

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, December 3, 2019**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:01PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Hardin and Councilmember Huson. Councilmember Holland and Councilmember Syler 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 the agenda passed 3-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of November 19, 2019 and Special Council meeting of November 26, 2019, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

STAFF REPORT – Nothing at this time.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Jan Griffiths – Requested an update on City of Tacoma yard waste back billing and Point Ruston deferred taxes. Ms. Griffiths thanked the City Clerk’s office for all the help she has gotten since moving to Ruston. Ms. Griffiths really loves living in Ruston.

BUSINESS–

ORD 1526 – Budget FY2020 (1st reading) - In accordance with State law, the Mayor of the City of Ruston completed and placed on file with the City Clerk-Treasurer a proposed budget and estimate of the amount of monies required to meet the public expenses, interest, reserve funds, and expense of government of the city of Ruston for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020. The Council is required to adopt its budget ordinance prior to January 1, 2020. The City Council Budget consideration schedule for Fiscal Year 2020 is as follows:

Mayor’s Budget Message to Council:	November 19, 2019
Council discussion of revenue sources:	November 19, 2019
Public Hearing on Revenue Sources	November 26, 2019
Adoption of Tax Levy Ordinance No. 1527	November 26, 2019
Budget Discussion #1:	November 19, 2019
Budget Discussion #2:	November 26, 2019
Budget Discussion #3:	December 3, 2019
Budget Discussion #4:	December 17, 2019
Public Hearing on Proposed Budget:	December 17, 2019
Adoption of Final Annual Budget for 2020:	December 17, 2019

The City Clerk has fully complied with state law by publishing notice of the availability of the budget for public review, and publishing notice of the required public hearings on the City’s proposed tax levy and budget (December 17th).

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The Final Budget's beginning balance of \$4,616,717.66 plus taxes, license fees, service charges, fine, forfeitures and other revenues totaling \$4,742,077.01, plus inter-fund transfer(s) of \$471446.66 are combined in the Final Budget for total expenditures and ending balances amount of \$9,785,991.33. The totals of estimated revenues and appropriations for each separate fund and the aggregate totals for all such funds combined are set forth below:

Fund Name	Resources	Uses
Fund 001 – General Fund	\$ 1,942,392	\$ 1,942,392
Fund 005 – Surplus Real Estate	\$ 1,321,432	\$ 1,321,432
051-060 – Developer Tracking	\$ 28,447	\$ 28,447
Fund 101 – City Street Fund	\$ 478,400	\$ 478,400
Fund 102 – Equipment Reserve	\$ 12,250	
Fund 105 – Street Reserve	\$ 108,100	\$ 108,100
Fund 301 – Capital Construction	\$ 454,200	\$ 422,200
Fund 401 - Electric Utility	\$ 1,352,300	\$ 1,352,300
Fund 402 – Electric Utility Reserve	\$ 418,000	\$ 418,000
Fund 403 – Sewer Utility	\$ 1,891,000	\$ 1,891,000
Fund 404 – Sewer Reserve	\$ 398,000	\$ 398,000
Fund 405 – Garbage Utility	\$ 350,800	\$ 350,800
Fund 406 – Garbage Utility Reserve	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000
Fund 407 – Storm Sewer Utility	\$ 287,000	\$ 287,000
Fund 410 – Sewer Capital Projects	\$ 204,000	\$ 204,000
Fund 622 – WR Rust Playfield	\$ 46,921	\$ 46,921
Fund 623 – Electric Meter Deposits	\$ 117,800	\$ 117,800
Fund 624 – School Building	\$ 330,200	\$ 330,200
Total	\$ 9,830,242	\$ 9,785,992

ORD 1528 – Revising Solid Waste Rates – Amending Ch.6.01 RMC (2nd reading) - The City Council has the authority to establish rates for solid waste collection services. As has been explained by the Mayor at recent Council meetings, the City is running deficits for the costs of providing solid waste services and for recycle services due to the changes in market conditions. In addition, the City of Tacoma has “back-billed” Ruston over \$45,000 for yard waste disposal that was never previously charged. The City is required to pay this bill which is funded from the solid waste funds. Therefore, a rate increase to cover the cost of providing these services is necessary. If approved, these rates will take effect on January 22, 2020. RMC 6.01.260 establishes the rates for solid waste services. Ordinance #1528 proposes the following rate and service changes:

- Residential - per month - each can

Solid Waste:

20 Gallon - \$21 current - \$26 proposed

35 Gallon - \$30 current - \$35 proposed

65 Gallon - \$55 current - \$60 proposed

90 Gallon - \$80 current - \$85 proposed

Recycle:

65 Gallon - \$0 current - \$10 proposed

- Commercial – per month – each can

Solid Waste:

35 Gallon - \$30 current - \$43 proposed

65 Gallon - \$55 current - \$68 proposed

95 Gallon - \$80 current - \$93 proposed

Recycle:

65 Gallon - \$0 current - \$15 proposed

In addition to amending RMC 6.01.260 to change the rates, the City needs to repeal RMC 6.01.360 which provides an incentive for recycling. With the City now charging a modest fee for recycling, these incentives need to be repealed. **Notice Required.** State law requires that any changes in solid waste rates be mailed to each affected customer or published once per week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the collection area and that such notice shall be available to the ratepayers at least forty-five (45) days prior to the effective date of the rate change. The City will publish notice of the proposed rate changes in its official newspaper, The Tacoma Daily Index, on December 2, 2019 and on December 9, 2019, notifying the public of these proposed rate changes.

Both these publication dates will be more than forty-five (45) days prior to the rate change effective date of January 22, 2020 as required by law. In addition, the City will also publish notice of the proposed rate changes on the home page of the City's official website which will remain posted until after the new rates take effect. This Ordinance will ensure that the City's actual costs of providing solid waste services will be covered by its rates. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Ordinance 1528, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

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

MAYOR'S TIME – Mayor Hopkins provided an update on the City of Tacoma yard waste back bill and Point Ruston deferred taxes.

COUNCIL TIME –
Councilmember Hedrick - Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Hardin – Read a letter, written by Mike Lonergan, Pierce County Assessor, which addressed City of Ruston and Pierce County Assessor's Office discussions and decision related to the reduction of property taxes at the Point Ruston development. Councilmember Hardin felt the letter was confusing and self-serving.

Councilmember Holland – Was excused.

Councilmember Syler – Was excused.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time

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

MEETING AJOURNED DIRECTLY AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION -
Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams