

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, April 17, 2018**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:02PM City Clerk Grams called the Regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were: Jim Hedrick, Lyle Hardin, Deb Kristovich, Lynn Syler and Bradley Huson. Mayor Hopkins was excused. Councilmember Hardin moved to elect Councilmember Hedrick as Mayor Pro Tem, with a second by Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0. Councilmember Hardin moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

**MINUTES**

Councilmember Hardin moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of April 3, 2018, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

**STAFF REPORT** –

Ruston Police – Chief Estes – See attached.

Ruston Fire – Chief Torbet – See attached.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Nothing at this time.

**BUSINESS** –

**Ruston-Point Defiance Business District** – Joe Atkinson was unable to attend.

**RES 679 – Appointing Jennifer Jensen to Planning Commission Position 4**

The Ruston Planning Commission has an opening in Position No. 4 for an unexpired partial term, which expires on June 30, 2019, due to the former commissioner moving out of Ruston. Due to the loss of residency, the Council declared this seat vacant to appoint a replacement commissioner. Jennifer Jensen was selected by Mayor Hopkins to fill this opening. The current unexpired term ends on June 30, 2019. In accordance with RMC 1.07.020, the process for appointing new Planning Commissioners is an appointment by the Mayor and a confirmation by the Council. Council agreed with Mayor Hopkins appointment to complete the unexpired term ending June 30, 2019. Councilmember Hardin moved to approve Resolution 679, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

**ORD 1501 – Update Utility Taxes RMC Chapter 5.20 (1<sup>st</sup> reading)**

The City of Ruston has the authority to levy utility taxes under Washington law. Under Washington law the City may levy utility tax upon Cable TV, electricity, gas, sewer, storm water, solid waste, steam, telephone services, and water. The City first adopted its utility tax code (Chapter 5.20 RMC) was first enacted in 2010 and the chapter needs an update, including language cleanup.

Given that the City is in the process of negotiating a solid waste collection permit for collection at Point Ruston, with the City of Tacoma, the City investigated the Tacoma utility taxes. The City of Tacoma levies 8% utility tax on solid waste and sewer/storm water. While telephones, electricity and gas are limited to a 6% utility tax rate without a vote of the people, solid waste and sewer/storm water are not so limited. To bring Ruston in line with Tacoma, the City's utility tax code revisions are recommended. The revisions to Chapter 5.20 RMC include:

- Housekeeping amendments (Sections 5.20.010, 5.20.050, 5.20.060);
- Additional definitions in Section 5.20.030, including adding definitions for cable television, gross proceeds of sale, gross revenue, gas distribution business, light and power business, network telephone business, person, sewer system business, solid waste, solid waste collection business, tax payer, telecommunication company, telephone business and water distribution business;
- Adding new categories of utility taxes (solid waste and sewer/storm water) in Section 5.20.030;
- Adding new categories of deductions in Section 5.20.040;
- Updating and improving underpayment procedures in Section 5.20.080;
- Adding the following new sections:
  - Addressing misallocation of cellular service income (Section 5.20.035);
  - Creating a right of the City to audit (Section 5.20.070);
  - Providing for late payment penalties (Section 5.20.090);
  - Providing an appeals process (Section 5.20.100);
  - Establishing the right of the Clerk-Treasurer (Section 5.20.110); and
- Providing a referendum clause for portion of this ordinance as required by law.

Councilmember Hardin contacted City Attorney Jennifer Robertson requesting her attendance at the May 1, 2018 Council meeting. Both Councilmember Hardin and Councilmember Hedrick had questions regarding the need for the update to the utility tax code, the definitions and required language cleanup.

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

**MAYOR'S TIME** – Was excused.

**COUNCIL TIME** –

**Councilmember Hedrick** – Apologized to Council, especially to Councilmember Huson, for not attending the Council meeting of April 17, 2018. Councilmember Hedrick has been on Council for eleven years and had never before overlooked a meeting. Councilmember Hedrick forgot to give notification and promised it would not happen again.

CITY OF RUSTON  
Regular Council Minutes  
April 17, 2018

**Councilmember Hardin** – Nothing at this time.

**Councilmember Kristovich** – Nothing at this time.

**Councilmember Syler** – Nothing at this time.

**Councilmember Huson** – Nothing at this time.

**MEETING AJOURNED** -

At 7:15PM Councilmember Hardin moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

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Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

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Judy Grams



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

**Chief of Police:**

During the month of March the Police Department responded to 216 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 191 calls for service in March, 2017.

There were 41 cars impounded under the suspended driver impound program during March.

**OF NOTE:**

No major events noted.

**Other Personnel Issues:**

We currently have one opening and our list of candidates is down to 2. Sgt Baker is doing the initial background investigations on both.

**Civil Service Commission:**

The Civil Service Commission is currently assembling a Chief hiring list.

**Equipment:**

The new cars should arrive at any time.

**Training:**

All officers attended a 2 hour shoot/no shoot training during March and several officers attended the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course.

In May the department will be conducting range training.

Please contact me by phone (253) 761-0272 or by email [anders.estes@rustonwa.org](mailto: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 March 2018

Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Presented by Chief Torbet

**Total Incidents: 9** (0 Fire/ Service, 9 Medical Aid)

**Total Volunteer Hours: March 533 Hours Total 2009 Hours**

**Membership Roster 21 (out of 25):** (16 FF, 5 Officers)

**Recent Membership Changes:** Add Chad Wilder

### State of the Business:

- We are beginning a review of Fire Department policies and procedures. (SOP's and SOG's)
- We will again be offering home visits for fire safety.
- Our two newly added volunteer career fire fighters have added greatly to our training program.
- We have 1 more applicant in the pipeline.
- 1403 training is going well. Students have finished the classroom portion will be practicing practical application of skills. Final skills exam will be taking place at JBLM training center.
- 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](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 February 2018

OBJECTIVE	START DATE	TARGET COMPLETION	COMPLETE %	ACTION OWNERS
Recruitment	2/2018	<i>ongoing</i>	21 of 25	WHERRETT/MILLER
CPR Training	2/2018	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	ANDERSON