

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:01PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Syler, Councilmember Huson and Councilmember Jensen. Councilmember Hedrick was excused. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Syler moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 3-0.

**MINUTES** - Councilmember Syler moved to approve the minutes for the regular Council Meeting of March 19, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Huson passed 3-0.

**STAFF REPORT** –

Ruston Police Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire Chief Allen – See attached.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

Ryan Morris – provided concerns about the Unicorn Sports Bar and the public safety problems our Police Department is challenged with the location. He would like to see action taken from the city council.

Patty Turner – She mentioned the noise issues coming from the Unicorn are happening before midnight.

Maryann Bell – She asked if we knew what is going on at the maintenance yard with the moving of dirt and the tree clearing issues. She provided input to the City of Tacoma on the EIS.

Angelino Guron – He asked for clarification as to the location of the Unicorn.

**BUSINESS** –

**State Representative** – Speaker Laurie Jenkins, presented a Powerpoint on the 27<sup>th</sup> LD Post Session – See attached.

**RES – 788 – Creation of New Fund No. 130 for the Purpose of Sales and Use Tax for Housing** - On March 21, 2023, the City of Ruston adopted Resolution No. 765 which imposed a sales and use tax in the amount of one-tenth of one percent for the purposes of funding for affordable housing and related services in accordance with RCW 82.14.530. The funds generated as a result of the passage of Resolution No. 765 are being distributed to Ruston, with over \$20,000 generated to date. These funds are limited for use for constructing affordable housing; constructing mental and behavioral health-related facilities; and funding the operations and maintenance costs of new units of affordable housing or newly constructed evaluation and treatment centers as set forth and authorized by RCW 82.14.530.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL** – Councilmember Syler moved to approve Claims for April 2, 2024 and April 16, 2024, and Payroll for April 5, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 3-0.

**MAYOR'S TIME** – Regarding the Unicorn, he publicly stated that he is restricted given his proximity to the establishment. Councilmember Hedrick and Councilmember Jensen are working with the city attorney. The Point Ruston lawsuit was dismissed on the sewer connections. Ray Johnson has left the city after 10 years and the job is now posted for his position. The GIS product is still being completed and a presentation will be coming soon. Councilmember Holland has stepped down as a councilmember after 15 years of service and I thank her for her years of serving the City of Ruston. The City of Ruston's speed limit will be reduced to 20 m.p.h. in May and will be looking into traffic calming options within the city limits. Discussed the pedestrian crossing plan with BNSF. There will be summer construction coming with the TIB projects.

**Councilmember Hedrick** – Was excused.

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

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

**Councilmember Jensen** – Consider Council Member Jensen's Request to Schedule a City Council Retreat & Budget Workshop - TBD SPRING/SUMMER 2024 - She proposed a Council Retreat sometime in July or August once there is a new councilmember on board. Consensus of the Council is to set up a time in July for the Council Retreat. Councilmember Huson wants a new councilmember as soon as possible and would like to have the retreat in July. He mentioned having a meeting next month with the city attorney, Police Chief, and Fire Chief regarding the Unicorn. She mentioned setting up a special meeting on May 21, 2024 after our council meeting to discuss the concerns with the Unicorn.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – At 8:25PM Councilmember Syler moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 3-0.

  
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Mayor Hopkins

ATTEST:

  
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Laurie Cassell



**Chief's Report  
Ruston Police Department  
Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

Calls for Service Total in Previous 4 weeks:	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	250	254

As of April 9th, the Department is back to full staff. Officer Lake was on light duty after a work-related Achilles tear and Officer Hansen was on paid family medical leave.

The legislature funded a law enforcement officer wellness grant, which will be administered through the Criminal Justice Training Center. The officers have elected to pursue a physical fitness program through the Exercise Science Center in Fircrest.

