

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00PM City Clerk Grams called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were the Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Huson, and Councilmember Holland. Mayor Hopkins, Councilmember Syler and Councilmember Jensen were excused. Councilmember Huson moved to elect Councilmember Hedrick as Mayor Pro Tem, with a second by Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Huson moved to amend the agenda tabling Ordinance 1585 to the Council meeting of November 19, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Holland, the agenda as amended passed 3-0.

MINUTES - Councilmember Huson moved to approve the minutes for the regular Council Meeting of October 1, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Holland the minutes passed 3-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire Chief Allen – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Charles McKenna – Thanked everyone who participated in and donated vests, glove grabbers for the inaugural Ruston Day Cleanup on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at 9AM at 51st and Winnifred. Fifteen volunteers picked up four 35-gallon bags of trash.

Angelino Guron – Shared concerns over the new pub/bar with the Seahawk lights.

Dan Wombacher – Expressed concern about the height of the house under construction across the street from his home, his view and his discussion with Ruston Associate Planner.

Richard Watson – Appreciated the City's quick response to the engineering issues related to the Park Street Project.

Vivian Lafrancoeur – See attached.

Patricia Turner – See attached.

Christof – Silver Cloud- Expressed concern on Ordinance 1585 and if passed the negative impacts it will have on the Silver Cloud and other businesses in Ruston.

Mr. Barker – Unicorn – Expressed concern on Ordinance 1585 and if passed the negative impacts it will have on the Unicorn and other business in Ruston.

Jim Jackson – North End Tavern – Expressed concern on Ordinance 1585 and if passed the negative impacts it will have on the North End Tavern and other business in Ruston.

Maryanne Bell – See attached.

Ryan Morris – Shared his appreciation for Maryanne Bell. Mr. Morris expressed concern about Ordinance 1585 and the negative impacts it will have if it does not pass. Mr. Morris understood that he lives near a bar however, as a neighborhood bar, this establishment has not been a good neighbor.

Mark Shingledecker – Expressed concern on Ordinance 1585 and the amendment as it is currently written and noted that the revenue from these establishments is not a contributing factor.

Ben Baker-Brousseau - Expressed concern about Ordinance 1585 and the negative impacts it will have if it does not pass. Mr. Baker-Brousseau noted that the City has spent 90% of its time managing one establishment who has not been a good neighbor.

BUSINESS –

Pierce Transit Presentation- Destination 2045 Long Range Plan: Darin Stavish, Principal Planner and Anna Petersen, Senior Planner – See attached.

ORD 1580 – Updating Stormwater Rates (2nd reading) – Under state law (Chapter 35.67 RCW) the City is authorized to provide stormwater services to properties within the City. Under RCW 35.67.020, the City has the authority to establish charges for the stormwater facilities and under RCW 35.67.190, the City has the authority to fix the rates for stormwater services. Ruston has not increased its stormwater rates since 2005 while the costs of delivering stormwater services is increasing and additional revenue is needed to sustain the City's stormwater utility. The proposed Ordinance No. 1580 updates the monthly stormwater rate from \$5.00 per lot to \$12.00 per lot in order to keep up with the increased costs of the stormwater program. This change is proposed to take effect on January 1, 2025. Unlike the version of Ordinance No. 1580 that was on for First Reading on May 7, 2024, there was no variable rate included with this amended ordinance. This ordinance increases the flat stormwater rate from \$5 to \$12 per month. If approved, this rate increase will take effect on January 1, 2025. Councilmember Huson moved to approve Ordinance 1580, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0.

ORD 1583 – Public Hearing – Tax Levy FY2025 – Councilmember Huson moved to open Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0. There was no Public Comment. Councilmember Huson moved to close Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0.

ORD 1583 – Public Hearing – Tax Levy FY2025 (1st reading) – As part of the budget process, Ruston will consider a budget and the revenue sources for City operations and capital expenses. As part of that process, the City is required to hold a public hearing on this topic. The public hearing on revenue sources is currently scheduled to coincide with First Reading. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 1583 is scheduled for November 5, 2024. Ruston is required to adopt its property tax levy in November of each year by ordinance and transmit a certified copy of the ordinance to Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer and to the Pierce County Council no later than November 30th. A Levy Certification must also be transmitted with the Ordinance. Adoption of this Ordinance should be scheduled on the agenda during the meeting on November 5, 2024. If the Council needs more time, the Ordinance may be adopted on November 19, 2024 and still meet the November 30th deadline. This levy ordinance increases the property taxes levied by Ruston by the maximum amount allowed by law (one percent plus new construction, etc.). The dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year is \$7,291.92, exclusive of additional revenue from new construction, improvements to property, newly constructed wind turbines, increases in the value of state assessed property, annexations, and refunds made by the City. This should result in a 2025 levy in the amount of \$736,484.41.

ORD 1584 – Endangerment with Controlled Substance (2nd reading) – In recent years, the State of Washington has experienced a dramatic increase in incidents of children and dependent persons being exposed to controlled substances, including fentanyl, heroin, oxycodone, and other drugs. According to the Washington State Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds' ("OFCO") 2024 report, "Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities in Washington State", accidental ingestions and overdoses in children accounted for 20% of the fatalities (16 fatalities) and nearly 73% of the near fatalities (51 near fatalities) examined in 2023. Of the 67 incidents, 45 of those incidents occurred in children 11 years of age or younger, 20 involved accidental overdoses by youth between 11 and 22 years of age, and two involved intentional overdoses by youths ages 13 and 14. Current state law includes a felony for endangerment with a controlled substance, which prohibits "knowingly or intentionally permit a child or dependent adult to be exposed to, ingest, inhale, or have contact with methamphetamine." RCW 9A.42.100. The law does not address other controlled substances that are prevalent in current street drug use. In order to fix this gap in the law, in 2024, the Washington State Senate unanimously passed SB 5010 to include fentanyl and other synthetic opioids within RCW 9A.42.100. However, the bill died in the House Committee and was not enacted into law.

Because the increase in opioid exposure affects all communities, including the City of Ruston, the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney adopted a local ordinance for endangerment with a controlled substance, making it a gross misdemeanor to knowingly or recklessly permit a child or dependent person to have contact with a controlled substance, other than cannabis. By passing its own Ordinance, the City of Ruston can address this issue head on, while also sending a signal to the state Legislature on the need to adequately update the felony statute. This Ordinance authorizes the City to add a new section to the Ruston Criminal Code at 9.20 to establish a gross misdemeanor for endangerment with a controlled substance and provides for penalties of up to 364 days in jail or a maximum fine of \$5,000.00. Councilmember Huson moved to approve Ordinance 1584, with a second from Councilmember Holland passed 3-0.

ORD 1585 – Amending RMC 9.02.010 Hours of Liquor Sales (2nd reading) – The City of Ruston has experienced increased incidents and community reports related to public intoxication, leading to disruptions of the peace, offenses including public urination and fighting, damage to personal property, littering, and driving under the influence. In order to curb the occurrences of public intoxication, the City wishes to adjust the hours of operation for licensed establishments selling alcohol for on-premises consumption, and limit the hours of liquor sales in general, citywide. Decreasing the hours of availability of liquor will decrease the impact of public intoxication on the larger community, leading to increased quiet and safety throughout the City. This Ordinance authorizes the City to limit the hours of liquor sales from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on all days, across all establishments in the City that possess a license to sell liquor, beer, or wine. The Ordinance also establishes operating hours between 6:00 a.m. to 1 a.m. for all establishments (or portions thereof) that serve alcohol for on-premises consumption.

Changes to this Ordinance since First Reading. Per the Council discussion at the October 1st Council meeting, the draft legislation has been modified as set forth below.

1. *Sales Hours.* Liquor sales hours set in subsection “a” have been changed to allow earlier service. If adopted, these hours would be 6 AM to Midnight daily.
2. *Open Hours.* The “open hours” in subsection “b” have been changed to recognize that some establishments may have areas where liquor is not necessarily consumed and therefore, the ordinance only requires the areas where liquor is consumed to be closed.
3. *Special Exceptions.* The last sentence of subsection “b” which allows the Council to pass resolutions to extend closing times when the next day is legal holiday has been stricken as redundant due to the fact that the hours as proposed are now consistent without regard to weekends or holidays.

