

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, December 6, 2016**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:03PM Mayor Hopkins called the Regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were: Jim Hedrick, Lyle Hardin and Deb Kristovich. Councilmember Hunt and Councilmember Syler were excused. Following the flag salute, Mayor Hopkins called for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the Agenda of December 6, 2016, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting minutes of November 15, 2016, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

STAFF REPORT –

City Engineer – Jerry Morrissette – Excused.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Jennifer Jensen - Wanted her voice heard and was feeling helpless with the construction happening in the triangle at Point Defiance and the uncertainty for the future. The construction is very intrusive. Ms. Jensen is impacted daily. Ms. Jensen cannot get out of her driveway because dump trucks block the way, it is noisy, dusty and internet drops occasionally. There are different stories about what is happening at the triangle. Ms. Jensen wanted to go on record to thank and request continued support from Town Council, Town Planner and Town Attorney for keeping the City of Tacoma and Metro Parks accountable and honest to their plans, as there are a lot of unknowns. In the long term, Metro Parks is proposing a shopping area and hotel which is irresponsible use of our natural resources. Ruston does not have the infrastructure to support this kind of development. Ms. Jensen stated that by changing the parking on Highland Street it would create congestion, would cost the City money and have negative impact the City's view corridor. Highland Street has a view corridor that deserves to be protected. The park needs to maintain their own parking if they are going to create attractions. Ms. Jensen canvased owners and residents on her block and they agree 100% and are opposed to changing the parking on Highland Street to rear angle parking. There were no compelling reasons to change the parking on Highland.

Kevin Moser – As a City of Ruston resident Mr. Moser wanted to comment on the quality of our Public Servants considering the recent death of a Tacoma Police Officer. After hearing about this, the first thought that came to mind was for former Ruston Chief Jeremy Kunkel and it struck home. It makes one appreciate the service that we get from our Public Servants, be it Ruston Fire or Ruston Police. They are doing a great job for the City and hope they remain safe and that we are doing all we can to keep them safe.

BUSINESS

ORD 1491 – Pubic Hearing of Adoption of 2017 Annual Budget. In accordance with State law, the Mayor of the City of Ruston completed and placed on file with the City Clerk-Treasurer a proposed budget and estimate of the amount of monies required to meet the public expenses, interest, reserve funds, and expense of government of the city of Ruston for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. The Council is required to adopt its budget ordinance prior to January 1, 2017.

The City Council Budget consideration schedule for Fiscal Year 2017 is as follows:

Mayor's Budget Message to Council:	November 15, 2016
Council discussion of revenue sources:	October 18, 2016
Public Hearing on Proposed Budget:	December 6, 2016
Public Hearing on Revenue Sources:	November 15, 2016
Budget Discussion #1:	October 18, 2016
Budget Discussion #2:	November 15, 2016
Budget Discussion #3:	December 6, 2016
Budget Discussion #4:	December 20, 2016
Adoption of Tax Levy:	November 15, 2016
Adoption of Final Annual Budget for 2017:	December 20, 2016

Prior to budget adoption, the City Clerk will have fully complied with state law by publishing notice of the availability of the budget for public review and publishing notice of the required public hearings on the City's proposed tax levy (scheduled for November 15th) and budget (scheduled for December 6th). Approval of this Ordinance adopts the 2017 Budget and establishes the appropriations necessary to authorize expenditures for each of the City's funds as detailed in Ordinance 1491. Councilmember Hedrick moved to open a Public Hearing on Ordinance 1491, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0. Public Hearing opened and there were no comments mad for Public Testimony. Councilmember Hedrick moved to close Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0. Ordinance 1491 will go before Council for third reading on December 20, 2016.

ORD 1456 – Critical Areas Ordinance (1st reading). City Planner Rob White presented an overview of Ordinance 1456. The City of Ruston has been engaged for the past two years in a major Comprehensive Plan Update which was adopted on March 1, 2016 by Ordinance No. 1482. The Comp Plan update was required under the State Growth Management Act, Ch. 36.70A RCW. Following the Comprehensive Plan Update, the City is also required by law to update its critical areas ordinance. The current critical areas regulations are found in Section 25.01.070 “Natural Systems” in Zoning Code portion of the Ruston Municipal Code. This section needs to be repealed and replaced with a comprehensive Title for addressing critical areas in Ruston. To this end, a new Title 30 is proposed, comprised of six distinct chapters as follows:

Chapter 30.10	General Provisions and Purpose
Chapter 30.20	Wetlands
Chapter 30.30	Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas
Chapter 30.40	Frequently Flooded Areas
Chapter 30.50	Geologically Hazardous Areas
Chapter 30.60	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

