

CITY OF RUSTON REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, July 01, 2025

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – At 7:00 PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular City Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Syler, Councilmember Huson, and Councilmember Jensen. Councilmember Holland was excused. 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 City Council Meeting of June 17, 2025, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORT – Nothing at this time.

Mayor Hopkins requested an update from Chief Bautista regarding the 4th of July event and scheduled road closures.

Chief Bautista reported that Ruston Way will remain open following the fireworks presentation to assist with event traffic flow. He provided background on previous events, staffing levels for this year, and noted that the Ruston Police Department will not provide traffic control as in prior years due to operational burden and safety concerns. The event organizer will attempt to direct traffic through South Pearl to reduce congestion.

Councilmember Hedrick thanked Chief Bautista for coordinating with the event organizer to address traffic concerns.

In response to Councilmember Jensen's inquiry regarding traffic control, Chief Bautista stated that Tacoma Police will provide traffic control. Ruston Police officers will be staged with lights on and on standby if needed.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Priscilla La Belle & Harvey Rosen – Presented a memo to the City Council requesting the City to install 4-way stops on the corners of 52nd & 53rd and N Shirley Streets. *A copy of the memo is attached for reference.*

Kevin Moser – Expressed appreciation to Judy Grams for her 14 years of dedicated service to the City of Ruston and highlighted the positive contributions she brought to the City and community.

BUSINESS – Nothing at this time.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the Claims for July 01, 2025, and Payroll for June 20, 2025, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 4-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Mayor Hopkins addressed the memo submitted to the City Council by Priscilla La Belle and Harvey Rosen regarding the installation of 4-way stops. He clarified that such requests are not considered by the Council as a legislative matter but are handled administratively, requiring staff review and identification of funding. The request has been forwarded to the City Engineer for review and direction. Mayor Hopkins expressed support for the request, noting he shared some of the concerns outlined in the memo.

Mayor Hopkins provided an update on his meeting with Terra Cotta regarding preliminary designs for Lot 15. He reported a positive discussion and believes residents will be pleased with the proposed development plans. He also addressed issues related to site fill, building code compliance, and adherence to EPA standards.

He noted that additional discussion on the project will occur once designs are finalized, including opportunities for public input and comment to ensure alignment with the Master Development Plan. Lots 14 and 12, as well as OCF, were also discussed. Preliminary concepts include a public park for daylight use, with closure during off-hours, and developer-maintained upkeep. Terra Cotta is scheduled to present finalized designs at a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Hopkins concluded by inviting the community to attend the 4th of July Bike Parade.

Councilmember Hedrick – Expressed appreciation to Judy Grams for her 14 years of dedicated service and encouraged residents to extend their gratitude to her during the 4th of July Bike Parade. Also announced a kickball tournament to be held following the parade.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Jensen – Councilmember Jensen expressed appreciation to Judy Grams for her 14 years of dedicated service to the City and extended gratitude to Lynette Hopkins for her service as well. She voiced support for the installation of the 4-

way stops and inquired about the timeline for the street update and the Highland Street project.

Mayor Hopkins responded that the pre-construction meeting for the Highland Street project has taken place, with work projected to begin in August. Councilmember Jensen asked if the 4-way stop request could be incorporated into one of the active projects.

Councilmember Jensen emphasized the need to live stream City Council meetings to increase public accessibility and stated her intent to propose this for Council discussion. Mayor Hopkins inquired about the feasibility of posting a meeting link with Council materials on the City's website to allow public viewing. He also expressed concern regarding legal considerations and the process for public comment.

City Clerk Ortega explained that meetings could be live streamed strictly for viewing purposes without a public comment feature. Individuals wishing to provide public comment could submit it in person or online prior to the meeting. Once received, the City Council could decide whether to have the Clerk read the comment aloud or be provided with the comment for their review.

Councilmember Jensen thanked City Clerk Ortega for the thorough explanation.

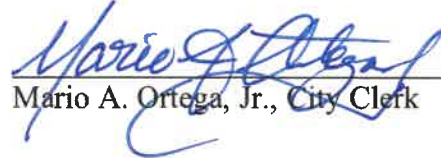
Councilmember Holland – Nothing at this time.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:26 PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 4-0.



Bruce Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

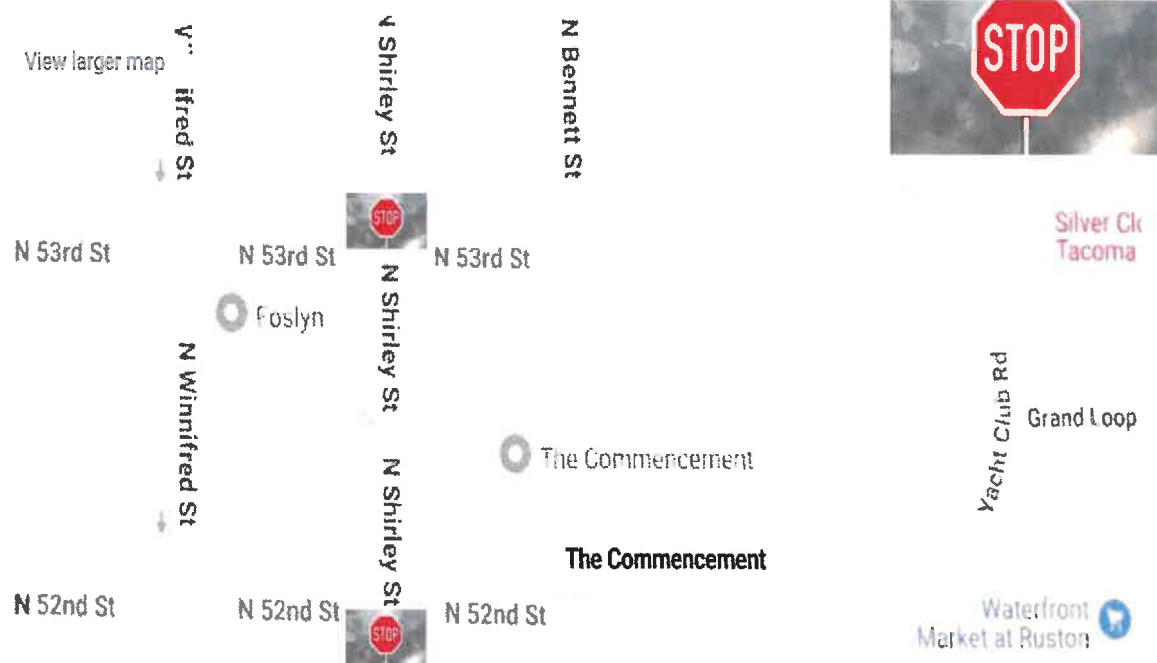


Mario A. Ortega, Jr., City Clerk

To:: City of Ruston Mayor Bruce Hopkins, Police Chief Nestor Bautista, Fire Chief Bruce Allen, Planning Department Rob White, Town Clerk Mario Ortega, Council Members: Jim Hedrick, John Holland, Lynn Syler, Bradley Huson, Jenn Jensen

From: Harvey Rosen Commencement Condo 205
Priscilla La Belle Commencement Condo 508

Subject: Request: City of Ruston to install 4 way stops at the corners of 52nd & 53rd and N Shirley Streets



Why the need for these 4-Way Stops?

- Location: Four-way stops are usually installed at intersections with moderate traffic volumes, limited visibility, or a history of collisions. In our case, it is a **visibility issue**, especially 52st & N Shirley.
- With the increased day-time population, more cars mean more traffic trying to see around the corners blocked by bushes, trucks, etc.
- Purpose: The main goal is to assign right-of-way fairly and prevent accidents

Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages

- **Cost-effective:** Stop signs are inexpensive to install and have little maintenance.
- **Improved Safety:** Reduces the speed of all vehicles entering the intersection, lowering collision severity. Gives line of sight at the corners.

Disadvantages ~ we noted none

Conclusion

The four-way stop remains a fundamental element of traffic control, promoting fairness, safety, and order. Its effectiveness lies not just in the rules themselves, but in the shared responsibility and attentiveness of every driver. By understanding and respecting the protocols of the four-way stop, we contribute to safer roads and more harmonious communities. This is the hope for City of Ruston.

We are hopeful you will install temporary signage, which will be updated during the street project.

Reaching out just to the Commencement condo community, there were over 40 people so far supporting this 4-way stop sign.

Thank you for your consideration

Priscilla La Belle

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Harvey Rosen

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Ruston, WA