

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, October 15, 2019**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Hardin and Councilmember Huson. Councilmember Kristovich and Councilmember Syler were excused. Following the flag salute, Mayor Hopkins called for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Hedrick moved 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 October 1, 2019, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire Chief Allen – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Nothing at this time.

BUSINESS –

Ruston-Point Defiance Business District – Carole Velez – Provided an overview on the second annual North Pearl Wine Walk held Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 2PM-6PM. The Business District sold 225 presale tickets and another 75 tickets the day of the event. Fifteen merchants participated which made for a very successful and fun Wine Walk.

ORD 1522 – Electric Rate Increases (1st reading) - The City of Ruston is entitled to operate its own electrical utility to sell power to its residents and to set the rates for such electrical utility. The City is experiencing higher costs to operate the electric utility necessitating a rate increase. The City of Ruston last increased rates in 2017. The rates at that time were set at \$0.092 per Kilowatt hour, starting on April 1, 2018.

These rate increases are proposed to take place on December 1, 2019 is an increase from \$0.092 per Kilowatt hour to \$0.096 per Kilowatt hour. On December 1, 2020 that rate would increase again to \$0.098 per KWh. Additionally, under Ordinance #1522 an increase in the low-income senior rate would also occur. Currently, the rate of \$0.0662 per Kilowatt hour is charged. Under the new rates, \$0.069 per Kilowatt hour would be charged starting on December 1, 2019 and \$0.0704 starting on December 1, 2020.

Customer Class	Current KWh	Effective Dec. 1, 2019	Effective Dec. 1, 2020
Regular Rates	\$0.092	\$0.096	\$0.098
Low Income/Disabled	\$0.066	\$0.069	\$0.0704

Both regular and low-income customers will have a 4% increase in the KWh charges in 2019 and a 2% increase in 2020. In addition, the minimum charge for both regular and low-income customers would increase by \$2.50 per month in 2019 and another \$2.50 per month in 2020. These fees help pay for infrastructure and to replenish depleted reserves.

Customer Class	Current Minimum Charge	Effective Dec. 1, 2019	Effective Dec. 1, 2020
Regular Rates	\$16.50	\$19.00	\$21.50
Low Income/Disabled	\$12.50	\$15.00	\$17.50

This increase will ensure that the City recovers the increased cost of purchasing electrical power from Tacoma Power as well as recovering the costs of operating this utility system. The new rates will help ensure that the City's electrical utility will continue to be fiscally sound and have the resources needed to replace and refurbish the capital infrastructure and maintain high quality operations.

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

MAYOR'S TIME – Nothing at this time.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick - Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Hardin – Will be attending the annual AWC–RMSC meeting in Chelan the weekend of October 19, 2019 and will present a report at the Council Meeting of November 5, 2019.

Councilmember Kristovich – Was excused.

Councilmember Syler – Was excused.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time

MEETING AJOURNED -

At 7:23PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams