

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:05PM Mayor Hopkins called the Regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were: Jim Hedrick, Lyle Hardin, Lynn Syler and Bradley Huson. Deb Kristovich was excused. Following the flag salute, Mayor Hopkins called for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the Agenda, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

**MINUTES**

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of May 1, 2018, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

**STAFF REPORT** –

Ruston Police – Chief Estes – See attached.

Ruston Fire – Chief Torbet – See attached.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

**Jayne Chestnut** – Was strongly opposed to Resolution 681 and the street name change from Park Avenue to N. Park Avenue. Ms. Chestnut is currently the only resident with a mailing address on this street and had an extremely difficult time with the original change from N.54<sup>th</sup> Street to Park Avenue, in 2016, which she was told would be a simple change at the Proctor Post Office. Ms. Chestnut noted a number of issues that resulted from the change; with a Visa Card that was returned and cancelled, package deliveries that were returned, Medicare insurance that was nearly cancelled because Medicare could not confirm Ms. Chestnut's address. Ms. Chestnut has owned her home for more than twenty years and had never a problem with mail and package delivery. Ms. Chestnut urged Council not to approve Resolution 681.

**Donald Foster** – Mr. Foster was not a Ruston resident but has seen firsthand the negative impact, changing the address from N. 51<sup>st</sup> Street to Park Avenue, has had on Ms. Chestnut. The amount of time Ms. Chestnut has spent, the sleepless nights and dozens of meetings with Proctor Station has taken a toll on Ms. Chestnut. Mr. Foster urged Council not to pass Resolution 681.

**BUSINESS** –

**ORD 1503 – Updated Chapter 1.07 RMC – Planning Commission (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)**

Chapter 35A.63 RCW and the Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW) establish the planning process for cities, which includes the establishment of a Planning Commission. The City has previously created a planning commission and such commission has continued to operate and provide a valuable service to the people of Ruston and the Ruston City Council. The City adopted its current chapter on the planning commission in February of 2006 by adoption of Ordinance No. 1184. Since that time the practices and procedures of the City's planning commission have evolved and thus the chapter is need of an update to capture current practices and provide more detailed guidance to the planning commission.

Ordinance No. 1503 makes the following revisions to Chapter 1.07 RMC:

Section	Revision proposed	Purpose of Revision
1.07.010 Planning Commission Created	Changes “town” to “city”	Housekeeping
1.07.020 Members and Appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adds a residency requirement for commissioners (this has been an “unwritten rule” but now is added to the code</li> <li>• Outlines process for dealing with vacancies</li> <li>• Provides the Council the authority to remove a commission member</li> </ul>	Clarify eligibility and vacancy rules
1.07.030 Powers	The powers section was very general and did not address specific powers and duties as are outlined in state law. The amendment provides greater specificity and should provide the Commission and the public with more information as to the role and responsibilities of the Planning Commission.	Provides greater detail on the planning commission role and responsibilities
1.07.040 Chair of the commission	The code did not provide for a vice chair or explain the role of the vice chair. It also limited the chair role to one year. The current practice of the planning commission includes electing a vice chair and allowing repeated terms as chair. The amendment now conforms the code to current practice.	Adopts current practices into the code
1.07.050 Quorum (renamed “Quorum; meetings”)	The amendment adds a subsection on meetings, including how such meetings are conducted to comply with state law, to allow telephonic participation in certain circumstances and the expected regularity of meetings (at least quarterly)	Provides greater detail on the operation of planning commission meetings which was not included in the code.
*NEW* 1.07.060	Many cities provide guidance to commission members on the limitations of their role (i.e. don’t speak for the City, don’t supervise staff, etc.). This new section provides such guidance for Ruston Commissioners.	Further clarifies the role of the planning commission.

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Ordinance 1503, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

**RES 681 – Renaming Park Ave to N Park Ave.**

On July 19, 2016, the City Council adopted Resolution #635 renaming 54<sup>th</sup> Street, “Park Avenue”. This name change was thought to match the Tacoma name for this street. Recently, the City of Tacoma has requested that Ruston modify its name from Park Avenue to “North Park Avenue” as the Tacoma side contains the “North” and thus Ruston not designating this street as “North Park Avenue” has created confusion.

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The benefit to renaming Park Avenue to North Park Avenue is that it will provide consistent naming with the City of Tacoma street grid which reduces confusion in way finding, emergency response and postal/package deliveries. There currently exist only two properties which have an address fronting on Park Avenue. City staff has contacted the property owners regarding the proposed street name change. In order to allow the one resident to change her address and the City to order signage, this change should take effect on July 1, 2018. New signs with the new street name will need to be purchased and installed. Given the testimony in Public Comments and discussion, Councilmember Hedrick moved to table Resolution 681 to June 5, 2018 Council meeting, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

**CLAIMS & PAYROLL** – Nothing at this time.

**MAYOR'S TIME** – Provided an update of all new businesses opening in the City of Ruston. Lovino's now occupies the former Point Defiance Tap and Grill space, Intaglio Salon has opened at Point Ruston, the Point Ruston Market permit was submitted to the City of Tacoma and it will be interesting to follow the permit process under the ILA. The Silver Cloud is in full construction. North End on Pearl will be occupying the old Point Defiance Casino and renovations have begun. Business is booming. It was found that there were propane tanks being stored in the Point Ruston Parking Garage, which the City is working on. Ruston Police Chief Estes will be retiring and has offered to work in a part time capacity. Mayor Hopkins was in the process of interviewing new candidates. The interview process was time consuming and Mayor Hopkins recommended a review of the current pay structure in order to hire and keep great police officers. City of Fircrest will hold a Study Session to discuss the transition of the City of Ruston Court to the Fircrest Court, in September 2018, if approved. The Ruston Court Clerk's last day would be May 16, 2018 and the assistant to the Court Clerk was leaving also. Mayor Hopkins spoke to a Tacoma News Tribune article, written by Kate Martin, regarding Point Ruston and the back taxes that are currently due which is approximately \$90,000. There has been discussion to fundraise for City park equipment, parking cars, during the Taste of Tacoma, at the Ruston School parking lot. Mayor Hopkins discussed the surplus of property on N 49<sup>th</sup> Street. The City will go out for appraisal and list it for sale. There are currently two interested parties.

**COUNCIL TIME** –

**Councilmember Hedrick** – Read the Tacoma News Tribune article written by Kate Martin and was not surprised and commended Kate Martin for her research and fairness in writing the article. Councilmember Hedrick reminded everyone that the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bicycle Parade will take place and will coordinate with the Ruston Fire Department to get this annual event in place. Councilmember Hedrick recommended everyone to contact Representative Jake Fey to remind him that Ruston was part of the 27<sup>th</sup> District, which Representative represents.

**Councilmember Hardin** – Inquired about the traffic impact study and if City of Tacoma has addressed the impact to the City of Ruston. Mayor Hopkins noted the City of Ruston has been advised to step back as it is not in Ruston. More to come on this topic. Councilmember Hardin attended Lovino's Friends and Family opening on Sunday. The menu was amazing.

**Councilmember Kristovich** – Was excused.

**Councilmember Syler** – Wanted to circle back on the uncompleted Point Ruston parking garage and the propane tanks that are currently being housed there. Is there potential legal exposure? Mayor Hopkins noted the Ruston Building Official and Fire Marshall Mike Barth has the issue documented. The liability lies with City of Tacoma and Pierce County as they are primary in the ILA. Ruston officials have identified what the issues are and Fire Chief Torbet has done a good job relaying what he has observed.

**Councilmember Huson** – Ina Oppliger sent an email to Council and Mayor regarding vacation rentals in the City of Ruston. Councilmember Huson will review and make recommendations on the subject. Councilmember Huson had just gone through issues at his beach house and the pitfalls that come with vacation rentals. Councilmember Huson addressed a change in street naming and proposed the City rename a Winnifred Place. There has been constant mail delivery confusion between Winnifred Street and Winnifred Place. The problem with mail delivery is not with the City of Ruston but with the Proctor Post Office.

**MEETING AJOURNED** -

At 7:51PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

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Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

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Judy Grams





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

**Chief of Police:**

During the month of April the Police Department responded to 284 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 193 calls for service in April, 2017 and 177 in April 2016.

There were 57 cars impounded under the suspended driver impound program during April.

**OF NOTE:**

We have seen a rash of fraud cases dealing with the unauthorized use of an ATM card in one case and checks in several other cases. Officer Andres has been working on these cases and has been obtaining search warrants to get information on the suspects. The work he has done is what a seasoned detective would be doing at a larger agency and he is to be commended for taking on these cases.

Officer Andres also responded to a family dispute last Friday. One half of the dispute left prior to his arrival. It was learned that the person had a felony warrant for his arrest so Officer Andres and some Tacoma officers went looking for him. He was eventually located, but the suspect decided to run. He ended up in a large blackberry field. Tacoma PD and Ruston Fire assisted in trying to locate the suspect to no avail. Officer Grubb ended up locating him the next day and charged him with numerous crimes and booked him for his warrant.

**Other Personnel Issues:**

We currently have one opening.

**Civil Service Commission:**

We currently have 2 officers left on our civil service list. Sgt Baker is currently doing their background investigations.

**Equipment:**

The new cars are currently at Systems for Public Safety getting outfitted with emergency equipment.

**Training:**

Officer Grubb recently attended the International Latino Gang Investigator's Conference on Ontario, CA. He came back with a great deal of knowledge about gangs that are active in our area and also made contacts with other officers that can share information with us when we have gang incidents.

Officer Evans recently attended Taser instructor school and is now a certified trainer for our department.

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 April 2018

Tuesday, May, 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Presented by Chief Torbet

**Total Incidents: 7** (2 Fire/ Service, 5 Medical Aid)

**Total Volunteer Hours: April 456 Hours Total 2210**

**Membership Roster (out of 25): 20** (15 FF, 5 Officers)

**Recent Membership Changes: None**

### State of the Business:

- 90% of Ruston business inspections performed and passed.
- 1403 in house fire fighter class nearing completion. Written final May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Training focus for April was rapid attack hose lays and equipment In-service inspections.
- Pre Incident fire plans are current for all businesses.
- All fire tools are fully operational
- Recurring CPR training is offered quarterly for the Ruston community. 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 April 2018

OBJECTIVE	START DATE	TARGET COMPLETION	COMPLETE %	ACTION OWNERS
Recruitment	1/2018	<i>ongoing</i>	20 of 25	WHERRETT/MILLER
CPR Training	12/2017	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	ANDERSON