 4:30 pm.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

There was none.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 6(a) City Council Minutes for January 7, 2019
- 6(b) City Council Work Session Minutes for January 10, 2019
- 6(c) City Council/APC/HLC/DRC Joint Work Session Minutes for January 10, 2019
- 6(d) Board and Commission Meeting Minutes
 - 1) Astoria Library Board Meeting Minutes for November 27, 2018
 - 2) Draft Astoria Library Board Meeting Minutes for January 22, 2019
 - 3) Astoria Planning Commission Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2018
 - 4) Draft Astoria Planning Commission Meeting Minutes for December 27, 2018
 - 5) Historic Landmarks Committee Meeting Minutes for December 18, 2018
- 6(e) Rosemary Johnson Contract Amendment
- 6(f) Oregon Heritage All-Star Community Grant
- 6(g) Memorandum of Agreement to Renew Adoption of Tide Rock Park by Jessica Schleif
- 6(h) Authorize Access Easement at 1234 Exchange Street
- 6(i) Authorize IFA Financing Contract for Old Hwy 30 & Maritime Rd Ownership Access Rights Study
- 6(j) Authorization to Amend MOA with Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor West, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7(a): Public Hearing and Resolution for Supplemental Budget Resolution for Waterfront Bridges Project Fund #190 and Maritime Memorial Fund #148

ORS 294.473 provides guidance for a municipality to hold a public hearing on a supplemental budget to adjust for changes which could not reasonably be foreseen when preparing the original budget. The process requires advertisement of a supplemental budget not less than 5 days before a Council meeting. There will be a public hearing for consideration of the supplemental budgets being presented. Council may consider a resolution to adopt the supplemental budgets as advertised.

Council adopted Supplemental Budgets at the August 20, 2018 meeting to provide additional funds in the Astoria Road District Fund # 170 and Promote Astoria Fund # 410 budgets providing for additional contributions from the City for the final bid costs associated with the Waterfront Bridges Project. Public Works engineering previously provided updates regarding the project and the necessary adjustments based on discussions with Oregon Department of Transportation. As of August 20, 2018, the final amount the City would be required to contribute was unknown and the details of an additional loan from IFA were pending. This amount is now available, and the supplemental budget provided accounts for additional loan proceeds, amounts to be contributed to the project and the interest payment due on IFA loan balance in the current fiscal year.

Astoria Development Commission will consider a request to provide a loan to City of Astoria Maritime Memorial Fund # 148 in order to facilitate the completion of the Maritime Memorial expansion project. The funds requested are for excavation, landscaping repair and construction contingency which may be required. A

supplemental budget is provided which recognizes the loan proceeds and provides additional appropriations in Capital Outlay within the Maritime Memorial Fund.

It is recommended that City Council conduct a public hearing and approve the supplemental budgets as presented in the attached resolution.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 8:05 pm and called for public comments on the supplemental budgets. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 8:05 pm.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Rocka, seconded by Councilor Brownson, to adopt the supplemental budget resolution for the Waterfront Bridges Project Fund #190 and the Maritime Memorial Fund #148, as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

Item 7(b): Second Reading and Adoption: Vacation of a Portion of the Right of Way on 26th Street Northwest of Harrison Abutting Adjacent Undeveloped Lots

The City received a request from John Wood, on behalf of Adella Wood, to vacate a 60 X 150 foot portion of the 26th Street unimproved right-of-way abutting two parcels of Ms. Woods property (Tax Lots 80909CC02301 and 80909CC04101) located on Harrison Avenue. Ms. Wood would like to combine the two lots in order to construct a residential structure on the property.

The applicant has paid the \$869.82 calculated by staff (10% of \$8,698.24 real land value). At their meeting of January 22, 2019 City Council conducted a public hearing and the first reading of the ordinance of vacation.

It is recommended that the Astoria City Council conduct the second reading, and adopt the ordinance to vacate a 60 by 150, portion of the 26th Street right-of-way adjacent to Tax Lots 80909CC02301 and 80909CC04101.

Councilor Rocka said he voted against this at the last meeting for two reasons. Some of the neighbors had concerns about the stability of the soil and water if something was developed on the property. Anyone in Astoria can cut down any tree they want to, so the area could be logged. He was concerned about global warming and carbon sequestration, so he did not want to see the logging occur. However, the concerns were not evidence of what was happening.

Councilor West stated she voted in favor of the request but had some of the same concerns. She asked if there was a proposal to build a structure on the lots. City Manager Estes stated the intent was to combine the lots so a structure could be built, but no application for development had been submitted yet. City Council is simply considering whether to vacate the right-of-way.

Director Brooks conducted the second reading of the ordinance.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Herman, to adopt the ordinance to vacate a 60' by 150, portion of the 26th Street right-of-way adjacent to Tax Lots 80909CC02301 and 80909CC04101. Motion carried 4 to 1. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: Councilor Rocka.

Item 7(c): Authorize ODOT Local Agency Agreement Amendment for the Waterfront Bridges Replacement Project

In April 2018, the City entered into a Local Agency Agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the construction phase of the Waterfront Bridges Replacement Project. This original Agreement was for a total estimated project cost for the construction phase of \$9,508,000, which includes construction, inspection and construction management services. The City's portion of these original project cost is 10.27 percent or \$976,471.60 with the remaining \$8,531,528.40 being an ODOT grant.

The attached Local Agency Agreement Amendment memorializes the verbal agreement by the City to provide additional funding for the project. Total estimated construction cost is now estimated at \$12,036,903.88 with

\$10,653,537.57 being covered by the ODOT grant. The City cost has increased by the required 10.27 percent match (\$217,930.43) plus an additional \$134,121.26. Also included in the Amendment is the cost of \$29,900 for cost not eligible for federal funding to replace the existing 12-ft sidewalk on 11th Street (as described above and previously budgeted in the Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) loan). As a result, the total additional cost described in the Amendment is \$381,951.69 bringing the City's estimated total construction phase cost to \$1,690,466.

In August 2018, City Council concurred with a funding strategy to pay for increased project costs that consists of using \$100,000 from the Astoria Road District Fund contingency, \$120,000 from the Promote Astoria Fund contingency and increasing the IFA loan for the remaining up to \$220,000. Based on the final numbers from ODOT, the IFA loan will actually be increased by \$132,052.

It is recommended that City Council approve the Local Agency Agreement Amendment with ODOT for the Waterfront Bridges Replacement Project.

Assistant City Engineer Moore provided an update on the status of the Waterfront Bridge Project and said the contractor must have the project complete by Memorial Day weekend. There were delays associated with moving the crane and ODOT paperwork, but no changes have been made to the schedule. She reminded that ODOT was managing the construction and the inspections on the City's behalf.

Councilor Brownson said the in-water work had to be done on schedule. He asked if Staff believed that work would be done on time. Engineer Moore stated the in-water work deadline was critical to the project. An extension could be requested, but the contractor is working on meeting the February 28th deadline.

Councilor Herman asked if the project would be complete by Memorial Day. Engineer Moore said there were no extension requests, but the team does have some legitimate justifications for requesting an extension. Contractors are monetarily penalized if deadlines are missed.

Councilor Rocka said if delays were unavoidable, the community could help by visiting the businesses that were being affected. At first, the area seemed like a ghost town, but business seems to have improved. Engineer Moore said Staff expected the amendment to the IGA when the project was bid because the bids came in high. The City worked with ODOT to arrange for a match by the City as a good faith effort. ODOT also had to commit to additional funding and awarded the project without the amendment in place, which is not something ODOT typically does. Otherwise, the project would have been delayed an entire year because of the in-water work deadlines, which would have been costly. Since August, when ODOT fronted the money for the City and awarded the project, they have been working on this amendment.

City Manager Estes noted that the memorandum was meant to inform the new Councilors about the history of the project. If this project was not able to happen during this fiscal year, the City would have had to complete \$200,000 in temporary improvements to the bridges to stabilize them until they could be replaced.

Councilor Brownson said he appreciated how hard the Public Works Department worked to establish good relationships with other agencies.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Brownson, seconded by Councilor Rocka to approve the Local Agency Agreement Amendment with ODOT for the Waterfront Bridges Replacement Project. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Brownson, Herman, Rocka, West, and Mayor Jones; Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS & MISCELLANEOUS, PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA)

Pamela Matsen McDonald, 22 Nimitz, Astoria, encouraged the City to install charging units in parking lots. She was at the Tesla parking in Seaside last weekend and got the last available spot. Every time she tries to charge while downtown the charging station is already full. There are 1.5 million electric vehicles in the country and 3.5 million in the world. This year, a dozen new affordable electric vehicles will come online and in 2020 another dozen will come online. The City could make a lot of good revenue from charging stations.

Megan Hodges, 396 38th Street, Astoria, said she wanted guidance from Mayor Jones and Chief Spalding. She lives two doors from the Goonies house and she was out of state when Chief Spalding sent letters out asking for

feedback. In her area, the problems are varied. Scary people walk up her private road while she is in her pajamas outside walking her dog. She has one, maybe two, parking spots. Most of the people who are a nuisance to her are those who just idle. So, the increase in the fine of \$100 is not really effective. People just idle and she feels stupid calling the police. She wants people to move when she is trying to get home. This happens every day from May to November. She was originally from Orange County where parking is so impacted that it is permit parking. When her sister had a graduation party, she went to the police department to get a one-day parking pass. If she hosted a dinner party, it would be a sad dinner party with one guest. She did not know what the solution was. The fumes and exhaust from the idlers just sitting and pulling in and out of driveways is an issue. She has friends who live around the corner and do not have a place for guests to park. The residents are being penalized for the myriad of people who come up to gawk, walk, and damage the private road that the residents maintain. She understood temporary passes would be a lot of paperwork and red tape, but she wanted the City to require people to show identification to get paper passes for the day.

Chief Spalding confirmed the neighborhood meeting held at Alderbrook Hall was about four months ago and new signs had already been installed. He had not heard any complaints but did not expect much since it was the off season; however, the Police Department was prepared for the warm season.

Mayor Jones added that the Chamber of Commerce stopped advertising the Goonies house a long time ago and they have been very supportive. There are a couple of websites the City has not been able to get rid of.

Ms. Hodges said when people come up, they know the police response time is 20 minutes because it is a low priority. People know they have time to take pictures. Duane Street is very narrow and she cannot get home. People try to wave her around but they do not realize where she is going. If she called the police, the people would be gone. She did not expect a police officer to be posted on the road.

Miles Rudduck 449 N. Main Avenue, Warrenton, said Drag Queen Story Hour is on Saturday, February 9th at 10:30 am. The event is about diversity, welcoming people into the community, and making children feel safe. However, he had a problem with the photograph of a naked man standing in the shower saying to a little boy, "Shout out to Mazy." He had a copy of the photograph with him. This photo is published on the Drag Queen Story Hour webpage. He had already spoken to Chief Spalding and Director Pearson about this. Another photograph on the internet that upset him was of *Desmond is Amazing*, a book about a 10-year old boy dancing on stage for money at an adult gay bar in New York. Both of these photos could be accessed by clicking from the Astoria Library website. He did not care how the children were dressed, but he believed it was inappropriate to promote 10-year old children stripping. We need to protect our children.

Ed Bussey [1:32:44], Warrenton, said he had checked out the websites Mr. Rudduck mentioned and he had concerns as well. The websites are exactly as Mr. Rudduck says and it is shocking that the community would be linked to something like that. He had a problem with any adult male in a gown with a hood that had eye holes cut in it talking to little children. He was also concerned about an adult male dressed as a female. A lot of people in the community are concerned about this and many people were shocked to find out this event was held last year. It is concerning to see that the library is promoting the grooming and recruiting, which is mentioned on the website.

Commissioner Herman said she supported the program. No illegal activity was going on and if any illegal activity were to occur the program would be shut down immediately. The external websites are not affiliated with the City of Astoria or the Library Department. The Drag Queen Story Hour is a national program and she did not see anything objectionable or offensive on the website. She has known the drag queen in question for about 30 years and he is a wonderful man. She would trust him with her life. This is a great country with First Amendment rights. Libraries have always been on the front line of defending the First Amendment. The Drag Queen Story Hour will take place in the Flag Room, which has a door. If parents bring their children and do not want their children exposed to the story hour, they will not be. There is freedom of choice. This is not about breaking laws or violating children in horrible ways. She supported the program and believed it was good for everyone to be exposed to people who are different and who we might not understand so we can see that everyone is human.

Mayor Jones said he planned to attend the event on Saturday morning. The man who will be doing the reading is a very fine man. Mayor Jones has volunteered with him on several occasions in youth programs. Any children who attend will be there because their parents have chosen to bring them, probably because they heard last year was so enjoyable for the kids who attended. Anything that excites young people about reading is fine with him.

Councilor Brownson believed it was noteworthy that no one noticed the event last year. The event is not that big of a deal, it is just individuals expressing themselves as who they are and allowing people to understand that. Parents have a choice and do not have to attend. He completely trusted Director Pearson and his judgement. He is an honorable and honest person. He had no problems with the event. He thanked Director Pearson for allowing diversity to flourish in Astoria because Astoria is a very diverse town.

Councilor West thanked Councilor Herman for her comments and Director Pearson for his integrity through out the situation. It was difficult for her to hear some of the assumptions, particularly the comparison to a hooded Ku Klux Klan (KKK) member. She did not see that as related in any way. She did not believe any individual participating in the Drag Queen Story Hour was advocating a message of hate, which is prevalent throughout the KKK community. Nor was anything being hidden, as a white hood would indicate. If people are interested or supportive, they can attend and take their children if they believe their children will benefit. Otherwise, people do not have to attend. She thanked those spoke in opposition for their bravery to come forward.

ADJOURNMENT

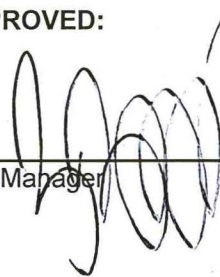
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager