

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, September 5, 2017**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:06PM City Clerk Grams called the Regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were: Jim Hedrick, Lyle Hardin, Deb Kristovich and Lynn Syler. Mayor Hopkins and Councilmember Hunt were excused. Councilmember Hardin moved to elect Councilmember Hedrick as Mayor Pro Tem, with a second by Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0. Councilmember Hardin moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich passed 4-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hardin moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting minutes of August 15, 2017, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston City Engineer – Jerry Morrissette – Was excused.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Douglas Hammond – Announced that the Commencement Board appointed Mr. Hammond as their Government Relations liaison. Mr. Hammond will attend Ruston Council meetings and report back to the Commencement Board.

BUSINESS

RES 661 – Write Off of Uncollectable Utility Accounts – The City operates its own electric, sanitary sewer and garbage utilities. Bias is the contractor that performs the utilities billing for the City. When an account becomes delinquent, collection activities are commenced. For accounts over \$100, a collection agency is engaged to perform collections. For small accounts, the City Utility Clerk attempts to collect the overdue balance. Over the past few years, there have been very few remaining accounts which the City and/or its collection agency have been unsuccessful at collecting. Only six such accounts currently exist. In order to “clean up” the utility accounts, the City Clerk is seeking Council approval to “write-off” these six “uncollectible” accounts which total \$1,131.07. The account details were attached to Resolution No. 661. This resolution should have no fiscal impact because these accounts have been deemed “uncollectible.” Councilmember Hardin moved to approve Resolution 661, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

RES 662 – Pierce County Sheriff’s Office – Specialty Police Services - Under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the City may contract with other jurisdictions to do anything that the City is permitted to do. Pierce County Sheriff’s Department is willing to provide the City with special police services as needed, such as criminal investigations, K-9, bomb squad, meth lab services, SWAT and marine services/dive team. Due to the small size of Ruston, having these services available within the City Police Department is not feasible or reasonable.

The Police Chief recommended entering into this Agreement so that if these services are ever needed, the City will be able to activate Pierce Co. Sheriff's Office to obtain these services. Currently, the City has an agreement for SWAT services as part of the Cooperative Cities SWAT team, however, members of that team recently lost a large civil case (\$15m+) in which its effectiveness and level of training were called into question. The City has not needed a SWAT response for a far back as anyone remembers.

The Agreement is valid for a one-year period but extends automatically on the anniversary date unless a party gives 90-days written notice of its intent to terminate the Agreement. The Agreement contains mutual indemnification provisions so that each party is only responsible for its own actions. The financial details of the Agreement are outlined below.

At the City's option, it can pay annually based on population, or pay per incident. The Chief recommends paying annually based on population as this should be well below the cost of a single incident.

The Rates for 2017 are below:

2017 Specialized Services Rates

Service	Incident Rate	Per Capita
Canine	No charge	No charge
SWAT	\$10,875	\$.40
Hazardous Devices	No charge	No charge
Lab Team	No charge	No charge
Air Ops	No charge	No charge
Detective	\$106 hr., per officer (3 hr. minimum)	\$.93
Forensic	\$103 hr., per officer (3 hr. minimum)	\$.2
Marine	\$106 hr. per officer (3 hr. minimum)	Not available

Some services have no charge. Those that are charged have either an incident hourly rate or a per capita annual rate. At a population of 800, the SWAT per capita is \$320/year (versus \$10,875 for one call out), the Detective is \$744/year and the Forensic is \$160/year. Sum total this amounts to \$1,224 per year for access to all of these services. The cost for the per capita annual payment can come out of currently budgeted police funds. Councilmember Hardin moved to approve Resolution 662, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

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

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MAYOR'S TIME – Was excused.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Hunt – Was excused.

Councilmember Hardin – Asked the City Clerk to introduce the newly hired Permit Coordinator, Chrissanda Walker.

Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

MEETING AJOURNED -

At 7:17PM Councilmember Hardin moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams