

CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 26, 2019

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 5:00PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Holland and Councilmember Syler. Councilmember Hardin and Councilmember Huson 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 Holland, passed 3-0.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Nothing at this time.

BUSINESS –

ORD 1527 – Public Hearing on 2020 Property Tax Levy – Councilmember Hedrick moved to open public hearing on Ordinance 1527, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0. No public testimony was given. Councilmember Hedrick move to closed public hearing on Ordinance 1527, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0.

ORD 1527 – 2020 Property Tax Levy (2nd reading) – As part of the budget process, Ruston must consider a budget and the revenue sources for City operations and capital expenses. As part of that process, the City was required to hold a public hearing on this topic. The public hearing on revenue sources was scheduled for the Special Meeting on November 26, 2019. Ruston was required to adopt its property tax levy in November of each year by ordinance and transmit a certified copy of the ordinance to Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer and to the Pierce County Council no later than November 30th. A Levy Certification must also be transmitted with the Ordinance. This levy ordinance increases the property taxes levied by Ruston by the maximum amount allowed by law (one percent plus new construction, etc.). The total estimated 2020 levy amount is **\$593,076.53**, which includes additional property tax estimated from new construction (**\$42,895.19**, based on a new construction value of \$24,779,200.00) and the estimated additional revenue from the increase in administrative refunds (**\$50,076.54**). In 2019, the City collected \$496,033.07. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Ordinance 1527, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0.

ORD 1528 – Update of Solid Waste Rates (1st 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.

CLAIM – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve one Claim, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0.

CITY OF RUSTON
Regular Council Minutes
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MEETING AJOURNED -

At 5:13PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 3-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams