

CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, June 5, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:02PM Mayor Hopkins called the Regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were: Jim Hedrick, Lyle Hardin, Lynn Syler, Bradley Huson and Deb Kristovich. Following the flag salute, Mayor Hopkins called for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the Agenda, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of May 15, 2018, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

STAFF REPORT – Nothing at this time.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Melissa Ritter- Maylone –

Brought before Council today was World Environment Day and spoke to the City's need to be fiscally and ecologically responsible regarding solid waste management. Resolution 651 and the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Ruston and City of Tacoma was adopted June 15, 2017. Ruston should utilize all resources within this agreement. Ms. Ritter-Maylone noted it was not clear what those resources were. The last time the garbage, recycle and yard waste guide was published on the Ruston website was in 2012, if one can find it. Ms. Ritter-Maylone understood the City was updating the Ruston website and asked that this item be reviewed and updated to be clear about the items acceptable for garbage, recycle and yard waste. City of Tacoma has a great website and has clear guidelines for items that are accepted. Ms. Ritter-Maylone contacted the City of Ruston to confirm if Ruston followed the same protocols as Tacoma and did not receive a clear or official answer. Ms. Ritter-Maylone found the 2016 Budget which reflected the amount the City of Ruston paid \$39,000 to the City of Tacoma for garbage and zero dollars for yard waste. Ms. Ritter-Maylone was not certain if Ruston paid by the pound or a flat rate for garbage disposal. If the City is paying by the pound for garbage it would seem more fiscally responsible to get as much out of the garbage and into yard waste since we are not paying for yard waste disposal. All of this highlighted the need for an official document, which would help residents know what is expected and would help avoid misunderstandings in the future.

BUSINESS –

RES 682 – Pierce County Building Services Agreement – On February 6, 2018, the City Council approved Resolution No. 673 which authorized the Mayor to sign an Agreement with Pierce County for the inspection services for all current permits (applied for prior to the Tacoma-Ruston Interlocal) in the Point Ruston Project. This Agreement took effect on February 12, 2018 and has been working very well between Ruston and Pierce County. This initial agreement had a maximum price of \$15,000 as this amount since the parties could not anticipate the costs until the work was underway. The contract is now estimated to cost up to \$65,000 and Pierce County has requested to amend the contract to change the maximum price. The total cost for this contract will be increased from \$15,000 to \$65,000. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 682, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

RES 683 – Surplus Police Vehicles – The City of Ruston has the authority under state law to sell its real or personal property. The Ruston Police Department recently upgraded its fleet with the purchase of three new police vehicles (automobiles) which has resulted in the Police Department having more vehicles than necessary. There are now three police automobiles and one police motorcycle that are no longer in use. The Police Chief has requested that these four vehicles be declared surplus and sold at auction for fair market value.

The four surplus vehicles are:

Year	Make	Model	VIN #
2005	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAHP71W75X178531
2005	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAHP71W75X147800
2006	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAHP71W56X116871
2000	Kawasaki	KZ1 – RS	JKAKZCP22YB517947

These four vehicles will be sold at auction for fair market value. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 683, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

RES 684 – Re-Appointing Hearing Examiner and Authorizing Contract for Services – The City has created a Hearing Examiner position and adopted a chapter in the Ruston Municipal Code establishing the Office of the Hearing Examiner. In February of 2015, the City Council adopted Resolution #598 appointing Stephen K. Causseaux, Jr. of the firm McCarthy & Causseaux, P.S. and authorized the Mayor to enter into an agreement for such services. The agreement has since expired and the Mayor recommends re-appointing Mr. Causseaux and updating the agreement for services. The only substantive change between the prior agreement and the updated agreement is that the new agreement does not automatically expire, rather, it can be terminated by either party for any reason upon 30-days’ written notice. Authorizing the agreement makes the City responsible for payment of the fees and costs incurred in the providing of Hearing Examiner Services to the City. Bills are to be submitted monthly and are due within 30 days unless disputed. The hourly rates in this agreement are unchanged from the 2015 agreement and are as follows:

Hearing Examiner	\$150.00
Paralegal	\$50.00
Admin/Secretarial	\$35.00
Clerk Services	\$25.00

The City may provide Clerk services or may at its option ask Mr. Causseaux to provide these services. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 684, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Claims and Payroll, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Addressed Ms. Maylone's public comment regarding the yard waste, garbage and recycle process. City of Ruston is being charged for yard waste, garbage and recycle and the City will revisit its sanitation process with a possible cost increase, competitive with other municipalities. We are a City of Tacoma customer and will have ongoing discussion regarding this topic. Discussions around outsourcing and contracting sanitary services has not been well received by a number of people. The City will explore its options. Mayor Hopkins appreciated the comments about the City's website. The City has someone assigned to revamping the website. Mayor Hopkins announced the hiring of a new Ruston Police Chief, Nester Bautista, who joins Ruston on July 1, 2018. Mr. Bautista began his law enforcement career with the Washington State Patrol in 1991 and currently with the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board. Mr. Bautista will bring an emphasis of community patrol. Mayor Hopkins thanked Chief Anders Estes for filling in the past two years and has been a pleasure to work with. Sgt. Baker applied for the Chief position which made the decision difficult, however it is a win-win for the City of Ruston. The Ruston Police now have three new police Chargers and will surplus three of the old vehicles. Our Police officers have driven very old cars and are proud to have a new car to patrol in. Mayor was looking for volunteers to help park vehicles in the north and south parking lots at the Ruston School during Taste of Tacoma, Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd and June 24th. This is a fundraiser for Ruston Park improvement. In 2019 the City will realize a Hotel/Motel tax which will be used for tourism promotion. Ruston Court is planned to merge with City of Fircrest in September 2018. The City will begin the initial design for a City Hall remodel and will relocate the Ruston Police to City Hall. Parking will become an issue and requested Councilmember Huson to take on this initiative. City of Ruston Attorney, Jennifer Robertson has engaged a mediator between the City of Ruston and Point Ruston, to begin discussions on outstanding issues and Mayor Hopkins recommended that one or two Councilmembers attend.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick – Wanted to remind everyone about the annual 4th of July Bicycle Parade to be held on Wednesday, July 4th at 12PM, in front of Don's Market. Councilmember Hedrick was an eye witness to two separate arrests and complimented the Ruston Police and Fire Departments with how both were handled.

Councilmember Hardin – The new incoming Police Chief was vetted by Civil Service Commission and Mayor Hopkins and understood why there has been turnover in the Police Department. Councilmember Hardin questioned Point Ruston charging customers to park in the parking garage managed by Republic Parking. Is the City receiving taxes on this charge? Mayor Hopkins noted he would explore a parking tax and bring this before Council. Councilmember Hardin stated the Point Ruston businesses are comping their customers parking.

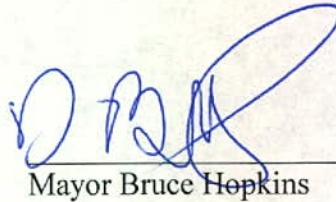
Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – Appreciated Mayor Hopkins comments and updates. Councilmember Syler thanked Melissa Ritter-Maylone for her public comments related to the City’s sanitation process and asked that Ms. Ritter-Maylone take part in the design plan.

Councilmember Huson – Has a vast amount of knowledge regarding vacation rentals and the public process and fee structure. Councilmember Huson will be very involved in the discussion around vacation rentals in the City of Ruston. Councilmember Huson is also in favor of a community garden as long as it is done right.

MEETING AJOURNED -

At 7:32PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.



Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:



Judy Grams