

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 2, 2018**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00PM Mayor Hopkins called the Regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were: Jim Hedrick, Bradley Huson, Deb Kristovich and Lynn Syler. Councilmember Hardin was excused. Following the flag salute, Mayor Hopkins called for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Huson passed 4-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of December 19, 2017, with a second from Councilmember Huson passed 3-1. Councilmember Huson abstained.

STAFF REPORT –

City Engineer – Jerry Morrissette – Was excused.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Doug Hammond – Came before Council on behalf of the Commencement Government Relations Committee. The Commencement was looking forward to the upcoming Town Hall meeting to get answers to questions they have. With all the Tacoma News Tribune articles that were recently printed it is important that everyone is on the same page. Mr. Hammond wanted Council to know the Commencement was behind them every step of the way.

BUSINESS –

Swearing in of Councilmember Huson and Councilmember Kristovich

CLAIMS/PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Claims, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Mayor Hopkins noted the Tacoma News Tribune wanted comments from the City of Ruston on Representative Jake Fey push to initiate legislation for annexation of the City of Ruston into the City of Tacoma. Councilmember Hardin responded to the News Tribune with no comment. Mayor Hopkins was not certain what the City's response would be regarding the allegations that the State may want to change its laws to file a hostile takeover of one city by another. Mayor Hopkins did not think this would be well received and supported within the legislature. The Town Hall meeting, scheduled for January 23, 2018, would be the best forum to address annexation and other issues Ruston residents might have. Mayor Hopkins had an opportunity to visit the Asarco Museum at the Copperline, located at Point Ruston, and read about the Asarco history, recalling that residents of Ruston made a concession with both the EPA and Asarco and agreed to allow for the storage of the contaminated material in front of the Commencement. The offset was that City of Ruston was promised open space among other promises. Mayor Hopkins was proud of the Ruston Council for holding steadfast, making the developer adhere to the promises they made to the City of Ruston. The amount of open space proposed was quite expansive. Councilmember Huson was in the forefront during that time. Mayor Hopkins recommended that others visit the Asarco Museum at the Copperline and noted there were two ways annexation could take place, by the vote of the people or the City of Tacoma's pursuit to move legislation for a hostile takeover.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick – Congratulated and welcomed Councilmember Huson back to Council. Councilmember Hedrick sat with Councilmember Huson on Council and the Planning Commission for close to ten years and Councilmember Huson is an outstanding addition. Councilmember Hedrick was looking forward to Councilmember Huson’s contribution in the future, especially at this time. Councilmember Hedrick congratulated Councilmember Kristovich and thanked her for putting her name on the ballot and Councilmember Kristovich’s ongoing service. Councilmember Hedrick invited the Commencement to contact State Representative Jake Fey regarding his legislation and his intentions. The City of Ruston is a municipality in his legislative district and his continual run in legislation, which the City of Ruston has not been a part of or seen, is folly on his part. Representative Fey is a political benefactor of the Point Ruston development. If the City of Ruston was doing something outside the law Councilmember Hedrick would understand this direction, but the City has not. Councilmember Hedrick shared that Representative Jake Fey ran a bill called a Title Only Bill, with no content or text attached to it, two years ago. Councilmember Hedrick had to testify on a Title Only bill and has not had to do this in his twenty-seven years in Olympia. The bill was amended three minutes before Councilmember had to comment on the bill. To say that the City of Ruston has been treated unfairly in the legislative process is an understatement. To annex the Point Ruston development into the City of Tacoma would mean Tacoma would get the revenue and it would be a slap to the residents of Ruston. The residents need to ask how Ruston will survive with the loss of this revenue.

Councilmember Huson – Thanked everyone for their support. Councilmember Huson asked Mayor Hopkins how the upcoming Town Hall meeting would be run. Mayor Hopkins noted the suggestion was to write questions and comments and drop them into a box. It will be an informal question and answer format. Councilmember Huson recommended the City invite Representative Fey, Point Ruston, and the Tacoma News Tribune. It was important to be inclusive and not just a cheering section for the City. Mayor Hopkins will contact City Attorney to confirm the invitation to Point Ruston.

Councilmember Hardin – Was excused.

Councilmember Kristovich – Was grateful for the votes and glad to have another opportunity to serve the City of Ruston. Councilmember Kristovich was pleased with all the support from the Commencement and our residents.

Councilmember Syler – Happy New Year.

MEETING AJOURNED -

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

ATTEST:

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

Judy Grams