

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 20, 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, Lynn Syler and Bradley Huson. Following the flag salute, Mayor Hopkins called for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Hedrick moved to amend the Agenda removing Claims, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, the Agenda as amended, passed 5-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of February 6, 2018, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police – Sergeant Baker – See attached.

Ruston Fire – Chief Torbet – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Doug Hammond – Wanted to confirm a rumor or statement he found on the Next-Door website in which Point Ruston will begin to charge \$2 an hour for parking in the parking garage at Point Ruston development and Mr. Hammond wanted Mayor Hopkins input regarding future parking issues during Mayors time.

Marla Miller – Wanted to stand up and say how happy she was to live in a town that cares about safety and following laws. Ms. Miller was appalled, when she visited Olympia, at the tones of legislator’s voices and the lies that were said. Ms. Miller thanked Council and Mayor Hopkins for the time and effort they have given to the town in the fight against annexation.

Kevin Moser – Was touched by the hard work and efforts of the Council, the Mayor and the town. It was a comradery building event that brought the community closer together. Mr. Moser has viewed this annexation situation with a “glass full” approach and found there was some good that came out of a very difficult situation.

BUSINESS –

Ruston-Point Defiance Business District – Joe Atkinson advised Mayor Hopkins they would not have a representative at tonight’s meeting.

Resolution 675 – Appointment of Municipal Court Prosecutor – The City has a contract for Prosecution Services. The current prosecutor requested an updated and increased contract. To determine the market rate for these services, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for prosecution services in October of 2017. That RFP did not receive adequate response, so the timeline was extended, and the RFP re-issued in November of 2017. The firm Gunderson Elliot PLLC submitted a proposal for services for all services to be provided for a flat \$3,500 per month. Gunderson Elliott PLLC currently serve as prosecutors for Lakewood, University Place, Steilacoom and Du Pont. The current City Prosecutor did not submit for the contract. The current City Prosecutor’s term will end at the end of February 2018, so entry into a new contract is needed to ensure continuity of services. The contract was drafted by the City and has been signed by Gunderson Elliot PLLC. Services would start on March 1, 2018. The total cost for this contract is \$3,500 to be paid monthly. Additional expenses may be added for expert witness fees, legal messenger services, court filing fees, copying costs in the amount of \$0.15 per page and for postage. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 675, with a second from Councilmember Hardin passed 5-0.

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

MAYOR’S TIME – One take away from the entire annexation process was the overwhelming majority of Ruston residents that vehemently wanted to remain Ruston. This was evidenced by the onslaught of emails and phone calls our state representative received from Ruston residents. The comments, written or spoken, were extremely articulate. Mayor Hopkins wanted to thank all those who attended the 27th District Town Hall meeting on Saturday, February 17, 2018. Ruston residents, once again, represented the City with grace when addressing Senator Jeannie Darneille, Representative Jake Fey and Representative Laurie Jinkins. Mayor Hopkins found consolation in hearing the opponents against the LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) plant, who followed the Ruston delegation, confront the same legislators by shouting “liars” at them. Mayor Hopkins reiterated that it was an honor to represent the City of Ruston and its residents. Mayor Hopkins found it disheartening that our representatives did not understand that they had removed the best and highest accredited Building Inspector in Pierce County to replace him with sub-standard inspection services. This will be something the City will have to manage and monitor. Mayor Hopkins has asked the City Building Official to continue proper oversight as much as possible. Mayor Hopkins will also be reaching out to Congressman Derek Kilmer, noting that the Congressman needed to weigh in on annexation from the federal level. It has been over three years since Congressman Kilmer has had a briefing by EPA and Mayor Hopkins will ask the Congressman why the project is behind schedule and what the federal government and EPA are doing to get the project cleaned up. There are several parcels at the development that are in “fine status” and the developer should be fined every day. The developer has been given grace time however, and for those folks that live around the toxic site, it is imperative the site get cleaned up as soon as possible. This project was to be completed in seven years and it has now taken over ten years with no end in sight, although the date of completed at the site is in 2020 which is a stretch. Mayor Hopkins will address the Congressman on why they opted to back the developer instead of backing the environment.

Another item, upsetting to Mayor Hopkins, was hearing that Representative Jake Fey's was swayed by the owner of the Silver Cloud to pursue the annexation bill. The owner of the Silver Cloud claimed it had cost them three million dollars in delays and Mayor Hopkins was appalled by that statement. The City had been waiting for a response from them for months only to have the permit expire and then having to wait six months for them to reapply. This has been well documented and wanted to stress that the delay was not at the City's end. At this point the City has an approved building permit and it is ready for issuance. The City is waiting for the Silver Cloud to pick up the building permit in the next days. Another item the City will not lose sight of, now that Tacoma has taken over the permitting process at the development, is open spaces. Mayor Hopkins addressed Mr. Hammond's question regarding parking concerns once Point Ruston begins charging two dollars an hour in the parking garage. The City has a code in place for parking permits for when parking becomes an issue. Mayor Hopkins announced the Ruston Police Chief will be re-retiring but will stay on until July to help with the hiring of a new Police Chief. Chief Estes is open to part time if the new Chief would have him. Mayor Hopkins noted that representatives of the Fircrest Court will be sitting in on the City's next two court sessions to evaluate the possibility of merging the two courts together.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick – In the past week the House and Senate passed the capital budget and the budget included two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the Pacific Asian Cultural Center in Ruston. Councilmember Hedrick will have discussions with the 27th District about these funds with serious concerns related to building on the OCF and contaminated soil.

Councilmember Hardin – Wanted to thank Councilmember Hedrick for all of his support in Olympia. Councilmember Hardin thanked Kevin Moser for his work on the installation of a new sound system at the Mary Joyce Community Center and thanked everyone who took part in the 27th District Town Hall meeting. Councilmember Hardin was happy to see all the participation. Councilmember Hardin was also planning on contacting Legislators regarding the Pacific Asian Cultural Center making sure they are informed when making decisions on this.

Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – With the annexation bill behind us we need to take a look at the costs incurred and what we can do to scrub our budget, making certain we do not lose sight of cost overrun.

Councilmember Huson – Wanted to reiterate what the Mayor and Council spoke to. It was apparent, when visiting Olympia and presenting our case to our representative, Representative Fey, Representative Jinkins and Senator Darneille, that we were dealing with people who have a limited amount of intelligence.

Councilmember Huson wished Councilmember Hedrick the best of luck in his discussion regarding the Pacific Asian Cultural Center. Councilmember Huson did not feel that our representatives had done their due diligence when making their decision on annexation. Councilmember Huson also noted that Point Ruston is behind on their permit fees, behind on the EPA, behind on their property taxes, behind on their construction both on the Tacoma and Ruston sides of the development. Councilmember Huson was happy with the passage of Resolution 672 because it absolves Ruston from being blamed any further for the lack of finances, the lack of intelligence and the lack of wherewithal that this developer has. As to the Asian Cultural Center, until they can figure out how to construct buildings that can Hoover above the earth, it is a nonevent as far as everyone should be concerned.

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



**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
January 2018**

Chief of Police:

During the month of January the Police Department responded to 156 calls for service in Ruston. This number does not include any calls for service that took place in the City of Tacoma where Ruston officers responded. That is compared with 107 calls for service in January, 2017.

There were 30 criminal citations issued 89 traffic infractions and 4 non-traffic infractions issued.

OF NOTE:

Officer Grubb and Officer Cox responded to Fircrest to assist with an officer involved shooting. Officer Roberts, formerly of Ruston PD had been nearly struck by a car that he had stopped. Officer Roberts fired at the car and our officer went to assist looking for the suspect. No officers were injured.

Other Personnel Issues:

Officer Leighton Cox was released from employment today due to failing to his probationary time.

Civil Service Commission:

I anticipate having a civil service list ready by this month or early March to fill the current opening.

Equipment:

No equipment issues of note.

Training:

Officer Sergei Andres is progressing well in his training and should be on his own in early March. The state had gone to a different machine to measure blood alcohol content for DUIs. Seattle PD has been providing that training free of charge so officers have been attending that training to get updated on the new technology.

Please contact me by phone (253) 761-0272 or by email anders.estes@rustonwa.org if you have any questions or concerns regarding this month's report.

Submitted By:
Anders Estes
Chief of Police



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

Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for January 2018

Tuesday, February 20th, 2018

Presented by Chief Torbet

Total Incidents: 3 (1 Fire/ Service, 2 Medical Aid)

Total Volunteer Hours: January 792.5 Hours

Total Chief Hours: January 182.5 Hours

Membership Roster (out of 25): 19 (13 FF, 6 Officers)

Recent Membership Changes: None at this time.

State of the Business:

- During the month of January, all businesses were contacted regarding annual commercial fire inspection. Five inspections were performed.
- Pre-fire incident plans were reviewed and updated on 7 commercial structures.
- Received 6 applications for volunteer fire fighters.
- Our in-house 1403 academy has been delayed two weeks to accommodate new volunteers.
- All fire tools are fully operational.
- Recurring CPR training is offered quarterly for the Ruston community. Over 195 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.
- **Fire Station tours** are provided to the public when resources are available. Please contact rustonfire@rustonwa.org for further information.

Ruston Fire Department's Master Business Objectives for December 2017

OBJECTIVE	START DATE	TARGET COMPLETION	COMPLETE %	ACTION OWNERS
Recruitment	12/2017	<i>ongoing</i>	19 of 25	WHERRETT/MILLER
CPR Training	12/2017	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	ANDERSON