4. *Sunset Clause.* A Sunset Clause terminating the new legislation on November 16, 2025 has been added at Section 3. If the Council does not want to automatically sunset the legislation, a motion to adopt the ordinance with Section 3 stricken would be appropriate.
5. *Review Clause.* A clause directing the City Clerk to bring this issue back to the Council next October has been added at Section 4. This will allow the Council to discuss how this legislation was working and give directions to staff with any requested changes or if the Council wants to extend the legislation beyond the Sunset Date.

Ordinance 1585 was tabled and moved to the Council meeting of November 19, 2024.

RES 801 – RCC Interlocal Agreement – In 1992, the City of Ruston, joined Pierce County and the Cities of DuPont, Fife, Orting, Puyallup, Sumner, and University Place, in establishing an interlocal agreement for cable television and communication services known as the Rainier Cable Commission – now known as the Rainier Communications Commission (RCC). The stated purpose of the ILA was to provide superior cable television services, lower rates to users, foster competition in the cable industry, and make available better and more diverse services to users. The RCC has, since its inception, provided franchising advice to member governments and initially provided broadcasting advice, later adding broadcasting services as well as education and government broadcasting content and media production services. The RCC now also manages Pierce County Television (PCTV), acts as the Government Access television producer for the members of the ILA, serves as the direct point of contact for all cable customer complaints and as a liaison for those complaints with the cable companies, and engages in cooperative negotiation of cable franchising on behalf of the ILA members. The last update to the ILA occurred in 2003, which Ruston approved. Due to expanding services, new functions, and changes in the law, representatives of the RCC determined that another update was necessary in 2021 and negotiated the current ILA over a two-year period. Changes were incorporated into the proposed ILA which will continue to provide historic services to members and will permit services to non-members under limited circumstances. The County and all other member-cities have adopted the changes to the ILA as of the date of this Resolution. Ruston has a separate, non-exclusive franchise agreement with Comcast to provide a cable communications system throughout the city. The City initially granted a five-year cable television franchise to Comcast on April 19, 2010 and extended the agreement for an additional five years on December 15, 2015. In 2021, the City and Comcast agreed to a ten-year, non-exclusive Franchise Agreement to construct, install, maintain, extend and operate a cable communications system. This Franchise Agreement was based in large part on the Franchise Model developed by the RCC and a committee of local elected leaders.

The initial term of the current Agreement expires in 2026 with an option for renewal for an additional five-year term expiring in 2031. The current Franchise Agreement with Comcast provides many of the same benefits that would be received if Ruston approves and adopts the ILA and remains a member of RCC. Comcast is currently required to air PCTV and the City of Tacoma's local channels. Ruston does not collect PEG fees to cover video production or engage in government access programming as part of its membership with the RCC. Declining to approve the ILA will end the City's RCC membership as of January 1, 2025. Former Councilmember Deb Kristovich was the City's representative on RCC. If the Council approves the ILA, then it is recommended that a council member be chosen to participate.

Fiscal Impact of Approval: In 2024, Ruston will pay \$2,280.20 in RCC Membership Dues. Dues are calculated based on the gross revenue that Comcast collects in Ruston and are estimated to remain at \$2,280.20 for FY 2025. Under the current Franchise Agreement, Ruston will continue to collect 5% of Comcast's gross revenues for services in Ruston. This is unaffected by the RCC ILA.

Fiscal Impact of Rejection: Under the current Franchise Agreement, Ruston collects 5% from Comcast's gross revenues. No membership dues will be owed to RCC for FY 2025, but Ruston will continue to collect 5% of Comcast's gross revenues.

Councilmember Huson moved to approve Resolution 801, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0.

RES 802 – Low Income Energy Assistance Agreement - Pierce County Department of Community Connections provides assistance to low-income people living within Pierce County in accordance with 42 U.S.C. Section 8264, the Low-Income Energy Assistance Act of 1981 ("the Act"). These assistance payments are made directly to the electricity vendor to be credited to the account of the electricity customer. Because the City of Ruston provides electricity services to people and properties located within the City limits, it is a "vendor" under the Act. In order to comply with this Act, Pierce County must ensure that electricity vendors whose customers receive this assistance meet the requirements of the Act. This requires an agreement between the entity providing the assistance (in this case Pierce County) and the Vendor (the City). The City has had an agreement with Pierce County for these purposes for many years but the current Agreement expired on September 30, 2024. Therefore, in order for people living in Ruston to be eligible for receipt of funds from the energy assistance program, the City must renew the agreement with Pierce County. The proposed agreement would run from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. This agreement would facilitate the County providing energy assistance to low-income customers of the City of Ruston. Those payments would go directly to the City and be credited to the accounts of those customers. Councilmember Huson moved to approve Resolution 802, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL – Councilmember Huson moved to approve Claims for October 15, 2024 and Payroll for October 5, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Was excused.

Councilmember Hedrick – Nothing at this time.


Councilmember Syler – Was excused.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Jensen – Was excused.

Councilmember Holland – Would support Ordinance 1585 unless a viable resolution could be brought forward to change his mind. Councilmember Holland thanked everyone who came forward to speak for and against Ordinance 1585.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 8:14PM Councilmember Huson moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0.



Mayor Hopkins

ATTEST: 

Judy Grams

**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

Officer Rachel Barlow attended the Washington State Patrol advanced collision investigation course. The Department plans to eventually send all officers to this course as it will allow officers to better document civil and criminal collisions.

Stack Hill residents recently reported to 911 an individual randomly trying car door handles in the early morning hours. Lt. Ashcraft responded to the area and was looking for the man when he noticed him inside a resident's van. He activated his lights and siren as the man drove off in the now stolen van, but he terminated the pursuit because the current State law requires officers to consider the severity of the crime versus the hazard presented to the community by continuing a pursuit.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for September 2024

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

Total Incidents (YTD) 135, September 14 (3 Fire/Service, 11 Medical Aid)

Volunteer Hours: June **1,678** Hours, **YTD 16,337** Hours

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

State of the Business

- We gained one more member able to go interior for firefighting
- Our 4 members at the Browns Point Academy are doing well.
- We will be handing out candy at the fire house on Halloween!
- Engine 39 is in for its annual pump test.



Town Clerk <townclerk@rustonwa.org>

Re: Council Meeting of October 15, 2024

1 message

Vivian LaFrancoeur <vivianlaf@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 16, 2024 at 11:29 AM

To: Town Clerk <townclerk@rustonwa.org>

One other comment...

*kay admitted in the earlier Oct council meeting that unicorn has lots of problems and fighting, etc. her son Trevor said the same thing!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 16, 2024, at 11:21, Vivian LaFrancoeur <vivianlaf@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> GM miss Judy 🍷

>

> My additional comments along w my email, consisted of this....

>

> *The issues that I mentioned in my email start around 10:30 pm-2:30 am

>

> *unicorn patrons have a total disregard for the sidewalks, logs, trash, noise, public drinking and damaging easements in regard to the parking lot. The parking lot is zoned residence

>

> *Riley and Jackson have given me permission to tell the council that on the morning of Oct 1st, they had to go to their balcony at approximately 12:30 am to tell the screaming, foul mouthed patrons to be quiet n leave. A girl lost her purse. She n her friends came back next day n was bothering Max, their son about. The police were also there for approximately 40+ min

>

> *the majority of unicorn patrons after 10:30 are actually NOT Ruston residents, but actually college age kids. When the unicorn closes at midnight, these kids will take their after parties back to campus!

>

> *the main server at the unicorn, Daryl is known for over pouring and over serving. He starts his shift Tuesday-Saturday at 8 pm -2am. The majority of the onus is on him.

>

> *unicorn does NOT check patrons ID which is a state requirement

>

> *I have actually had Kay, unicorn owner over to my home for lunches. My mother is Korean. Kay is as well. We have been kind, welcoming and nice to her in the hopes of building bridges for a good relationship. I cleaned her parking lot for well over a year. Kay has told most of the neighbors, including our police chief to "F\$\$k off" or a derivative of that phrase. Within a day of meeting her she kept asking me to introduce her to a "rich man". We thought that very odd

>

> *most of her patrons after 10:30 pm are drinking in the parking lot n getting high

>

> * her \$106.00 average tax contribution to the town of Ruston is pathetic. Maybe Daryl's unchecked over pouring is eating into her profits. Along with most people drinking in the parking lot.

>

> * all of her properties are zoned residential

>

> Thnx you Miss Judy. For all that you do. I know I appreciate you very very much. Ruston is lucky to have you!

>

> Sincerely,

> Vivian

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Oct 16, 2024, at 10:55, Town Clerk <townclerk@rustonwa.org> wrote:

>>

>>

>> Good morning Vivian,

20241015 Council meeting comments

I am in favor of the original version of Ordinance 1585. The ammendment will create more problems for us in the South End of town. We were looking forward to relief from midnight on but this change will enable patrons to linger, as they often do well past closing time continuing to party in the parking lot, the street and neighboring yards. We will be in the same situation were in now.

We are looking forward to what residents in the rest of the town experience: An undisturbed night's sleep from midnight on without being woken up to loud drunken partying, whooping and hollering, fighting, cars peeling out gravel parking lot, patrons' loud radios as they are leaving and all the other things already mentioned.

Even being a block away from this establishment does not insulate us from being woken up

Overservice is not being monitored now so how will the midnight end to alcohol sales be enforced with the establishment still open?

We just want to know we can expect to not be interrupted by the carrying on of of individuals that most likely don't live in town and don't care how disruptive they are. The owner of this establishment doesn't care, so why should they? Other patrons also stated they shouldn't be "penalized" for a few bad actors. So, the residents should have to endure these disruptors so as not to cut into these peoples drinking time?

Over the years there has been more than one conversation with the owner, she knows there are problems, she is aware of fighting in her parking lot and other issues. She has been given suggestions on how her business could better fit into a residential neighborhood but she refuses to take any steps to accomplish this with one exception, she did turned the music down, and I appreciate that gesture but in order to keep the peace there is more she needs to do and has not been willing to to date so it is time for the council to take action on the solution that was given us by our police chief which was to end alcohol sales at midnight. But a 1:00 closing time will not give us the peace we as Ruston residents deserve.

I dare say that none of the other establishments in town would put up with half the stuff that happens outside this place.

So please pass the original version Ordinance1585.

Good Evening - Mayor Pro-Tem, Councilmembers

My name is Maryanne Bell and I live on Commercial Street.

1. I want to thank Charles McKenna for organizing the Saturday Neighborhood Cleanup event –it was a great **WORK PARTY**. SO THANK YOU CHARLES.

2. Second –I want to encourage everyone here, if you haven't already, to read the minutes from the last Meeting of October 1, 2024 – on **ORDINANCE 1585** - it's posted on the ruston website.

Read the letter from my friend Patty Turner

It will give you a perspective from someone who has lived here for 45 years.

MORE IMPORTANTLY – the letter states the HISTORY of this neighborhood problem very succinctly.

I don't even live near any businesses but a few weeks ago, a drunk driver who apparently stated he had been drinking at a particular neighborhood establishment, drove through my street AND CRASHED INTO **SEVERAL PARKED CARS**. Luckily, no one was hurt to my knowledge.

The representatives of the business community who have come here this evening to complain about what the City Council is trying to do to **BALANCE** the needs of businesses, with the needs of residents whose complaints for years went unresolved, - PLEASE - don't just complain. BRING SOLUTIONS for how to self-monitor and encourage a member of your own business community to be a good neighbor so the City Council is not FORCED to act to bring some respite to desperate residents.

And **no**; asking this community to offer to buy out a nuisance business is NOT a legitimate solution. Especially when that business was listed for sale unsuccessfully for years. It would be tantamount to rewarding bad behaviour or allowing a business to harass its neighbors into buying their business out. Maybe the Silver Cloud can afford to do that, if the business owner is amenable

RESIDENTS HAVE INVESTED OUR LIFE SAVINGS IN OUR HOMES TOO.

-JUST LIKE the **BUSINESSES WE SUPPORT**. And we DO support you – we want you in our community. We WANT YOU TO SUCCEED. We all benefit from successful businesses. OUR CITY NEEDS GOOD BUSINESS NEIGHBORS.

SOME PEOPLE COMPLAIN – why don't you enforce the laws already on the books instead of creating new laws?

