

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, August 15, 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. Councilmember Lynn Syler was excused. Councilmember Deb Kristovich joined at 7:05PM. Following the flag salute, Mayor Hopkins called for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the Agenda of August 15, 2017, with a second from Councilmember Hunt passed 3-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting minutes of July 18, 2017, with a second from Councilmember Hunt, passed 3-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police – Chief Estes – See attached.

Ruston Fire – Chief Torbet – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Ken Brown – Had a concern related to the volume of traffic and the rate of speed cars are going. Mr. Brown witnessed cars going 35-40 miles an hour down Commercial Street.

Marla Miller - Provided statistics related to traffic and the rate of speed of cars going down 49th Street. Ms. Miller counted upwards of between 200 and 1000 cars during specific times of the day and placed mannequins out on 49th which helped to slow the traffic down. Many do not stop at the stop sign at Winnifred and 49th. Ms. Miller also noted there were a lot of people on cell phones and recommended the City re-route traffic to N 46th Street where there are lights and yellow lines down the center.

Beth Torbet – Thanked Marla Miller for her traffic statistics. Ms. Torbet asked the City to speed up the repair of the retaining wall on 51st Street because her business has declined since the 51st Street closure.

BUSINESS

Ruston-Point Defiance Business District – Joe Atkinson, Ruston-Point Defiance Business District President, noted that it had been a very interesting year for the Business District. The merger of the Ruston Farmers Market into the Point Ruston Farmers Market has had negative impact to the Business District however the District wanted the best possible outcome for all and hoped the City of Ruston was getting its sales tax. Mr. Atkinson and the Business District hoped it has been a huge success. The Business District welcomed three new businesses to the City of Ruston, Point Ruston Chiropractic, Defiance Dental Studio and a Tacoma based massage therapist. The Business District will partner with businesses to promote and generate sales and make the business community stronger.

The goal is to increase District membership and Mr. Atkinson will keep the City updated on the progress. Councilmember Hardin noted that he had made his first appointment with Point Ruston Chiropractic and wanted to confirm that the Point Ruston Farmers Market was in Ruston. Mr. Atkinson confirmed the Point Ruston Farmers Market was in both Ruston and Tacoma.

RES 659 – Low Income Energy Assistance Vendor Agreement – Pierce County Department of Community Connections provides assistance to low income people living within Pierce County in accordance with 42 U.S.C. Section 8264, the Low-Income Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (“the Act”). These assistance payments are made directly to the electricity vendor to be credited to the account of the electricity customer. Because the City of Ruston provides electricity services to people and properties located within the City limits, it is a “vendor” under the Act. In order to comply with this Act, Pierce County must ensure that electricity vendors whose customers receive these assistance meet the requirements of the Act. This requires an agreement between the entity providing the assistance (in this case Pierce County) and the Vendor (the City). The City has had an agreement with Pierce County for these purposes for many years but the current Agreement is expiring at the end of September. Therefore, in order for people living in Ruston to be eligible for receipt of funds from the energy assistance program, the City must renew the agreement with Pierce County. The proposed agreement will run from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019. This agreement will facilitate the County providing energy assistance to low income customers of the City of Ruston. Those payments will go directly to the City and be credited to the accounts of those customers. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 659, with a second from Councilmember Hunt, passed 4-0.

RES 660 – Revised Indigent Defense Service Agreement - The City is required to provide indigent defense attorney services to defendants charged by the City with a crime that carries the penalty of incarceration. The City has contracted with Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel for many years to provide these indigent defense services to the City. The current contract was for 2017 and was approved by the City Council by passage of Resolution No. 642 on December 20, 2016. After passage of the Agreement provided by the Department of Defense Service, the Department asked the City to make addition minor revisions. The revised contract is largely the same as the last agreement that was authorized in December 2016 except for the following:

- The Agreement is extended to the end of 2018.
- The 2018 fee is substantially increased from \$25,689 for 2017 to \$36,670 for 2018. This increase is due to the City sending an increasing number of defendants for defense services. Arraignments have doubled in the past 6 months and the City may need to add a second monthly court day to handle the load. Currently the City is paying \$25,689/year for 0.25 of an attorney. The increase case load will result in the City utilizing 0.33 of an attorney and an annual payment of \$36,670 for 2018.

The Agreement expires at the end of 2018, but may be extended for additional one-year periods by agreement of the parties. However, the City can terminate for any reason on 60-days’ notice. The agreement also provides indemnification of the City by the County. The financial details of the Agreement are outlined below. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 660, with a second from Councilmember Hunt, passed 4-0.

CITY OF RUSTON
Regular Council Minutes
August 15, 2017

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

MAYOR'S TIME – Recognized community concerned regarding the 51st Street closure and the volume of traffic it has caused. Mayor Hopkins also noted the City did consider routing cars to 46th Street but because it was not in the City of Ruston's jurisdiction we could not go this direction. This short-lived project has had huge impact to our residents and Police Department. Mayor Hopkins deferred to Council for approval to open 51st Street on weekends during the retaining wall repair which would cost the City \$3,500 each weekend up to completion, after Council discussion, Council approved to open 51st Street for weekends. Mayor Hopkins emailed the budget for Council's preliminary review and noted with the growth and traffic coming through Ruston, the City is faced with many challenges. The Police Department is overworked and underpaid and soon so will the Ruston Fire Department. Resources and support to these departments will be important and the City may need to deficit spend to support our infrastructure to keep Ruston ensure residents have the safest place to live. Mayor Hopkins will be recommending camera placement at stop signs and is working with Police Sergeant Baker. The City has added a Permit Coordinator who will be working closely with the Building Official, City Planner and City Engineer.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick – Agreed the closure of 51st Street has had huge impact on residents and opening 51st over weekends will make a difference. Many residents on Commercial have taken their own measures for traffic calming which may not have been allowed. Thanked the Ruston Police Department for managing all the traffic.

Councilmember Hunt – Agreed with Councilmember Hedrick. Councilmember Hunt also saw the need for camera placement at stop signs. Councilmember Hunt thanked Mayor Hopkins for working on the budget and getting it to Council timely.

Councilmember Hardin – Thanked Mayor Hopkins for the midyear budget. As an option to camera placement recommended placement of a Stop Ahead sign. Mayor Hopkins requested Councilmember Hardin to email Public Works – Operations to paint lines in all crosswalks.


Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

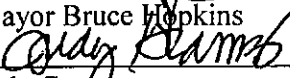
Councilmember Syler – Was excused.

MEETING AJOURNED -

At 7:43PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hunt, passed 4-0

ATTEST:



Mayor Bruce Hopkins


Judy Grams



**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
July 2017**

Chief of Police:

During the month of July the Police Department responded to 299 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. That is compared with 192 calls for service in July, 2016.

There were more than 70 criminal arraignments in Ruston Municipal Court, which is slightly higher than the 64 we had last month.

There were 33 cars impounded under the suspended driver impound program during July.

OF NOTE: Sgt Baker attempted to stop a car going 60+ on Pearl. The driver failed to yield to Sgt Bakers lights and fled into the area of Shirley and 52nd. Officers later found the car abandoned. Officer Grugg authored a search warrant on the car and two firearms were recovered. There was an indication from the DuPont PD drug dog that there had been narcotics in the car. The incident is still under investigation, but one of the suspects is listed as an armed career criminal, meaning that if one of the guns turns out to be his, he is likely to serve a Federal minimum mandatory sentence of 10 years.

Other Personnel Issues:

Sgt Rod Baker has completed his department training.

Civil Service Commission:

Nothing to report.

Equipment:

Sgt Baker obtained a grant to obtain two additional Portable Breath Test devices so that each member of the department will have a device in their assigned cars. This grant

was a 100% grant, meaning that the City of Ruston did not pay anything for the devices, which cost about \$1,000 each.

Training:

Sgt Baker will be attending a two-week refresher academy at the end of July.

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

Submitted By:
Anders Estes
Chief of Police



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

Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for July 2017

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Presented by Chief Torbet

Total Incidents: 10 (6 Fire/ Service, 4 Medical Aid)

Total Volunteer Hours: Total 1092 Hours July 245 Hours

Membership Roster (out of 25): 16 (10 FF, 6 Officers)

Recent Membership Changes: Add Michael Anderson

State of the Business:

- Our volunteer hours have doubled in the last month and will continue to trend upward
- Michael Anderson comes to us with 32 years of Fire/EMS, Fire Officer and wildland experience
- 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.
- Fire Station tours are provided to the public when resources are available. Please contact rustonfire@rustonwa.org for further information.

Ruston Fire Department's Master Business Objectives for July 2017

OBJECTIVE	START DATE	TARGET COMPLETION	COMPLETE %	ACTION OWNERS
Recruitment	7/2017	ongoing	16 of 25	WHERRETT/MILLER
CPR Training	7/2017	ongoing	100%	ANDERSON