

**City of Ruston**

**253-759-3544**

**Est. 1906**

**5117 N Winnifred Street  
Ruston, WA 98407  
www.rustonwa.org**

**September 2019**

**Open M-F 9am-5pm**

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- City Council Meets: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 and Tuesday, October 15, 2019
- Regular Council Meetings are held at The Mary Joyce Community Center, 5219 N. Shirley St, at 7:00 PM.
- Individuals who desire special accommodations should contact the City Clerk at (253)759-3544 at least 48 business hours prior to Council Meetings.
- Planning Commission: Watch the bulletin board and the website for meetings scheduled.
- **Ruston City Hall will be closed the following holiday: Columbus Day - October 14, 2019.**

**Mayors Corner**

Last fall we were notified by the City of Tacoma of a billing discrepancy for our yard waste disposal. City of Tacoma realized they had been under charging us for yard waste disposal from July 2015 to June 2018. The rate we had been paying was \$32 per ton however the rate increased to \$145 per ton and the increased rate was never reflected on our monthly statements from the City of Tacoma. Tacoma is pursuing payment from us in the amount of \$44,255.95 for past due disposal fees. When we were alerted to the dramatic increase, we immediately quit using the City of Tacoma for yard waste disposal and started taking it to the Pierce County land fill where there is no charge for disposing of yard waste. We have argued that the City of Tacoma should bear some responsibility for their inept billing practices but so far the City of Tacoma has refused any compromise and have threatened denial of services. Since we did not factor the higher costs into our garbage rate making analysis, we are left having to deplete our reserves and restructure our rates in order to pay for the period in question.

We are also being coupled with staggering increased recycling costs and Council will be forced to move quickly on garbage/recycle rate increases. In the past we received some revenue for our recycle materials but that has changed over the last several years. We are now paying close to a third of what we pay for garbage in order to dispose of our recycle materials. Some cities have eliminated recycling all together because of the cost. We will be evaluating all our options in the coming months but think its important that you have some of the information and facts we are dealing with.

Just wanted everyone to be prepared for an inevitable increase in our garbage rates and the reasons behind the increases.

Thanks for reading – your mayor – Bruce Hopkins

**From the Police Department**

We are in the first days of autumn and we hope everyone is ready for the change in weather. As we cannot predict what the next two weather seasons will bring, we want to remind you to have at least 72 hours of food and warmth provisions in case of unforeseen circumstances. The countertop outside of the police station offices contains brochures from the Department of Emergency Management, or you can email us at [police@rustonwa.org](mailto:police@rustonwa.org) and request them. We would be glad to deliver some to you if you live in Ruston.

Please note that the Ruston Municipal Code requires all pets in public spaces to be on leash at all times. Instances of dogs charging other pets and people have occurred, and our police (or animal control) officers will enforce fines where appropriate. Repeated violations could lead to the impoundment of the animal. Please be courteous to our neighbors and restrain your pets.

Lastly, we are hoping some of our young people will play an afternoon of football with our officers at Rust Park just as we did last year. Please contact Officer Hoey ([shawn.hoey@rustonwa.org](mailto:shawn.hoey@rustonwa.org)) if you are interested.

Thank you. Nestor Bautista, Chief of Police

## **From the Fire Department**

Please help us to congratulate Chad Wilder on his promotion to Lieutenant. Chad has been an integral part of the department for a couple of years and is responsible for running our weekly training.

Halloween is upon us and there is no safer place to take kids trick-or-treating than City Hall. Both the Police and Fire Departments will be there with plenty of candy and vehicle tours. We hope to see you there.

With the cooler weather, we will all be using our heat and fireplaces. Please be sure your chimney is clean and clear of debris. This is also the season for burn bans so please watch for announcements.

Thank you. Sara Anderson-MSO Ruston Fire

## **From the Public Works Department**

Please keep an eye on trees and bushes growing around the perimeter of your property. Trim or cut branches that are growing into or overhead of sidewalk, alley and street. A notice letter will be sent out to those in violation of these encroachments.

Do not set out overfilled garbage carts. An overfilled cart is one where the lid does not lie flat on the cart when closed, because the contents of the cart are more than its capacity. Garbage that is out in the open because the lid will not close is an invitation to critters and crows that are always looking for their next meal and do not clean up after themselves. Remember, overfilled carts, set out for pick-up, are subject to an extra charge on your utility bill.

Thank you. The Public Works Department

### **MAYOR**

Bruce Hopkins 253-759-3544 [bruceh@rustonwa.org](mailto:bruceh@rustonwa.org)

### **Council**

Jim Hedrick 253-759-0944 [jimh@rustonwa.org](mailto:jimh@rustonwa.org)  
Lyle Hardin 253-759-6227 [lyleh@rustonwa.org](mailto:lyleh@rustonwa.org)  
Deb Kristovich 253-988-8121 [debk@rustonwa.org](mailto:debk@rustonwa.org)  
Lynn Syler 253-223-7459 [lsyler@rustonwa.org](mailto:lsyler@rustonwa.org)  
Bradley Huson 253-759-6391 [bradleyhuson@rustonwa.org](mailto:bradleyhuson@rustonwa.org)

**If you need assistance to attend a Council meeting please contact City Hall at 253-759-3544.**

### **Emergency - Dial 911 or Non-Emergency Dispatcher**

253-798-4721 (24 hour) Use dispatcher number to request a Ruston Police officer contact you for urgent non-emergency responses

### **City of Ruston Personnel**

Police Department	253-798-4721	Police Chief
Nestor Bautista		
City Hall	253-759-3544	
City Clerk	253-759-3544	Judy Grams
City Attorney	253-759-3544	Jennifer Robertson
Assist Fire Chief	253-330-7755	Bruce Allen
Assist Fire Chief	253-330-7755	Michael Anderson
Public Works	253-759-3544	Ray Johnson
Permit Coordinator	253-759-3544	Chrissanda Walker
Building Services Code Pros	253-759-3544	Mike Barth
<a href="http://www.rustonwa.org/services/community-development/code-enforcement">http://www.rustonwa.org/services/community-development/code-enforcement</a>		
City Planner	253-759-3544	Rob White