BECAUSE no city has the bandwidth to use its police for **BABYSITTING RECALCITRANT BUSINESSES** - Especially if it isn't just one off incidents. This is almost every weekend, I understand.

IN THE PAST when Ruston police tried to enforce overserving laws, Ruston was sued for **POLICE HARRASSMENT; a nuisance noise citation was dismissed I understand from reports in the TNT.**

EMBOLDENED BY THAT outcome – the behavior apparently got worse -not better over the years.

LUCKILY I understand, THERE IS MUCH MORE EVIDENCE now: eyewitness accounts, security camera recordings, accident and incident reports, including statements from DUI drivers and their family members – so any alleged **"POLICE HARRASSMENT"** accusations will be debunked by solid evidence.

THIS CITY HAS **BENT OVER BACKWARDS** TO REASON WITH BUSINESSES with customer problems. And even after all the years of complaints by its residents, the City Council is only now reluctantly acting to take the least disruptive action to try to restore balance.

RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN MORE THAN PATIENT.

AND DESPITE BEING ACCUSED OF "HARRASSMENT" – RUSTON POLICE and FIRE ARE STILL, STILL – RISKING THEIR OWN LIVES TO BE FIRST ON THE SCENE when called TO RESCUE BUSINESS' CUSTOMERS from medical events, BREAKING UP FIGHTS, HELPING WITH ACCIDENTS, MAKING SURE EVERYONE'S SAFE.

AND WHAT DID one business OWNER and BARTENDER SAY AT THE LAST CITY COUNCIL MEETING? [I was not at that meeting so I am relying on the Minutes]. The Minutes don't even show that they acknowledged the problem. NO MEA CULPAS.

- NO APOLOGIES to the neighbors;
- NO APOLOGIES TO THE OTHER BUSINESSES who may end up losing some revenue from sales between midnight and 2 am;

- NO OFFER OF ANY SOLUTION to a PROBLEM that business CREATEs, CONTROLs AND inexplicably, REFUSES TO CORRECT
- Is there any indication that any business has come to the City and offered, for e.g., that if the City deferred action on proposed Ordinance 1585 for 6 months, that it would give them time to prove that they can turn things around and be a GOOD NEIGHBOR? ??
- CRICKETS! NADA

And yet, the City still, in deference to businesses, has delayed action for another month, to give everyone a fair chance to input and for further consideration by the City Council – even though the Ordinance could be passed TONIGHT.

THE FACT THAT BUSINESS OWNERS WORK HARD – DOES NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM — WE ALL WORK HARD;

DON'T SAY YOU "TRY TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR" BECAUSE if you WERE - we wouldn't be where we are today.

No one, least of all the affected residents CHOOSE to go through this process; WHAT THEY WANT IS RESPITE FROM THE HARRASSMENT OF DRUNK CUSTOMERS TURNED LOOSE in front of their homes.

IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE. Residents are bound by the same laws relating to guests in their **PRIVATE** homes relating to alcohol service. We don't get to turn guests loose at the end of the evening to get into their cars, close our doors and wash our hands of the havoc they may wreak on life and limb.

There seems to be some misunderstanding of the law that a business can close their doors at the end of the night and proceed to close their ears and eyes to the havoc going on outside with their customers on public and private property.

If you have no respect for your neighbors, at least have some **RESPECT AND CARE** for your customers **who just emptied their wallets of their hard earned money at your establishment.** Take their keys from them, call them a cab/uber, make sure they get home safe to their family members, hire bouncers to intervene to prevent fights, and public disturbances, etc.

A good BUSINESS RULE OF THUMB: If you cannot reason with customers after your doors close - customers who are urinating in public, smashing private property, fighting, dancing on cars, etc – you probably overserved them.

RUSTON POLICE AND EMS – are NOT your personal post-closing CLEAN UP CREW.

3. Members of the City Council -
 - I feel that ORD 1585 needs some TEETH – LIKE FINANCIAL PENALTIES for businesses that continue to thumb their nose at the law;
 - I LIKE THE SUNSET CLAUSE - it gives businesses a year to prove that they can turn things around and be good neighbors, so we can hopefully review results over the next year.
 - I personally Don't LIKE THE FUZZY LANGUAGE AROUND MIDNIGHT TO 1 AM
 - JUST KEEP IT SIMPLE – no one's looking for a burger and fries at a bar between midnight and 1 am.

ABSENT ANY OTHER SOLUTIONS BEING CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL :

- I ENCOURAGE THE COUNCIL TO TIGHTEN UP 1585 AND PASS IT.

THANK YOU



PierceTransit

New Long Range Plan (LRP)

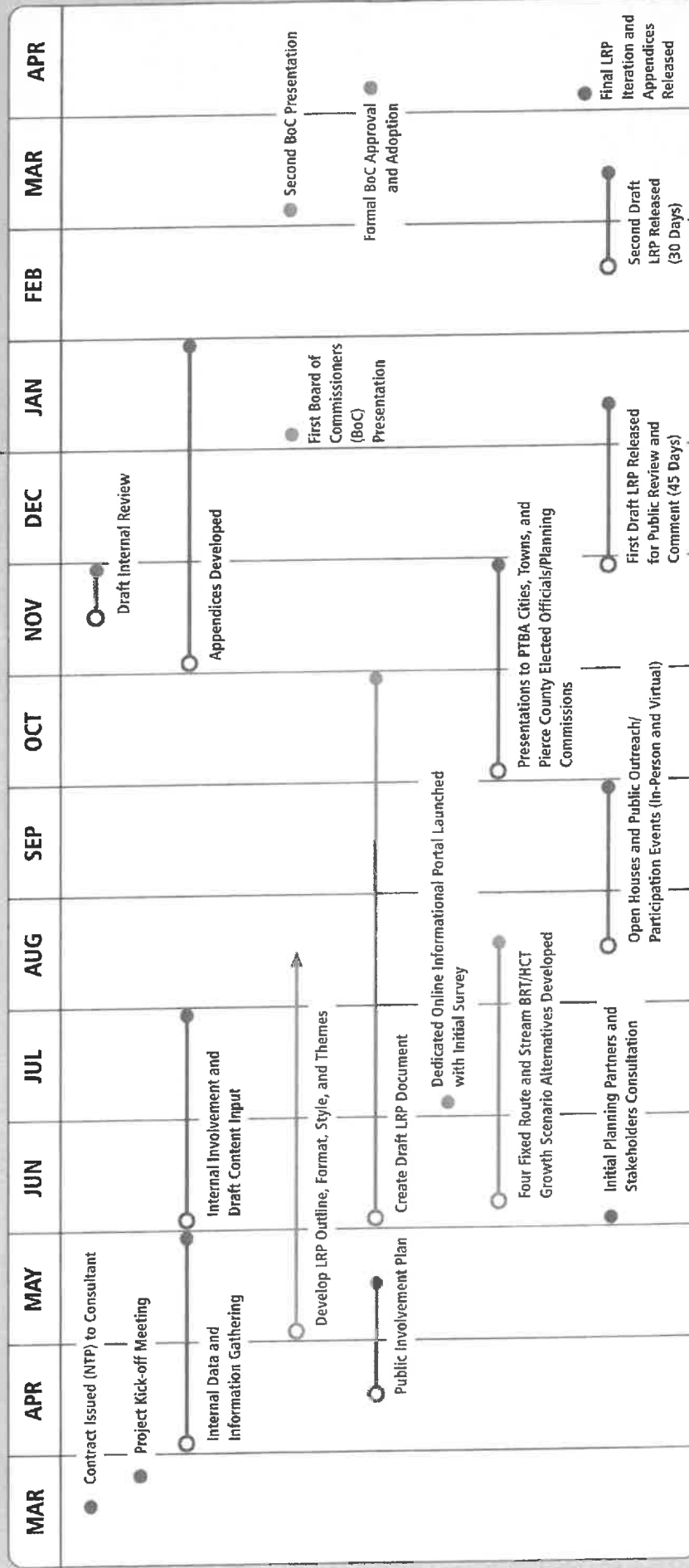
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE - TIMELINE & MILESTONES: 2024-2025

STAKEHOLDERS

Internal External
Internal Internal + External

2024

2025



AUG 2024