

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, August 20, 2024**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:02PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Huson, Councilmember Jensen and Councilmember Holland. Councilmember Hedrick and Councilmember Syler were excused. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Huson moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Jensen, passed 3-0.

**MINUTES** - Councilmember Huson moved to approve the minutes for the regular Council Meeting of July 16, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Jensen, passed 3-0.

**STAFF REPORT** –

Ruston Police Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire Chief Allen – See attached.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

**Doug Hammond** – Inquired about EV charging stations in Ruston and asked if the City would consider installing one locally.

**Mark Shingledecker**- Thanked everyone for their participation and support on the successful Kickball in the Park event on July 4<sup>th</sup>. There was strong interest and donations have started to come in for next year's event.

**BUSINESS** –

**RES 798 – Employee Survivor Exemption Policy** - In 2023, the Washington Legislature passed HB 1533 regarding protection of personal information for government employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual abuse, stalking, or harassment or who have family members in that category or who are included in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP). HB 1533 permits cities to protect information about employees who are victims (or have family members who are victims) and provides a procedure for cities to verify qualification for that program. When an employee is qualified for such a program, the City can redact information from public records about that employee that would otherwise not be redacted under the Public Records Act (PRA). RCW 42.56.250(1)(i). Under the law, if an employee is a “survivor” under HB 1533, then his or her personally identifiable information is exempt from disclosure under the PRA including his/her birthdate, job title, addresses of workstations and locations, work email address, work phone number, or bargaining unit.

In order to qualify for having this information withheld, the employee must establish that the employee or their dependent is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or harassment, as defined under the state law. Any documentation maintained by the City to administer the exemption is confidential and may not be disclosed. The City is also permitted to provide information to its employees on how to anonymize their work email address when an employee meets the “survivor” standard. A policy was established along with an application form that the City may use to administer the policy. This policy is consistent with State law and will help the City to determine if an employee meets the standards for exempting their personal information from public records request responses. Councilmember Huson moved to approve Resolution 798, with a second from Councilmember Jensen, passed 3-0.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL** – Councilmember Huson moved to approve Claims for August 6, 2024, August 20, 2024 and Payroll for July 20, 2024, August 5, 2024 and August 20, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Jensen, passed 3-0.

**MAYOR’S TIME** – Mayor Hopkins introduced the GIS System (Geographic Information System) to Council, demonstrating how GIS is used to create, manage, analyze, and map all types of data within the City of Ruston. Mayor Hopkins thanked Staff for all their hard work in implementing this technology. Mayor Hopkins has been working with the City Planning Director on a workflow solution to centralize processes, apps, tools and files on to one platform called Monday.com, which will streamline work for maximum productivity. Mayor Hopkins provided an update on his conversations with EPA, Ecology and Terracotta. Mayor Hopkins introduced Mark Shingledecker, who replaces former Ray Johnson, as the new Public Works – Maintenance Technician.

**Councilmember Hedrick** – Was excused.

**Councilmember Syler** – Was excused.

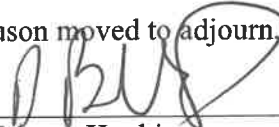
**Councilmember Huson** – When Councilmember Huson purchased his home he was required to locate native ground and excavated 800 yards of soil, pulling out appliances, car parts, and truck loads of garbage. At that time Councilmember Huson thought the Ruston dump existed on his property. Councilmember Huson invited everyone to attend the Cadillac and Lincoln Car Show, located on Winnifred between 51<sup>st</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> Street, Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, from 9AM - 3PM and was hoping for good weather. There would be about 40 cars and a taco truck at this event. Councilmember Huson thanked the City Clerk, Judy Grams, for staying on until the City could find a replacement.

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**Councilmember Jensen** – Thanked Mayor Hopkins for the GIS presentation. Councilmember Jensen was interested in EV charging stations within the City of Ruston and exploring grants that could support this initiative. Councilmember Jensen thanked Mr. Hammond for his continued input. Councilmember Jensen thanked Mark Shingledecker for coming on board and for his service.

**Councilmember Holland** – Worked with GIS systems in the past and was excited to have this available in the City of Ruston. The possibilities are endless and information invaluable. Councilmember Holland thanked Mark Shingledecker for coming on board and for his service.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – At 7:47PM Councilmember Huson moved to adjourn with a second from Councilmember Jensen, passed 3-0.

  
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Mayor Hopkins

ATTEST:  
  
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Judy Grams