

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00PM City Clerk Laurie Cassell called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Syler, Councilmember Huson and Councilmember Jensen. Mayor Hopkins and Councilmember Holland were excused. Councilmember Syler moved to elect Councilmember Hedrick as Mayor Pro Tem, with a second by Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Syler moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

MINUTES - Councilmember Syler moved to approve the minutes for the regular Council Meeting of February 20, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Nothing at this time

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Doug Hammond – The citizens of the Commencement, thanked the Councilmembers, Charles and the staff for getting the permits completed for the construction project. He asked the council if the City of Ruston would consider putting in (EV) electric vehicle charging outlets within the city.

BUSINESS – ORD 1578 – Adoption of 2021 Construction Codes (2nd Reading) - Under State law,¹ the City is required to adopt the State Building Codes. The only flexibility that the City has with regard to these codes is to enact stricter requirements. The City is not permitted to relax any of these standards. The exception to this requirement is if a provision is deemed “optional” by the State Building Code Council.

The Washington State Building Code Council has adopted a number of the 2021 editions of the various International Building Codes for to be adopted and enforced by local jurisdictions after March 15, 2024. Mike Barth, the City Building Official, has carefully reviewed all of the code changes and is recommending that the City Council adopt these codes as shown in this ordinance.

While most of the revisions are housekeeping updates (changing the edition dates, re-numbering to track with State adopted versions, consistency edits, etc.), there is one major change this cycle. The main change is the new Wildland-Urban Interface Code which implements standards to reduce fire risk. However, Mr. Barth has looked at the map adopted by the State and there are no portions of Ruston for which these standards apply.

¹ RCW 19.27.031.

Therefore, while we are adopting the code as required by law, it will not apply in Ruston unless the State changes the mapping. The revisions to this new code are found in new chapter 12.33 RMC. In addition, the International Existing Building Code was historically part of the International Building Code, but is now somewhat separated. Therefore, a new chapter 12.23 RMC was added to capture the amendments to that code. The International Property Maintenance Code which was adopted in Chapter 12.05 RMC is an optional code which the City first adopted in 2011. This Ordinance adopts the 2021 version. Motion to approve Ordinance 1578 by Councilmember Syler, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL – Councilmember Syler moved to approve Claims for March 5, 2024, and Payroll for March 5, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

MAYOR’S TIME – Was excused.

Councilmember Hedrick – The final capital budget for the state came out today and the City of Ruston is being appropriated \$1.1 million for various remedial projects throughout the city. Mayor Hopkins announced earlier this week about EPA remediating the containment site along 51st. There will be a meeting with EPA on March 21, 2024, in the Mary Joyce Community Center from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm.

Councilmember Holland – Was excused.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Jensen – She asked Mr. Hammond for feedback on the EV question. Mr. Hammond said he was hoping the City of Ruston would receive some grant funding to install some charging stations. The Easter egg hunt will be on March 30, 2024 and There will be some Easter egg stuffing on March 19th from 5:00-7:00pm and Saturday, March 23rd from 2:00-4:00pm. Any Easter candy donations can be dropped off at City Hall.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:15PM Councilmember Syler moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

Mayor Hopkins

ATTEST:

Laurie Cassell

Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for February 2024

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

Total Incidents (YTD) 26, February 8 (2 Fire/Service, 6 Medical Aid)

Volunteer Hours: January 1930 Hours, YTD 3639 Hours

Membership Roster (25 out of 25): (22 Members, 3 Officers)

State of the Business

- Patient billing for transports is almost ready.
- We are waiting for the Firefighter II test results.
- The Fire Station will be ready for the Easter Egg Hunt.
- All fire tools are fully operational.