

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00PM Mayor Hopkins called the Regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were: Jim Hedrick, Lyle Hardin, Deb Kristovich and Bradley Huson. Councilmember Syler was excused. Following the flag salute, Mayor Hopkins called for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Hedrick moved to amend the Agenda to add Business Item 3. Resolution 673 - Pierce County-Ruston Building Inspection Agreement and Business Item 4. Resolution 674 - Dispute Resolution between Ruston and Point Ruston, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, the Agenda as amended passed 4-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of January 16, 2018, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Engineer – Jerry Morrissette – Was excused.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Karen Pickett – Regrets an approval decision forced upon the City of Ruston but found it was better than what the alternative could be. Ms. Pickett questioned the agreement where it notes Tacoma/Point Ruston will proceed with their decision if there is a dispute that cannot be resolved between Tacoma City Manager and Ruston's Mayor while arbitration is on-going. If the arbitration finds in Ruston's favor, who pays to change the construction that has occurred during the arbitration process? Is that a risk the developer has to bear?

BUSINESS –

Executive Session – Potential Litigation (45 minutes)

Resolution 672 – Tacoma-Ruston Permitting ILA - According to the Interlocal Cooperation Act the City is authorized to contract with other governmental agencies to provide services that the City is authorized to perform. City of Ruston and City of Tacoma have agreed to create a streamlined permit approval process for the Point Ruston Project with Tacoma acting as the lead agency for all permits which are submitted after the adoption of the Agreement. The City of Ruston will continue to review all permits for the Ruston portion of the project and provide input to City of Tacoma. City of Tacoma will manage the process and issue the permits in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement. Tacoma and Ruston have established a process to discuss and resolve any conflicts or disagreements on the permits and other development issues. Tacoma will reimburse Ruston for its review time, with the Interlocal Agreement providing reimbursement of up to thirty percent of the permit fee under the Agreement. These amounts may change or be updated by a later adopted Rate Agreement. The City Council finds it in the public interest to authorize the Mayor to execute the proposed Interlocal Agreement regarding Coordinated Permitting of the Point Ruston Development. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 672, with a second from Councilmember Hardin passed 4-0.

Resolution 673 – Pierce County – Ruston Building Inspection Agreement – According to the Interlocal Cooperation Act the City is authorized to contract with other governmental agencies to provide services that the City is authorized to perform. The City of Ruston desires to contract with Pierce County for the inspection services for all current permits (applied for prior to the Tacoma-Ruston Interlocal in the Point Ruston Project). The City Council finds it in the public interest to authorize the Mayor to execute the proposed Agreement for Building Inspection Services for certain Point Ruston Development Projects with Pierce County. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 673, with a second from Councilmember Hardin passed 4-0.

Resolution 674 – Dispute Resolution between Ruston and Point Ruston – City of Ruston has been engaged with Point Ruston LLC for over a decade as the permit approval authority for the Point Ruston Development Project. A number of issues have accumulated over the years between the City and Point Ruston which remain unresolved. Submitting these issues to mediation between Point Ruston and the City may facilitate the resolution of some or all of the outstanding issues. The City Council finds it in the public interest to authorize the Mayor to execute the proposed Dispute Resolution Agreement. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 674, with a second from Councilmember Hardin passed 4-0.

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

MAYOR’S TIME – Mayor Hopkins thanked City Attorney Jennifer Robertson for all her diligent work and preparation efforts on behalf of the City. Mayor Hopkins thanked Councilmember Hedrick for all his guidance and help navigating through troubled waters and his work with Piece County Executive Bruce Dammeir, who was instrumental in the negotiation process. Mayor Hopkins wanted to especially thank the City of Ruston residents for their extremely heroic efforts, representing the City of Ruston in Olympia, and that it was a complete honor to represent them. Mayor Hopkins suggested the possibility of redistricting in line with other smaller cities like City of Fircrest and City of University Place. On a positive note, Mayor Hopkins was looking forward to working with Point Ruston and successfully completing the development. Mayor Hopkins shared with residents that Senator Jeannie Darneille, Representative Jake Fey and Representative Laurie Jenkins will be hosting a 27th Legislature District Town Hall meeting on February 17, 2018 at 10AM and recommended everyone to take the opportunity to let them know we voted for them and how they could best represent the citizens of Ruston.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick – Expressed the need for healing. Councilmember Hedrick was impressed with all Ruston residents that came before the House and Senate Committees giving testimony in support of their City.

Councilmember Hardin – Was pleased with the outcome and looked forward to seeing the completion of the development. Councilmember Hardin sent accolades to the City Attorney for all her hard work and the enormous amount of time that was spent in preparation of the resolutions and agreements.

Councilmember Hardin thanked all City Residents that came together at the Legislature in Olympia and the incredible representation and testimony given. Councilmember Hardin looked forward to seeing everyone at the 27th Legislative District Town Hall meeting.

Councilmember Kristovich – There have been many sleepless nights in the effort to save our City. Councilmember Kristovich has lived in the City of Ruston for thirteen years, love it more than before and thanked all Ruston residents for their commitment fighting the fight together. As a town we have been at the table, we have remained at the table since this development began and asked Mr. Cohen to work with Ruston to get successful completion of the development. We are committed to getting it done.as the City of Ruston needs to more than the City of Tacoma.

Councilmember Syler – Was excused.

Councilmember Huson – No comment.

MEETING AJOURNED -

At 7:47PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams