

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Syler, Councilmember Huson and Councilmember Jensen. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 4-0.

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

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police Chief Bautista – See attached.
Ruston Fire Chief Allen – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Mark Shingledecker – He provided a flyer about the 1st annual kickball in the park following the bicycle parade on July 4.

BUSINESS –

RES 792 – Awarding contract for N. Park Ave Improvement Project to Active Construction Inc

This project is the N. Park Avenue Improvement Project from the end of Park Avenue to Bennett Street. The City Engineer is recommending the Council award the contract to Active Construction, Inc. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. In accordance with State law,¹ any public works project over \$300,000 must be awarded via the full competitive bidding process which requires advertising for bids or a “call for bids.” The Call for Bids published in the Tacoma Daily Index April 16, 2024. In addition, the solicitation was sent out via email to a large group list that was obtained from MRSC. The bid call was open for approximately 2 weeks from April 16, 2024 to April 30, 2024. The bid opening took place at 10:00 AM on April 30, 2024, at Ruston City Hall. The City received three responsible and responsive bids as follows:

	Contractor	Total
1	Rognlins	\$1,195,000.00
2	Nisqually Construction Services	\$1,161,559.00
3	Active Construction, Inc.	\$1,025,025.00

¹ Chapter 39.04 RCW; RCW 35.23.352.

The City Engineer's Office recommends awarding the Project Contract to the lowest responsible bidder who submitted a responsive bid which was Active Construction, Inc. If the Council authorizes this Contract award at the June 18, 2024, Council Meeting, then construction is anticipated to begin this summer and is expected to be substantially complete on or before October 15, 2024. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution No. 792, with a second from Councilmember Syler. Councilmember Hedrick asked if there is a firm start date for the project. Mayor Hopkins said it will be this summer. Councilmember Jensen thanked the mayor for his explanation for the funding and asked if we could post the budget in a place to review. With no further discussion, the motion passed 4-0.

Council Vacancy – Appointment to fill Council vacancy (may include executive session to consider qualifications of applicants for filling the vacancy under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)). City Attorney, Jennifer Robertson, provided the guidelines for the council appointment.

At 7:20 p.m., Mayor Hopkins convened to an executive session for 20 minutes until 7:40 p.m., per RCW42.30.110(1)(g)) to consider qualifications of an applicant for filling the council vacancy. Mayor Hopkins reconvened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Councilmember Hedrick nominated John W. Holland to succeed in Council position No. 2. Council member Jensen nominates Maryanne Bell to succeed in Council position No. 2. Mayor Hopkins asked for a vote for the nomination of John W. Holland and was passed 4-0. City Clerk Cassell did the swearing in of new Councilmember John W. Holland for council position No 2.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Claims for June 18, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 4-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Mayor Hopkins wished City Clerk Cassel the best in her new endeavor. The City of Tacoma should finalize the EIS in July. The city attorney is working on the Interlocal agreement with the City of Tacoma. We continue to have our light pole damaged on Grand Loop. Mayor Hopkins thanked all of the applicants who submitted letters of interest for the council position No. 2 vacancy. He mentioned we are closer to our EPA grant request.

Councilmember Hedrick – He thanked councilmember Holland for joining and his willingness to serve on this council.

Councilmember Syler – She asked if there was any way we can insure our light poles. She welcomed councilmember Holland to the council.

Councilmember Huson – He thanked councilmember Holland for applying as well as all of the other applicants who applied.

Councilmember Jensen – Review Council Member Jensen’s proposals to facilitate a City Council Retreat & Budget Workshop - TBD SEPTEMBER 2024. She welcomed councilmember Holland and thanked everyone else who applied for the council vacancy. She mentioned having the council retreat in September and discussed choosing a facilitator. She received 2 proposals and asked the councilmembers their thoughts. Councilmember Huson felt it went well with the city attorney and is fine with any of the proposals. Councilmember Syler would like to work from the preliminary list that they agreed to from the 2023 council retreat to keep costs down. Councilmember Hedrick suggested the council come up with great ideas to present first. Councilmember Jensen would like a breakout session amongst councilmembers to discuss visions for the City of Ruston and grow from the existing goals from the 2023 council retreat. Councilmember Holland agrees with councilmember Hedrick and is questioning if they need a facilitator or are we able to work on our own? He would like some time to review the proposals before he provides his input. Councilmember Jensen supports a facilitator to help with our visions. The proposed council retreat meeting date is September 17, 2024, and to use the Callahan Collaborative, TCC, proposal as the facilitator. This will be brought forward for a vote at the July 2, 2024, council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) Potential Litigation – At 8:07 p.m., Mayor Hopkins convened to an executive session for 30 minutes until 8:37 p.m., per RCW42.30.110(1)(i). At 8:37 p.m., Mayor Hopkins reconvened the meeting.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 8:37PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 4-0.

Mayor Hopkins

ATTEST:

Laurie Cassell