

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, April 18, 2017**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:02PM Mayor Hopkins called the Regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were: Jim Hedrick, Jane Hunt, Lyle Hardin, Deb Kristovich. Councilmember Syler was excused. Following the flag salute, Mayor Hopkins called for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the Agenda of April 18, 2017, with a second from Councilmember Hunt, passed 4-0.

**MINUTES**

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting minutes of April 4, 2017, with a second from Councilmember Hunt, passed 4-0.

**STAFF REPORT –**

Ruston Police – Chief Estes – See attached.

Ruston Fire – Chief Torbet – See attached.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** – No public comment at this time.

**BUSINESS-**

**Ruston-Point Defiance Business District** – President Joe Atkinson provided an overview of items the Ruston-Point Defiance Business District was working on: The Business District has officially hired a Market Coordinator, Tyler Burns, who comes to the Business District with a great resume. Mr. Burns is a public-school teacher, has a lot of experience volunteering with other organizations and has managed large groups of volunteers. The Business District is finishing up with their planning meetings and its details in getting the Farmers Market launched. The Business District is very much in favor of sidewalk and pedestrian improvements down Pearl Street and are on the City of Tacoma's 6-year plan and are hoping all goes well with the Ecology grant which will help in completing the critical corridor on Pearl Street. The Business District has concerns with Pierce County running its trolley have not yet identified a good trolley stop, with ADA requirements, in Ruston. Mr. Atkinson encourages the City of Ruston to work with Pierce County as it will be good for business, as long as it does not take away from parking. Mr. Atkinson presented a letter to Council to address the Farmer's Market fees and identifies ways in making the market more successful.

**ORD 1494** – Increase City Electric Rates (1<sup>st</sup> reading). The City of Ruston is entitled to operate its own electrical utility to sell power to its residents and to set the rates for such electrical utility. Because the City purchases power from Tacoma Power, an increase in rates by Tacoma Power necessitates an increase in the rates charged by the City. The City of Ruston last increased rates in July 2015. The rates at that time were set at \$0.083 per Kilowatt hour, starting on August 1, 2015.

CITY OF RUSTON  
 Regular Council Minutes  
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Since that time, Tacoma Power has again increased its rates, with the first increase taking effect April 15, 2017 and the next increase taking effect on April 1, 2018, necessitating the City likewise increase its rates in order to pass through these rate increases.

These rate increases are proposed to take place on June 1, 2017 is an increase from \$0.083 per Kilowatt hour to \$0.0872 per Kilowatt hour. On April 1, 2018 that rate would increase again to \$0.092 per KWh. Additionally, under Ordinance #1494 an increase in the low-income senior rate would also occur. Currently, the rate of \$0.060 per Kilowatt hour is charged. Under the new rates, \$0.063 per Kilowatt hour would be charged starting on June 1, 2017 and \$0.0662.

Customer Class	Current KWh	Effective June 1, 2017	Effective April 1, 2018
Regular Rates	\$0.083	\$0.0872	\$0.092
Low Income/Disabled	\$0.060	\$0.063	\$0.0662

Both regular and low income customers will have a 5% increase in the KWh charges in both 2017 and 2018.

In addition, the minimum charge for both regular and low income customers would increase by \$3.50 per month in 2017 and another \$3.00 per month in 2018. This is to bring these fees directly in line with Tacoma. These fees help pay for infrastructure and to replenish depleted reserves.

Customer Class	Current Minimum Charge	Effective June 1, 2017	Effective April 1, 2018
Regular Rates	\$10.00	\$13.50	\$16.50
Low Income/Disabled	\$6.00	\$9.50	\$12.50

This increase will ensure that the City recovers the increased cost of purchasing electrical power from Tacoma Power. The new rates will help ensure that the City's electrical utility will continue to be fiscally sound and have the resources needed to replace and refurbish the capital infrastructure and maintain high quality operations.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL** – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Payroll, with a second from Councilmember Hunt, passed 4-0.

**MAYOR'S TIME** – Thanked all the volunteers and those that attended which made the Easter Egg Hunt a great event and huge success. The City has seen new building permit applications for several new businesses, Ice Cream Social and Fish Tale Brewing. It is great to see all the new businesses coming into Ruston which is long overdue. The City is anxiously waiting for the hotel submission with it coming sometime in May 2017.

**COUNCIL TIME –**

Councilmember Hedrick – Thanked Mr. Atkinson for coming before Council with an update on the Farmer's Market. Councilmember Hedrick is a fan of the market, will be reading the material handed out and will entertain the request to eliminate or at the very least reduce the cost of vendor fees

Councilmember Hunt – Agreed with Councilmember Hedrick

Councilmember Hardin –. It was a great Easter Egg Hunt event and social gathering and wanted to recognize the Utility Clerk for, once again, her tremendous work in organizing this fine and highly successful event. Councilmember Hardin also thanked all the volunteers. Councilmember Hardin is excited that the Business District is moving forward with the Farmer's Market and will consider their request regarding vendor fees. Councilmember Hunt will be working on the sales tax component and will provide more details at a later time.

Councilmember Kristovich – Recognized the Easter Egg Hunt as a great event and was also looking forward to the Farmer's Market.

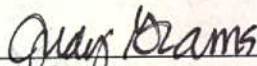
Councilmember Syler – Was excused.

**MEETING AJOURNED -**

At 7:21PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hunt, passed 4-0.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Grams



**Chief's Report  
Ruston Police Department  
Tuesday May 17, 2017**

**Chief of Police:**

During the month of April the Police Department responded to 191 calls for service in Ruston. This number is made up of dispatched calls, officer initiated calls, and traffic stops, and it does not include any calls for service that took place in the City of Tacoma where Ruston officers responded.

The highlight during the month of March was the high number of criminal traffic offences during the month. The Ruston PD issued 36 criminal traffic citations during the month of March, compared with 6 in January and 11 in February.

**Other Personnel Issues:**

Nothing to report

**Civil Service Commission:**

Nothing to report.

**Equipment:**

Nothing to report.

**Training:**

Please contact me by phone (253) 761-0272 or by email [anders.estes@rustonwa.org](mailto:anders.estes@rustonwa.org) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this month's report.

Submitted By:  
Anders Estes  
Chief of Police  
05/18/17



Ruston Fire Department | 5117 North Winnifred | Ruston, WA 98407

## Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for March 2017

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Presented by Chief Torbet

**Total Incidents:** 11 (1 Fire/ Service, 10 Medical Aid)

**Total Volunteer Hours:** Total 500 Hours March 111 Hours

**Membership Roster (out of 25):** 15 (8 FF, 7 Officers)

**Recent Membership Changes:** Remove Ryan Privett and Travis Anderson

### State of the Business:

- We had a safe St. Paddy's day run with no incidents
- We have put our Big EZ into service on both A33 and E33. We have had to use it once so far
- We have a fire training conference coming up that will offer classes in leadership, wild land fire and general fire skills
- We will be focusing on training new members in core firefighting competencies
- All fire tools are fully operational
- Recurring CPR training is offered quarterly for the Ruston community. Over 160 people have been **CPR certified** since the training has been offered. Although we didn't meet our goal of 100% CPR certification for the city, we continue to provide training as needed. As always, community members may enroll at City Hall or by emailing [rustonfire@rustonwa.org](mailto:rustonfire@rustonwa.org).
- **Fire Station tours** are provided to the public when resources are available. Please contact [rustonfire@rustonwa.org](mailto:rustonfire@rustonwa.org) for further information.

### Ruston Fire Department's Master Business Objectives for March 2017

OBJECTIVE	START DATE	TARGET COMPLETION	COMPLETE %	ACTION OWNERS
Recruitment	3/2017	<i>ongoing</i>	15 of 25	WHERRETT/SHERMAN
CPR Training	3/2017	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	ANDERSON