

## **The Oregonian**

### **Portland Auditor says Steve Novick, Charlie Hales violated lobbying rule on Uber meeting**

*By Andrew Theen*  
09/01/2015

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick violated city rules by omitting a December 2014 meeting with a lobbyist representing Uber from their public calendars.

Mary Hull Caballero, Portland's elected auditor, issued warning letters to Hales and Novick on Tuesday highlighting the violation.

The warning stems from a December meeting with Uber representatives at the home of Mark Wiener, a prominent Portland political consultant, who has close working relationships with Novick and Hales.

Wiener was working as a lobbyist for the ride-sharing company.

In the letter, Hull Caballero said the violation could result in a \$500 civil penalty. "However, because this appears to be a first-time violation and your office otherwise keeps an open accessible calendar with detailed archival information available to the public," she wrote in a letter Novick. "We are closing this matter with a warning."

Novick responded to the warning in an email. "I apologize for the infraction. It should not happen again!"

Dana Haynes, Hales' spokesman, said the mayor takes the warning seriously.

"Occasionally, meetings either come together too quickly or too late in the day to be reflected in the calendar; or fail to come together because of conflicts, which also doesn't get reflected in the public calendar," Hales said in an email. "We will continue to attempt to capture all such meetings."

In a separate letter to Hales, Hull Caballero said his office was "out of step with other elected officials" by keeping an online record of only the previous six months of his calendar.

The Oregonian/OregonLive.com previously reported on that issue. The mayor's office keeps a record of previous meetings on file, and they are available upon request.

Haynes said so far, Hales' office has received just two requests to examine his old calendars, and the office is "looking at" how to put all the past calendars back online.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **City pays dearly for historic properties**

*By Jim Redden*  
09/01/2015

The cost of living with historic properties is catching up to the Portland City Council.

For the third time in two months, the council has been presented with a multimillion dollar estimate to maintain a city property that has been designated a historic landmark. And the cost of doing more than the bare minimum is even greater — in two cases, much greater.

But Mayor Charlie Hales says the historic landmark designation makes it difficult for the council to continue deferring the work, tear down the properties or sell them to developers.

"We tell private parties who own historic properties that they have a commitment to the community to maintain them," Hales said last Tuesday when the council held a work session on one of the properties, the Portland Building.

During the session, the council was told it would cost an estimated \$95 million to stop water from damaging the downtown city office building and bring it up to current earthquake standards. A complete

renovation would cost \$175 million or more, depending on additional needs found after more study or additional improvements the council decides to make.

More recently, the city released documents on Monday saying it will cost \$35.1 million to bring the Veterans Memorial Coliseum up to current code. Additional enhancements range from \$26.2 million more for basic tenant improvements to an additional \$107.8 million to transform it into an indoor track facility that could host national and international events, concerts and cycling competitions.

A link to the documents can be found at [portlandoregon.gov/cao/policy](http://portlandoregon.gov/cao/policy).

In July, the council agreed to spend \$4 million to rehabilitate the three open reservoirs in Mount Tabor after they are disconnected from the water distribution system. It will cost an additional \$1.5 million if the council agrees to install age-appropriate lighting at one of them.

Those costs are in addition to other big bills that are coming due for specific future projects. They include the city's share of cleaning up the Portland Harbor Superfund site, the long-anticipated purchase of the U.S. Post Office property at the west end of the Broadway Bridge, and the city's share of rebuilding the substandard levees along the Columbia River. That does not even count such ongoing needs as more affordable housing, additional parks, and the street maintenance shortfall, which is now over \$1 billion and growing.

Most of the council agreed it needs to have a discussion about how to prioritize the unmet needs before deciding which projects to fund first.

"We have to ask some tough questions about what comes first," said Commissioner Nick Fish. "Funding projects impacts the ability to fund future projects. At some point, you're tapped out."

Commissioner Amanda Fritz agreed.

"We need to have a holistic discussion about our priorities," Fritz said.

Different projects, different funds

The reservoirs, Portland Building and Veterans Memorial Coliseum all have supporters who argue they are important to the city's history and fabric and should be preserved. At the same time, during last week's work session, some of the council members seemed to be looking for alternatives. Commissioner Steve Novick made it clear the council has not yet agreed to even the minimum work recommended for the Portland Building, and Commissioner Dan Saltzman asked if the city could be fined for demolishing a historic property. The answer was probably not.

Although all three properties are historic landmarks, the money available to maintain and improve them would likely come from different sources.

The reservoirs are owned by the Water Bureau, which negotiated the preservation plan with the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association. It was triggered by the council's agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to decommission the reservoirs to comply with EPA rules intended to limit the spread of water-borne illnesses. Although the council did not approve a funding source in July, water ratepayer funds are the logical choice. Lawyers in an ongoing civil suit about inappropriate city utility spending have argued water ratepayer funds should not be spent for decorative purposes. Bureau officials say the reservoirs will still be functional, however, and used to help drain and clean the replacement underground storage tanks.

Funds for the Portland Building are proposed to come primarily from city bonds supported by rents charged to city agencies. Agencies that occupy the building are already charged rents based on the square footage they occupy, but project advisers have suggested that all agencies help support the bonds, even if they are located in other buildings in town. Last week the council seemed to think that proposal needs further discussion.

Funds for the Veterans Memorial Coliseum will be harder to raise. Some tax increment finance money is available from the urban renewal area where it sits, but not nearly enough. The documents released Monday said the improvements will not justify raising rental fees there enough to cover the costs of the work.

The documents also said it would cost only \$14 million to demolish the Coliseum, far less than the minimum recommended improvements.

## **Willamette Week**

### **Auditor: Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick Violated Lobbying Code**

Mary Hull Caballero issues warnings to both for failing to record meeting with Uber lobbyists on public calendars.

*By Beth Slovic*  
09/01/2015

Portland's independently elected auditor, Mary Hull Caballero, issued warnings to Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick on Tuesday, saying the two city leaders had violated city code by failing to record on their public calendars a December 2014 meeting with Uber lobbyists at the home of political consultant-turned-lobbyist Mark Wiener.

"The failure to record the meeting on your public calendar constitutes a violation of city code 2.12.070.D," the Sept. 1 letters to Hales and Novick read. "Violations of this provision may result in a civil penalty of up to \$500. However, because this appears to be a first-time violation, we are closing this matter with a warning."

Portland adopted rules requiring lobbyists to disclose their activities—and city officials to report interactions and gifts from lobbyists—in 2005 to bring transparency to the influence of private entities on the public's business. "The disinfecting light of this ordinance will shine on our decision making [and] will make the city government a sunnier place, not just for the political class, but for all Portlanders, even on the rainiest day," said then-Commissioner Sam Adams, who was instrumental in crafting the rules, which went into effect in 2006.

Hales' and Novick's failure to disclose their meeting with Uber came to light after city leaders raised questions about Wiener's role in Uber's entrance to the Portland market. Wiener has alternated between working as a political consultant to Hales and Novick and as a lobbyist for Uber, a dual role that some argue blurs the line between public and private interests. Wiener has defended his conduct by saying he wasn't being paid simultaneously by city officials and Uber.

In an email to the auditor sent Tuesday morning, Novick apologized. "It should not happen again," he wrote.

A spokesman for the mayor, Dana Haynes, responded to a request for comment with an email. "We take the issue of public notice seriously and strive to meet all obligations," he wrote. "Occasionally, meetings either come together too quickly or too late in the day to be reflected in the calendar; or fail to come together because of conflicts, which also doesn't get reflected in the public calendar. We will continue to attempt to capture all such meetings."