

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, January 7, 2019**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:01PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Hardin, Councilmember Holland, Councilmember Syler and Councilmember Huson. 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 5-0.

**MINUTES**

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of December 17, 2019. Councilmember Hardin moved to amend the minutes to add “the Silver Cloud” under Mayor’s time, page 3 of 4. With a second from Councilmember Hardin, the minutes for December 17, 2019, as amended, passed 5-0.

**STAFF REPORT** – Nothing at this time.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Nothing at this time.

**BUSINESS** –

**Oath of Office – Councilmember Hedrick and Councilmember Syler**

**RES 702-B - Adopting Amended 6-Year Local TIP 2020-2025** – City Planner, Rob White provided an overview of Resolution 702-B. On June 18, 2019 the City Council held a public hearing on the adoption of the City’s 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Following the public hearing, Council adopted the TIP by passage of Resolution No. 702. Shortly after the passage of Resolution No. 702, the City staff met with a grant representative of the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) to discuss the condition of Ruston’s transportation network and to help prioritize potential projects which would allow the city to both maintain existing streets as well as make progress in its Complete Streets efforts to improve pedestrian safety. As a result of this meeting, it was suggested by TIB that an amended 6-Year TIP should be presented to Council for approval so that its projects may be considered in the upcoming TIB grant application cycle in August. Council the adopted an amended TIP on July 16, 2019 by adoption of Resolution No. 702-A. The City has since applied to TIB for four chip and seal projects, two of which were not on the City’s adopted TIP. TIB approved funding for all four chip seal projects proposed by the City. The City needs to amend the adopted TIP to add these two chip and seal projects. These will be projects 15 and 16. TIB needs the City to send a copy of the adopted TIP with these projects included in order to commit to project funding. There is no direct fiscal impact of adopting the 2020-2025 Transportation Improvement Program. However, the projects listed on the TIP become eligible for federal and state grant funding. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 702-B, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

**RES 707 – First Amendment to Fircrest Court ILA** - In the third quarter of 2018, the City entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Fircrest for municipal court services. The initial term of that agreement expired on December 31, 2019 but has been automatically renewed per the terms of the agreement. The original contract price was \$232,000 for up to 2,500 cases, with addition cases costing the City \$90 per case. This expense is offset to some degree by Ruston receiving any/all fines or other payments made to the Court on Ruston cases. Fircrest has requested to amend the Interlocal Agreement to increase the annual cost by \$4,000. The First Amendment to the Agreement makes this change. In all other respects, the agreement is unchanged. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 707, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL** – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Claims and Payroll, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

**MAYOR’S TIME** – Mayor Hopkins extended his gratitude to Councilmember Hedrick and Councilmember Syler for their public service and their continued commitment to the City of Ruston with another four years in office. Mayor Hopkins note the City Clerk would be meeting with the Silver Cloud Public Relations Officer that week. City of Ruston received a letter from Point Ruston’s legal counsel, Bill Lynn, requesting that the City not charge Point Ruston sewer connection fees for their properties located in Ruston. The City informed Point Ruston that Ruston was willing to provide a credit towards connection fees for the costs of constructing the public portions of the sewer system inside the City’s boundaries. More to come on this challenge. For the past two years Ruston has attempted to sign on to Pierce County’s permitting system, which Pierce County claimed they could extend out to the City. The reality is Pierce County’s technology cannot extend out and the City of Ruston appreciated Pierce County’s offer. Ruston has implemented tools internally and will continue to do business as is, while exploring other systems to better service permits in the future.

**COUNCIL TIME** –

**Councilmember Hedrick** – Thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the City of Ruston for another four years.

**Councilmember Hardin** - Councilmember Hardin reviewed the budget and was reminded that the City had passed an ordinance, adopted in August 2019, which charges a tax on commercial parking in the City of Ruston and which the parking garage is a part of. The ordinance states taxes are based upon the percentage of the gross income. Mayor Hopkins and Councilmember Hardin reviewed the parking garage tax submission to find only forty percent of gross receipts were reported as commercial parking and the other sixty percent of gross receipts were reported as retail. The City believes all gross receipts should be applied to the commercial parking tax. City Attorney sent a letter to the parking garage, pointing out what we think is an error in their submission.

Councilmember Hardin wanted all Councilmembers and the City to be aware of this. Should the City receive push back, Councilmember Hardin proposed a change to the ordinance from currently charging tax based on gross income to a per parking stall fee. In researching this Councilmember had found other Cities such as Seattle was structured this way.

**Councilmember Holland** –Nothing at this time.

**Councilmember Syler** – Nothing at this time.

**Councilmember Huson** – Nothing at this time.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – At 7:35PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

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Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

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Judy Grams