

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Syler, and Councilmember Jensen. Councilmember Holland and Councilmember Huson were excused. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 3-0.

MINUTES - Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the regular Council Meeting of March 5, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Syler passed 3-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire Chief Allen – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Karen Hirschman – Ruston Design Center – She provided a proposal to save money and water – See attached.

Maryann Bell – She is receiving possible news from the newsletter for the money the City of Ruston has received from the legislature and thanked the Council. She talked about grants for small businesses. She is excited about the car show. She would like to see some money from the EPA for the City of Ruston. She has been in contact with the EPA regarding the contaminated soil on the open parcels and the remediation process.

BUSINESS – **Point Ruston Business Council – Presentation** – Chyna Willman, Justine Kunz and Kasey Mendoza with the Merchants Alliance at Point Ruston Waterfront presented a Powerpoint on their concerns for businesses located in the Point Ruston area – See attached Powerpoint and their Articles of Incorporation. Mayor Hopkins wants to work much closer together with the businesses. Councilmember Hedrick wants to explore money but would like to see a marketing plan first. Councilmember Syler thanked them for their presentation and to try to work with Terracotta to partner together. Councilmember Jensen thanked them for their presentation and recommended they approach Pierce Transit on the transportation piece. This Thursday, March 21, 2024, the EPA will be having a meeting here from 7:00-9:00pm.

RES – 787 – Inter-Agency Agreement with Washington State Department of Enterprise Service for use of Purchasing Platform - The Interlocal Cooperation Act¹, authorizes the City is to contract with other governmental agencies to provide services that the City is authorized to perform.

¹ Chapter 39.34 RCW

The Washington State Department of Enterprise Systems (DES) engages in obtaining products and services for use by State Agencies. DES goes through the competitive bidding process for obtaining these contracts and maintains a list of vendors for a variety of items which the state agencies can use in making purchases. These are called “master contracts.” The City is allowed to utilize the master contracts developed by DES and make a direct purchase from the vendors that are qualified by DES. In order to utilize this system, Ruston is required to execute an Inter-Agency agreement with DES. The City of Ruston has used this contract in the past for purchasing police vehicles, allowing the City to avoid the cumbersome process of putting its requirements out to bid. The City Council previously authorized this contract by adoption of Resolution 626 on March 15, 2016, however, the State has updated the contract and therefore a new approval is required. As part of the Inter-Agency Agreement, Ruston agrees to be responsible for any purchases it makes, be open to audit its compliance and not hold DES responsible for the purchases made using its vendor system.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Claims for March 19, 2024, and Payroll for March 20, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 3-0.

MAYOR’S TIME – Mayor Hopkins encouraged anyone to comment on the EIS and provide feedback. The city is currently in negotiation with BNSF on the exchange by Rust Park for the unremediated property to help create a walkway and pedestrian crossing. We are in the process of seeking grants with the EPA. We have secured \$1.8 million in funding from the state thanks to Councilmember Hedrick. It is very important for everyone to attend our Planning Commission meetings due to the state legislature making changes to middle housing and laws that have passed. The City of Ruston will be migrating our systems over to AWS (Amazon Web Services) next month.

Councilmember Hedrick – He also encourages anyone to comment on the EIS by April 15, 2024. The EPA will be having a meeting Thursday, March 21, 2024, EPA will be putting on a presentation at 7:00pm.

Councilmember Holland – Was excused.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Was excused.

Councilmember Jensen – Suggested moving the Council Retreat discussion to the next meeting so that all council members can have input on the topic. Thank you to the residents for providing public comment along with the presenters. She also thanked all the residents for helping with the Easter egg stuffing this evening. The Easter egg hunt is March 30th at 10:00am.

CITY OF RUSTON
Regular Council Minutes
March 19, 2024

MEETING AJOURNED – At 8:19PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 3-0.

Mayor Hopkins

ATTEST:

Laurie Cassell



**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

Calls for Service Total September thru December:	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	211	217

Jennifer Robertson is preparing proposals for the Council to consider regarding the implementation of "park speed zones" in order for the City to use automated traffic enforcement cameras (ATEC). The legislature made further changes to the existing RCW that may allow us to expand the use of ATEC on other streets such as 49th Street (aka Interstate 49).

The Department also consulted with Ms. Robertson about reducing the speed limit to 20 miles per hour on most Ruston streets; it appears to be a very easy task and more information from her should be forthcoming.

One officer will return from Paid Family Medical Leave in a few weeks, but one remains on medical restriction light duty for another 3 weeks.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

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.