

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:01PM Mayor Hopkins called the Regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were: Jim Hedrick, Lyle Hardin and Deb Kristovich. Councilmember Syler and Councilmember Huson were 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 3-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of March 5, 2019, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police – Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire – Chief Torbet – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Nothing at this time.

BUSINESS –

Ruston – Point Defiance Business District – Nothing at this time.

RES 699 – SMP Update – City of Ruston Planner, Rob White, provided an overview of Resolution 699. The State of Washington under the Shoreline Management Act has mandated that the City of Ruston update the Ruston Shoreline Master Program. WAC 173-26-090 requires periodic review of Shoreline Master Programs (SMP) at least every eight years with Ruston's due in 2019. Over the past year, the Ruston Planning Director Rob White has worked with the Planning Commission to prepare an updated Shoreline Master Program as required by the Shoreline Management Act. Since August, Ruston's staff reviewed the list of updates provided by Ecology, (detailed in the attached *SMP Periodic Review Checklist: Analysis and Recommendation*), and also prepared the *Draft SMP Edits* document (also attached). The Planning Commission's first work session was August 1, 2018. On December 12, 2018, the Planning Commission reviewed the drafts and directed staff to make minor changes which were considered at a public hearing on January 16, 2019. Following the public hearing on the *Draft SMP Edits* document, the Planning Commission recommended approval. Staff then forwarded the SMP to Ecology for another review. Ecology had only one minor change which was made and is reflected in the version before the Council. The requirements of the Shoreline Management Act mandate that the City's proposed Shoreline Master Program must be approved by the State Department of Ecology prior to taking effect.

Before approval, the Director of the Department of Ecology must formally conclude that the proposed Shoreline Master Program, when implemented over its planning horizon (typically 20 years), will result in “no net loss of ecological functions necessary to sustain shoreline natural functions.” Thus, in order to fully implement the SMP in Ruston, approval by the Department of Ecology is a prerequisite. The review process by the Department of Ecology includes a minimum 30-day comment period. The review process at Ecology has been averaging three to six months for other jurisdictions. Therefore, rather than pass the SMP by ordinance with an uncertain effective date, staff is recommending that the Council instead adopt a resolution expressing its intent to adopt the attached SMP and directing staff to submit the SMP draft for approval by the Department of Ecology. After review and approval by Ecology, staff will bring back the SMP in final ordinance form for consideration and adoption by the City Council. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 699, with a second from Councilmember Hardin passed 3-0.

PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Payroll, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

MAYOR’S TIME – Discussed the City’s garbage service. Mayor Hopkins shared with council what happens when the current garbage truck breaks down. It is costly both in repair and manpower. When the automated garbage truck breaks down (such as hydraulic issues) Public Works has to pull out the old truck which takes two people to operate. The City is fortunate to have a Tacoma refuse retiree to assist Ray in those situations. The company which services the City’s garbage truck has a newer garbage truck for sale and Ray test drove it last Tuesday and Wednesday. Ray and the other operator had favorable comments. Mayor Hopkins also shared the importance of cleaning the current truck between garbage, yard waste and the recycle pickup. The truck must be cleaned before recycle is picked up to prevent recycle contamination. Having two trucks would allow one to be used for recycle. There has also been discussion about outsourcing garbage pickup. The time is near to discuss the direction of this utility. Mayor Hopkins will be bringing before Council a request to increase this utility with a minimum of a five dollar monthly increase or higher, depending on the size of the can. This is a result of increased costs in waste disposal and the dumping of recycle. Mayor Hopkins commended Ray on his efforts to deliver a clean and sanitary recycle. Delivery of contaminated recycle could impact the relationship and cost of dumping at the landfill. The City needs to do a better job educating our residents on the recycling process. Mayor Hopkins noted the company selling the newer garbage truck is asking \$64,000, which is almost double what was paid for the last garbage truck. The request to increase rates does not include the cost of purchasing the newer garbage truck. This equipment is not in the budget so the purchase would come from reserves. If it is not a consideration then the City may look to outsourcing this utility. In reading on this topic Mayor Hopkins was surprised to find there were many municipalities that have outsourced garbage, yard waste and recycling pickup. Mayor Hopkins understood that past Council wanted to keep this utility in-house. Mayor Hopkins will explore the costs in keeping this service versus the cost to outsource and will bring this information before council for further consideration.

The Total Landscape contract has now been extended. Labor and Industry had a reversal of their decision on wages so the contractor agreed to the City's proposal. They will begin service next week. This is great news. K Moser, Special Projects, is currently working on street lights and ordered enough to complete Commercial Street. Mayor Hopkins heard complaints related to the St Paddy's Run and will meet with staff next month to evaluate better control of the routes within the City. Staff gave advanced warning that there could be route issues. In an effort for succession planning Mayor Hopkins will be advertising for the Fire Chief and the Clerk-Treasurer positions. The plan is to transition the Clerk-Treasurer out of her role and into the Utility Clerk's role by end of the year and she will continue the management of Public Records requests, along with being available to train the new replacement. The current Utility Clerk will then move into retirement. The plan is to be proactive and not be rushed to find the best candidate for the Clerk-Treasurer position. Mayor Hopkins gave an update on Pearl Street improvements and thanked City Planner, Rob White, for resurrecting this project and all the work he is doing on other public works projects. Rob is not only the City Planner but also serves as the Mayor's right hand person on the coordination of projects. Rob applied for and the City received a grant to complete the Pearl Street project soon. With the Complete Streets grant, surveyors will be out working on the 51st street intersection and bump outs, for ADA compliance, on Highland Street.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Hardin – Requested the Mayor to ask the City Attorney to prepare a commendation for Fire Chief Don Torbet.

Councilmember Kristovich – Announced the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20, 2019. Councilmember Kristovich also invited anyone interested to volunteer in stuffing eggs and setting up for the event.

Councilmember Syler – Was excused.

Councilmember Huson – Was excused.

MEETING AJOURNED -

At 7:10PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn into Executive Session, with a second from Councilmember Hardin passed 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Potential Litigation RCW 42.30.110 (1)(1) – Estimated 15 minutes

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams