

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:01PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Holland, Councilmember Syler, Councilmember Huson and Councilmember Jensen. Councilmember Hedrick was excused. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Huson moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 4-0.

**MINUTES** - Councilmember Huson moved to approve the minutes for the regular Council Meeting of February 6, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 4-0.

**STAFF REPORT** –

Ruston Police Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire Chief Allen – See attached.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

**Vivian Lafrancoeur** – Provided an email to the councilmembers, Mayor and Police Chief along with video of the issues that happened last weekend at the Unicorn Sports Bar. There is garbage being dumped outside and it continues to escalate with the things that are going on at the location.

**Patty Turner** – She and neighbors in the area are fed up with the issues that are happening at the Unicorn. I have been called many times over the years as that is the only way to see changes.

**Fred Byzinker** – He mentioned the Unicorn had problems even back 20 years ago. I like the speed camera idea for the city. On 52<sup>nd</sup> and N. Shirley there are a lot of cars that do not come to a complete stop and roll through, and he is careful when crossing the street at 51<sup>st</sup> and Winnifred. He thanked the Council for all that they continue to do to make the City of Ruston safe and to keep up the good work.

**Kevin Moser** – He agrees with the discussion regarding the Unicorn and people must speak up and file a complaint or things will keep happening and nothing will change.

**BUSINESS – ORD 1571 – Updating Public Works Standards 2024** - The purpose of adopting public work standards is to create a uniform set of standards, plans, and guidelines for construction of City infrastructure. This ensures that the construction of such infrastructure is to a high-quality standard, is correct from an engineering perspective, complies with professional standards and applicable laws, and that there is a uniform level of infrastructure throughout that the City that is consistent.

This provides better infrastructure and better quality of design. These standards are used by City staff, City contractors doing public works, and by private developers when they are building or connecting to City infrastructure as part of private development. For example, without consistent sidewalk standards, a new sidewalk may not match up with existing sidewalk and may look, feel, and perform differently.

In addition, it may not be of the same quality as existing sidewalks. Without public works standards, the City could end up having substandard and inconsistent infrastructure constructed which leads to a less harmonious city as well as the risk of significant added expense at the City would need to fund corrections and replacement infrastructure. Under state law,<sup>1</sup> the City is permitted to adopt the codes and standards of other government agencies by reference, including those adopted or published by the State and by other cities. This City first adopted public works standards in August 2013 by enacting Ordinance 1416. This is updated from time to time when standards change. The most recent update was via Ordinance No. 1500 on November 21, 2017. Since Ruston is surrounded on three sides by Tacoma, it makes sense for Ruston to have the same or similar standards as Tacoma and Ruston has typically taken Tacoma standards and modified them specific to Ruston as part of the adoption process. Since the 2017 update, new standards have been created (such as street trees) and others have been simply updated. In addition, one standard has been repealed and a new code section added. The proposed updated standards include the following:

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Date of Update or Version Adopted</b>	<b>New in 2024</b>	<b>Code Reference</b>
The Standard Specifications and Standard Plans for Road, Bridge and Municipal Construction, promulgated by the Washington State Department of Transportation	2023	No	12.09.010
Ruston Right of Way Design Manual	2018	No	12.09.030
Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices	2023	No	12.09.040
Tacoma Stormwater Management Manual	2021	No	12.09.050

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<sup>1</sup> RCW 35A.12.140.

Tacoma Right of Way Restoration Policy	2023	Yes	12.09.065
Traffic Control Handbook	2021	Yes	12.09.068
Sewerage Works Design Manual	2023	No	12.09.070
Street Light Standards	2021	No	12.09.080
Street Tree Manual	2024	Yes	12.09.085
Tacoma Street Utility Standards	2021	No	12.09.090
Tacoma Traffic Signal Standard Plans	2017	No	12.09.100
Sign Fabrication Manual	2021	No	12.09.110

**a. Other revisions to Chapter 12.09 RMC.**

In addition to updating standards and adding three new standards, Ordinance No. 1571 repeals the Right of Way Design Manual that was adopted under RMC 12.09.060 as superfluous to other manuals, including the Ruston Right of Way Design Manual adopted under RMC 12.09.030.

A new code section is also proposed at RMC 12.09.125 which will read as follows:

**12.09.125 Interpretation; applicable standards; authority of City Engineer.**

If there is a question or ambiguity regarding which public works standards apply, including if there are more than one standard which may be applicable to a specific project or where a standard may be missing, the City Engineer shall determine which standard shall be utilized and applied.

The purpose of this section is to create a process to resolve any confusion regarding the applicable standard(s) by allowing the City Engineer to determine the appropriate standard(s) that will be utilized if there is any ambiguity or question. The City Planner, City Electrical Engineer, and City Engineer were all very involved with the City Attorney in reviewing and developing this 2024 Public Works Standards Update. These manuals and standards have all been reviewed by your professional staff and adoption is recommended. Councilmember Huson moved to approve Ordinance 1571, with a second from Councilmember Holland. Discussion ensued regarding the prohibited street trees and the clarification on the street tree manual. Councilmember Huson moved to amend the motion to add an addition of a line on page 2 of the City of Ruston Street Tree Manual 2024 under Prohibited Street Trees for Ruston, any non-deciduous trees as a line item, with a second from Councilmember Holland. Motion to approve Ordinance 1571 as amended by Councilmember Huson, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 4-0.

**ORD 1578 – Adoption of 2021 Construction Codes** - Under State law,<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> RCW 19.27.031. CITY OF RUSTON

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. 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. With no discussion, this Ordinance will move forward for a second reading.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL** – Councilmember Huson moved to approve Claims for February 20, 2024, and Payroll for February 20, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 4-0.

**MAYOR'S TIME** – The EIS final version is complete to publish this week. Met with Terracotta on their development of parcels 14, 15 & 16. Mayor Hopkins will be meeting with EPA tomorrow at City Hall to discuss the city owned property and to pursue grant requests from them on remediation for our city. The EPA will be holding a public meeting on March 21, 2024, from 7:00PM – 9:00PM in the Mary Joyce Community Center. The State of Washington has put into the capitol budget some funds for the City of Ruston in the amount of \$360,500 for replacement of the community center rooftop. They have also given us 1.1 million with \$705,000 for land acquisition and site prep for the EPA cleanup, \$175,000 for right-of-way testing for street projects and \$229,000 for reimbursement of the Winnifred project. This brings the total for this year to \$1.8 million+ and he thanked State Representative Laurie Jinkins and Senator Yasmin Trudeau with District 27, for their support in getting the funding. He likes the idea of speed cameras and possibly reducing the speed limit to 20 mph speed limit and would like to see speed bumps as traffic calming.

**Councilmember Hedrick** – Was excused.

**Councilmember Holland** – Nothing at this time.

**Councilmember Syler** – Nothing at this time.

**Councilmember Huson** – Councilmember Huson asked Chief Bautista to send the Councilmembers a copy of the City of Des Moines Ordinance on public parks speed zone. He would like a recommendation to the Council by Chief Bautista to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph in the city. The Unicorn has been a huge problem for years and he would like to know what the Chief can do and encourage the residents to keep complaining and the violations with help. He would like to see a park or buffer between the Commencement. He has a tentative date on August 24, 2024 for the car show.

**Councilmember Jensen** – Thank you to the staff and Mayor Hopkins for going to the state and asking for the funding. Thanks to the residents who came to speak about the Unicorn. She supports the idea of a solar park but not at the expense of multiple use of park space. She would like to discuss having another council retreat this year.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – At 8:02PM Councilmember Huson moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 4-0.

  
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Mayor Hopkins

ATTEST:

  
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Laurie Cassell



**Chief's Report  
Ruston Police Department  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

Calls for Service Total September thru December:	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	104	112

The Department is consulting with Verra Mobility located in Mesa, AZ. They are a traffic safety solutions company and provider of speed enforcement cameras for many Pierce County and other governments in Washington State. In January, a 3-day traffic study was conducted at two locations and some of the data is shown below:

North 51<sup>st</sup> and North Bennett (eastbound and westbound):

- 18,920 cars passed this intersection during the 3 days of study
- Total potential violators (6-10 MPH over) was 2,070
- Most violations occurred around 3pm

North Baltimore at North Commercial (northbound and southbound):

- 3,971 cars passed this intersection during the 3 days of study
- Total potential violators (6-10 MPH) over was 458.
- Most violations occurred around 3pm

The Department is still collecting information to make an informed decision and is already preparing an extensive presentation of pros/cons, cost, other potential camera locations, projected monetary fine revenue to the City, trends to expect after implementation, impact to the court, etc.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

## **Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for January 2024**

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

**Total Incidents (YTD) 18, January 18** (4 Fire/Service, 14 Medical Aid)

**Volunteer Hours: January 1709 Hours, YTD 1709 Hours**

**Membership Roster (25 out of 25): (21 Members, 4 Officers)**

### **State of the Business**

- Last January we had 10 calls for service and this month 18 calls.
- Patient billing for transports is almost ready.
- We have 3 Firefighter I's going for their Firefighter II at Riverside Fire.
- The Fire Station will be ready for the Easter Egg Hunt.
- All fire tools are fully operational.