The development of the Critical Areas Ordinance was spearheaded by Rob White and Susie Goett of the City's Planning Department. The Title was developed in close concert with the State Departments of Ecology and Commerce and is based largely on the model code developed by the State which incorporates the "best available science" as required by law. As part of the Planning Commission's work, a review and update of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Map was done, such map is attached to Ordinance No. 1456 as Exhibit "A". The City has followed all procedural requirements for adopting the new Critical Areas Ordinance, including: holding the required public hearing by the Ruston Planning Commission on May 20, 2015; performing SEPA (SEPA Determination of Non-significance was on July 3, 2015 and the comment period expired on July 17, 2015; the SEPA Appeal period has passed with no appeals filed and sending a copy of this Ordinance to the Washington State Department of Commerce on July 3, 2015 with a request for expedited review as per WAC 365-195-620(1) and RCW 36.70A.106 (such review was granted on August 3, 2015, and the required time has passed allowing adoption of this Ordinance). To remain in compliance with State law, the Critical Areas Ordinance must be adopted by the end of this calendar year. The last regular Council Meeting for adoption is December 20, 2016. The adoption of the Critical Areas Ordinance has no direct fiscal impact to the City. However, to remain in compliance with GMA, and thus be fully eligible for grants that require compliance, the Ordinance must be adopted prior to the end of this calendar year. Adoption at Second Reading on December 20, 2016 meets this deadline.

Bid Opening – Landscape Maintenance Bid Review and Approval. City Project Manager Kevin Moser presented the need to employ a landscaper to manage all public areas in the City of Ruston. Mr. Moser received and researched five bid proposals and selected Superior Maintenance Solutions (SMS) as the lowest bidder for Council consideration and approval. Council approved SMS as the City's landscape company.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Claims and Payroll, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Wanted the community to know the City is doing everything possible and are equally frustrated with our neighbor, Metro Parks. From a political standpoint, there are two paths to go, one is to take an adversarial position for which the City does not have a legal stand the other is to understand what we are dealing with and attempt to work with them with our best interest at heart. City Personnel and City Council have the resident's interest at heart and Councilmember Hardin is taking the lead.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick – The Washington State Legislature appropriated \$400,000 for the Ruston Tunnel in the capital budget nearly four years ago and these funds were still unspent. The language within the Capital Budget only allows these funds to be used for the Ruston Tunnel. The City wishes to expand the use of funds to include the Winnifred Street remediation so the City will request the language be altered to include Winnifred Street. This request will take some time because the Legislature will gather in January 2017 to pass the budget in April 2017. Councilmember Hedrick will continue to work on this and provide an update then.

Councilmember Hunt – Was excused.

Councilmember Hardin – Provided comment on two concerns, one was related to Metro Parks and the other on the Comprehensive Plan and the parking on three or four city streets. Councilmember Hardin has had discussions with Planner White and Mayor Hopkins regarding the Comprehensive Plan, and the residents desire not to change parking to rear angle parking on all streets. City Planner White and Mayor Hopkins agreed this concern would go before the Planning Commission for review and Councilmember Hardin would continue to provide updates. Councilmember Hardin provide an overview on Metro Parks noting that Mayor Hopkins and City Planner White have met with Metro Parks and presented a letter to them addressing City of Ruston’s concerns. Debbie Terwilleger, with Metro Parks, addressed those concerns. Metro Parks held a meeting at the Pagoda in Point Defiance and it turned out to be a very useful meeting with many residents in attendance. There were about seventy in attendance and half were City of Ruston residents. Metro Parks delivered a good presentation on their parking plan and many of the Ruston residents came forward with questions and suggestions. Ms. Terwilleger did a great job in answering the many questions and listened to all suggestions. It was a positive meeting and Metro Parks has committed to include City Planner on the steering committee of every phase of development. Metro Parks is currently in Phase I which means all the soil from Yacht Club Road has been moved to the triangle. Ms. Terwilleger noted that all the dirt that is currently in place will not be moved until there is funding or the development of the triangle begins. Councilmember Hardin wanted to thank several people that have worked on this, Ginger Kryger, for her communication work and signature collection. Jennifer Jensen, for all her research and keeping Councilmember Hardin apprised of the changes she was seeing. Councilmember Hardin encouraged all residents to join Next Door to get the latest updates regarding the Metro Park development.

Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – Was excused.

MEETING AJOURNED -

At 7:51PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

ATTEST:

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

Judy Grams