

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, July 19, 2016**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:03 PM Mayor Hopkins called the Regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were: Jim Hedrick, Lyle Hardin, Deb Kristovich and Lynn Syler. Councilmember Hunt 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 Hardin, passed 4-0.

**MINUTES**

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of July 5, 2016, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

**STAFF REPORT** –

Ruston Police Department – See attached.

Ruston Fire Department – See attached.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

**John Schroeder** – Came before Council to discuss the 51<sup>st</sup> retaining wall failure. Mr. Schroeder contacted many people who provided feedback on the retaining wall and Mr. Schroeder presented their findings to Council. Mayor Hopkins recommended open dialog at a meeting scheduled at a separate time and would discuss with Council and Legal Counsel.

**John Wheelock at 48<sup>th</sup> Street in Tacoma** – Was not able to attend the Public Hearing on June 10, 2016 because of his work schedule. Mr. Wheelock would like to preserve his view and was concerned that his view would be compromised as it relates the Accessory Dwelling Conditional Use Permit at 5428 N 49<sup>th</sup> Street. The building height may take away the current view from his balcony where he watches the boats pass in the bay. Mr. Wheelock would like to review the site plan and architectural drawings. Mayor Hopkins suggested that Mr. Wheelock file a Public Records Request with the City Clerk's office.

**Connie Walker - 5204 N. Bennett** – Was concerned with the trailers in front of the Commencement. Mayor Hopkins explained the land in front of the Commencement is currently in EPA's jurisdiction. Mayor Hopkins was to hold a meeting with EPA, Wednesday, July 20, 2016 and would address the Commencement's concerns. Mayor Hopkins understood the Commencement's concerns and has their interest at heart.

**Arthur Mummery – 5204 N. Bennett** – Recently purchased at the Commencement, was happy to live in the City of Ruston and enjoyed the area. Commencement residents understood the dilemma with EPA and wanted Council to know they have access to the EPA, are very interested in supporting the community and can be a very loud voice with over 100 people to get something done for the City of Ruston.

**Cliff Kendall – Wren and Willow** – Has a building project at 5121 N Pearl and asked Council to review the current plans and inspection process within the City's Building Department. The planning process works well however the inspection process is slow and communication is lacking. This is not what Mr. Kendall is used to with other Building Departments. Mr. Kendall recommends the City have a Building Officer on staff and available at City Hall for appointments and discussion related to building projects within the City of Ruston. Mr. Kendall sits on the Board of Master Builders of Pierce County. There are fifty remodeling contractors and know a number of them who will not work in the City of Ruston.

**David Oxford – 5204 N. Bennett** – Commented on the staging area that is located on private property down at the bottom of N. 51<sup>st</sup> Street and wanted to know what it was about. It stores dump trucks and equipment. Mayor Hopkins noted this as temporary use by the Department of Ecology.

## **BUSINESS**

**Point Defiance Construction Presentation** – Eric Hanberg, President of the Board of Park Commissioners and Debbie Terwilleger, Director of Planning and Development. Eric Hanberg wanted the community to know that Point Defiance Park loves their partnership and relationship with the City of Ruston. Mr. Hanberg expressed the short term traffic disruption will bring long term improved experience. Mr. Hanberg asked the city to get the word out to all residents so they know what to expect. Mr. Hanberg introduced Debbie Terwilleger who delivered a construction presentation.

**Point Defiance Ruston Business District** – John Trueman invited everyone to the Ruston Family Fair on Saturday, July 30, 2016 and gave an overview of the day's events. Another event, new for the City of Ruston, will be a Farmers Market to be scheduled every Sunday, starting August 14th and ending September 25th, at 5037 N. Pearl Street. Mr. Trueman introduced Kira Mountjoy-Pepka, Farmers Market Coordinator who provided an overview to Council.

**ORD 1483** – Public Hearing to Update Sewer Connection Fees RMC 21.01.040. Mayor Hopkins opened Public Hearing and with no public comment Councilmember Hedrick moved to close Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

**ORD 1483** – Update Sewer Connection Fees RMC 21.01.040 (2nd Reading). The City is authorized to provide sanitary sewer services to properties within the City in accordance with RCW 35A.11.020, 35A.21.150, and Chapter 35.67 RCW. This authority includes the authority to establish charges for the sanitary sewer facilities, including connection charges. RCW 35.67.020; 35.67.190. Sewer connection fees are meant to help ensure that “growth pays for growth” and that the new customers will pay into a system that has been created and maintained by existing customers. The City has charged \$2,000 per connection for new sewer connections for a number of years under RMC 21.01.040. The City has implemented this to be a charge of \$2,000 per unit for new sewer connections and has interpreted this to be \$2,000 per unit of development. In order to ensure clarity in the code on this issue, RMC 21.01.040 should be updated to do the following:

1. State that the connection fee is “per unit”,
2. Define what a “unit” is,
3. Provide for the rounding up of any partial units in the fee calculation,
4. Give the Planning Director the authority to determine the number of units being developed and connected for purposes of this fee, and
5. Provide an appeal process if a developer desires to challenge the Planning Director’s interpretation.

The update to RMC 21.01.040 contained in Ordinance 1483 makes these changes. The fee at issue is not changed, however, the code is proposed to be clarified and additional language inserted to make the fee calculation more clear and transparent. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Ordinance 1483, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

**RES 635** – Re-naming 54<sup>th</sup> Street to Park Avenue. During the recent 10-year Comprehensive Plan Update, the Planning Commission discussed re-naming 54<sup>th</sup> Street back to its historic name of Park Avenue. This street which is located in North Ruston runs east-west. It is named Park Avenue on the Tacoma side of the jurisdictional boundary and 54<sup>th</sup> Street in Ruston. Park Avenue/54<sup>th</sup> Street is located adjacent to the Point Defiance Park along its entire length within the City of Ruston, which extends four blocks westward from Bennett Street to Pearl Street. For your reference, the following visuals are attached: a Google Earth map and the cross section page of this street from the Comp Plan. Due to the desire to return the street name to the historic Park Avenue, the Comp Plan refers to this street as “54<sup>th</sup> (Park Avenue)” throughout the Plan. The benefit to renaming 54<sup>th</sup> Street to Park Avenue is that it will provide consistent naming with the City of Tacoma street grid which reduces confusion in wayfinding, emergency response and postal/package deliveries. Renaming 54<sup>th</sup> Street to Park Avenue also enhances Ruston's small town character by providing a more descriptive street name.

There currently exists only one property which has an address fronting on 54th Street. City staff have contacted the property owner regarding the proposed street name change and the property owner is supportive of the change. In order to allow the one resident to change her address and the City to order signage, this change should take effect on September 1, 2016. New signs with the new street name would need to be purchased and installed. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 635, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

**Executive Session** – Potential Litigation RCW 14.20.110 (1) (i) for 30 minutes. Councilmember Hedrick moved to open Executive Session at 7:55PM, with a second from Councilmember Harding passed 4-0. Councilmember Hedrick moved to close Executive Session and return to the Regular Council meeting at 8:25PM, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL** – Nothing at this time.

**MAYOR'S TIME** – Wanted to express condolences to the family, Edie Tallman, Tiffany and Katherine Tallman on the passing of their son, husband and father, Michael Tallman. Michael Tallman and family have been long time residents in Ruston. Mayor Hopkins and Councilmember Hedrick will be meeting with the EPA on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 and Councilmember Hedrick will be meeting with the Department of Ecology regarding the tunnel ruling. Mayor Hopkins announced Steve Taylor will be retiring on August 31, 2016 and will determine if there is a need to find a replacement. Mayor Hopkins may look at contracting someone to do the mowing, trimming trees on city property. The City Electrician John Parker was also retiring and Mayor Hopkins completed an interview with a recommended Electrician as a replacement.

**COUNCIL TIME** –

**Councilmember Hedrick** – Was approached by several constituents in Ruston concerned with the feeding of wildlife, deer in particular. Councilmember Hedrick requested the City post a piece in the Ruston Newsletter reminding everyone not to feed the wildlife.

**Councilmember Hunt** – Was excused.

**Councilmember Hardin** – Wanted to thank all those that attended tonight's Council Meeting and the Public Comments that were made. Councilmember Hardin encourages more participation and community involvement.

**Councilmember Kristovich** – Was curious about those that spoke and acknowledged Mr. Mummery's comments and his support of the community.

CITY OF RUSTON  
Regular Council Minutes  
July 19, 2016

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

**MEETING AJOURNED** -

At 8:36 PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

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Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

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Judy Grams



**Chief's Report  
Ruston Police Department  
Tuesday July 19, 2016**

**Chief of Police:**

During the month of June the Police Department responded to 182 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 most noteworthy of the calls was a vehicle prowl/ID theft case. A Ruston resident had her vehicle prowled and her personal information stolen. The suspects were caught on video in a couple of places in Tacoma using the victim's credit cards. I contacted the news media who aired the picture on the evening news and also put the case out via Pierce County Crimestoppers. The suspect was identified by a few different people and she even saw herself on the news and called me. She scheduled many appointments to turn herself in but never showed. The case was forwarded to the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office where it is being reviewed for charging.

The Taste of Tacoma came and went with very few incidents. The largest problem we encountered was many parking issues. The use of shuttle buses was a great help and it cut down on vehicle traffic here in Ruston.

I would like to remind everybody that National Night Out is scheduled for August 2<sup>nd</sup> this year.

**Other Personnel Issues:**

Nothing to report

**Civil Service Commission:**

Nothing to report.

**Equipment:**

The new vehicles have arrived!! They have been delivered to the graphics company and the graphics are done. They are back at Systems for Public Safety and I was told last week that they will try to have them completed and road ready in two to three weeks.

**Training:**

The police department did not conduct training in June due to the Taste of Tacoma event. We plan to conduct evidence processing and handling training at the monthly meeting this month.

Please contact me by phone (253) 761-0272 or by email [victor.celis@cityofruston.net](mailto:victor.celis@cityofruston.net) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this month's report.

Submitted By:  
Victor M. Celis  
Chief of Police  
07/19/16



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

## Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for June 2016

Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Presented by Chief Torbet

**Total Incidents: 7** (2 Fire/ Service, 5 Medical Aid)

**Total Volunteer Hours: Total 1,408 Hours June 296 Hours**

**Membership Roster (out of 25): 18** (11 FF, 7 Officers)

**Recent Membership Changes:**

### State of the Business:

- Welcome three new members: Joel Hawes, Travis Anderson, Matt Southwich
- Ryan Privett has returned after a short leave of absence
- Ryan Haverberg will be attending the OTEP Instructor Course
- Lieutenant Miller is currently deployed fighting wildfires in the state
- The Taste of Tacoma was well staffed and there no major incidents
- All vehicles and 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 May/June 2016

OBJECTIVE	START DATE	TARGET COMPLETION	COMPLETE %	ACTION OWNERS
Recruitment	5/2016	<i>ongoing</i>	18 of 25	WHERRETT/SHERMAN
CPR Training	5/2016	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	ANDERSON