Our effort toward becoming an accredited law enforcement agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) has commenced. We anticipate this project will last approximately 18 months to complete; we will apply for reimbursement from the Legislature's law enforcement accreditation grant once we have achieved accreditation.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

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

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

**Total Incidents (YTD) 42, March 16 (4 Fire/Service, 12 Medical Aid)**

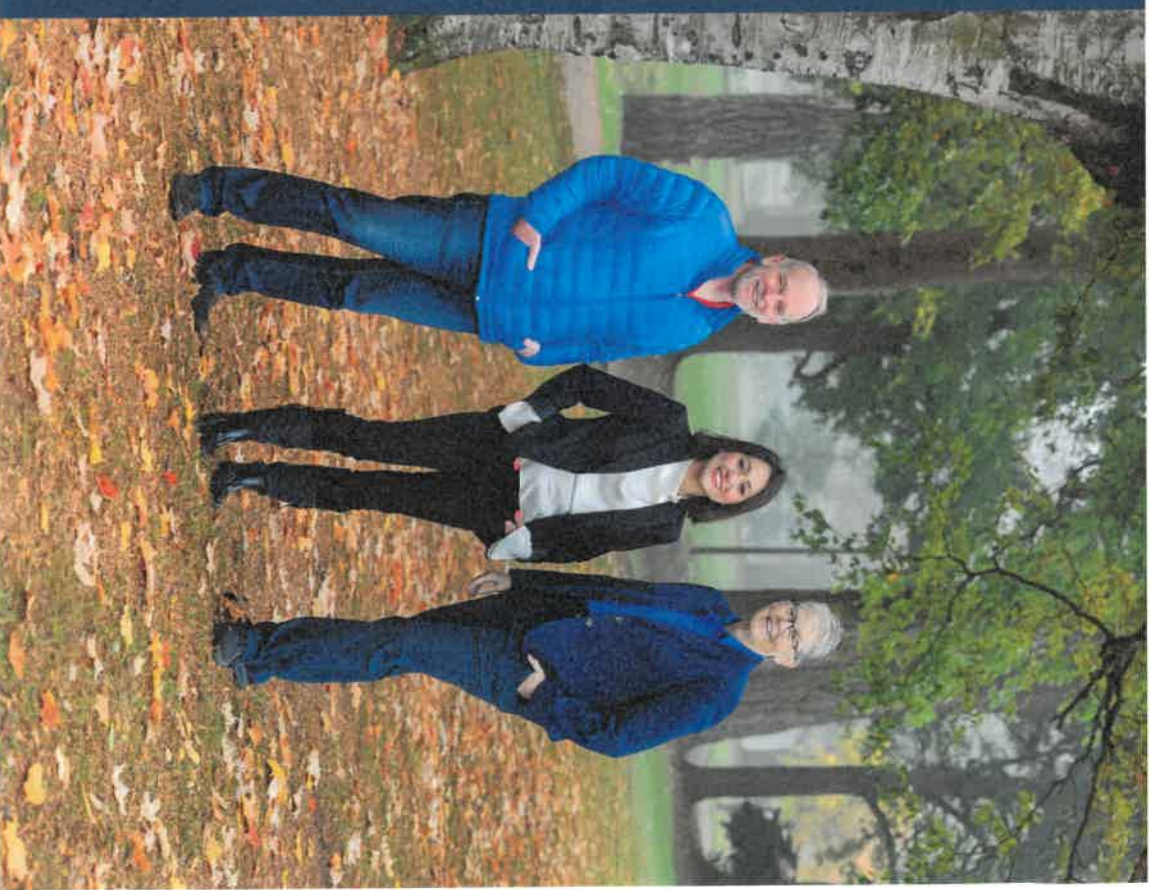
**Volunteer Hours: March 2364 Hours, YTD 6003 Hours**

**Membership Roster (24 out of 25): (22 Members, 2 Officers)**

### **State of the Business**

- Lt. Pat Peden has offboarded due to starting a family.
- The Easter Egg hunt was a huge success.
- We have received our Body Armor and have put it into service. Thank you to the anonymous benefactor for your generous gift.
- We are waiting for the final paperwork to move forward with billing for transport.
- All fire tools are fully operational.

# 2024 Session Update 27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



# The Big Picture

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- 60-day session
- Sent 373 bills to the governor's desk: 297 passed with strong bipartisan support, and 236 passed unanimously.
- Passed supplemental operating, capital, and transportation budgets.



# Housing

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- HB 1998 - requires all Washington cities to allow co-living housing in all multifamily zones
- Low and moderate-income clean energy assistance - \$150 million (funded by the Climate Commitment Act)
- Funding for local homeless services and housing programs - \$59 million
- Housing vulnerable populations, supporting tenants' rights, and homeownership - \$19 million
- Increased Housing Trust Fund investments by \$127.5 million

# Childcare

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- HB 1945 – simplifying access to childcare and early learning support programs
- HB 2195 - providing a dedicated revenue source to help build more high-quality early learning facilities
- Early learning and high-quality childcare - \$115 million (operating)
- Funding for early learning facilities - \$50 million (capital)



# Behavioral Health/Fentanyl Crisis Response

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- Expanding education about the dangers of fentanyl in K-12, post-secondary education, and statewide through the Dept. of Health
- Made it easier to access treatment for substance use disorder (SUD), and increased support for youth leaving treatment
- Opioid and SUD response and prevention - \$215 million (operating)
- Investing in behavioral health treatment centers - \$82.7 million (capital)

# Climate and Environment

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- HB 1368 – expanding access to zero emission school buses
- HB 1589 – giving PSE the tools to consider the transition to electricity in long-term planning and infrastructure maintenance decisions
- SB 6058 – authorized the State of Washington to join with the Province of Quebec & California to create one carbon market.
- *Climate Commitment Act (CCA), natural resources, and environmental protection and restoration - \$335 million (operating)*
- *Capital budget investments from the CCA - \$688 million*

# Community Safety

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- SB 6009 (Trudeau) - prohibits the inhumane practice of hog-tying by law enforcement
- HB 2357 (Fey) - Washington State Patrol trooper retention bonus
- HB 2153 - further reduce catalytic converter theft
- Gun violence prevention including reporting requirements for stolen firearms, safe storage and documentation requirements for gun stores, and giving WSP the ability to destroy seized firearms
- Investing in basic law enforcement academies across the state and covering the city and county costs for these academies



# 2024 Capital Budget Project Funding

Organization	Funding	Description
Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center	\$515,000	Funds to create childcare space within Cora Whitley Family Center development
City of Ruston	\$360,000	Ruston Community Center Repairs and ADA Improvements
Bethlehem Baptist Church	\$424,000	Funding for converting units into permanent affordable housing
Tacoma Metro Parks	\$200,000	Supporting feasibility study to South End Community Center
Tacoma Metro Parks	\$400,000	People's Community Center
City of Fife	\$100,000	Funding Phase 2 for Sheffield Trail
Foss Waterway Seaport	\$185,000	To complete esplanade to increase public safety
Greater Christ Temple Church	\$400,000	S Yakima Ave Senior Housing
UW Tacoma	\$8.4M	Replacement of gas boilers (CCA)
City of Tacoma	\$750,000	Funds to decarbonize the Tacoma Fleet & Maintenance Building (CCA)
City of Ruston	\$1,109,000	Contamination Remediation



# Transportation

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- HB 2356 (Fey) – Speed Safety Cameras on state highways and in construction zones
- HB 2384 – Traffic Safety Cameras (allowing cities and counties to establish programs)
- \$100M for accelerated delivery of highway preservation and maintenance
- \$150M for fish passage barrier removal
- \$99M for new vessels, preservation/maintenance, & ferry operations





# Transportation

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- Puget Sound Gateway Program (SR 167 and SR 509 completion) funding continues
- \$982K for Communities for a Healthy Bay electric-powered patrol boat
- \$1.7M – Tacoma Public Utility's ZEV Pilot Program
- \$20M – Puyallup Tribe Port Electrification

## Climate Commitment Act: \$339M

- Transit: \$31M
- Active Transportation: \$22M
- Emission Reduction: \$286M

# 2024 Operating Budget Project Funding

Organization	Funding	Description
City of Tacoma	\$3,000,000	Prevent the closure of 307 temporary and emergency shelter beds.
Mi Centro	\$560,000	Additional operations funding
Dash Point & Brown Point	\$200,000	Study incorporating the unincorporated communities of Dash Point & Browns Point into a single city
Tacoma Arts Live	\$250,000	Accelerating Creative Enterprise (ACE) business incubator, which serves predominantly women and minority-owned businesses
City of Tacoma	\$1,000,000	Healthcare pilot program to address physical & behavioral health needs of people experiencing homelessness & substance use disorders (Opioid abatement settlement funds)
Tacoma-Pierce County Health department	\$750,000	Funds to develop a comprehensive model toolkit that includes prevention, education, awareness, & policy strategies to address local opioid & fentanyl crisis response needs.
Tacoma Community College	\$150,000	Funding for the expansion of the imaging science program

# Questions?

2024 Session Update – 27th Legislative District



# Contact Us:

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2024 Session Update – 27th Legislative District

