

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, April 7, 2020**

**The City Council of the City of Ruston met on this date via Virtual Teleconference**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:05PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Jim Hedrick, Councilmember Lyle Hardin, Councilmember Deb Holland and Councilmember Bradley Huson. Councilmember Syler joined at 7:08PM. Following the flag salute, 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 March 3, 2020, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0. Regular Council meeting of March 17, 2020 was cancelled due to Governor Inslee's Stay Home Stay Safe Proclamation, no minutes.

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

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

**Randy Plain** – Hoped everyone was well and wanted to recognize the Ruston Fire Department for visiting the Commencement, which has a critical demographic. The Ruston Fire Department went door to door making sure everyone was doing alright and their visit was greatly appreciated. Mr. Plain hoped, that with the latest Coronavirus numbers looking encouraging, we might be able to hold our next council meeting at the Mary Joyce Community Center instead of online.

**BUSINESS** – No business at this time.

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

**MAYOR'S TIME** – The City conducted a Request for Proposal (RFP) to outsource garbage and only received one response from Murrey's Disposal. Murrey's and LeMay Disposal are owned by the same corporation. University Place Refuse declined to present a proposal. The RFP closed April 7, 2020. Murrey's Disposal proposed to purchase City of Ruston's inventory to include garbage, recycle, yard waste carts at a sum of \$8000 and the City's two garbage trucks, the automated and rear loader, for a sum of \$30,000. Murrey's rates are competitive and it appears residents with smaller cans and yard waste will pay slightly more while those with larger cans and yard waste will pay less.

Mayor Hopkins sent Murrey's proposal to all Councilmembers, via email, for their review and included a comparison of the City's current rates with Murrey's proposal. Mayor Hopkins considered the following: The City currently has only one driver with no backup. The City has one automated truck so when this truck breaks down or requires service our backup truck is not automated which requires two people to collect. The City does not have anyone to assist our operations person in this situation. As well the City trucks are not equipped to properly service commercial customers in collecting dumpsters or compactors. At this time outside entities are collecting the City's commercial customers. Councilmember Hardin questioned the current commercial contracts that Point Ruston and Commencement have with City of Tacoma and the length of these contracts. Mayor Hopkins believed a thirty-day notice would be required to terminate services and would confirm this City Attorney Robertson. Councilmember Hardin asked if the City borrowed money from the City's surplus fund for the current truck and if so had it been paid back or how much was still owed? Mayor Hopkins confirmed the money came from surplus funds and it had not been fully paid back with approximately \$25,000 still owed. Councilmember Hardin suggested the City negotiate the purchase price of the City's two trucks. Councilmember Syler questioned our current annual financial condition, wanted to know what Murrey's rate increase history had been, wanted to know if customers could select yard waste pick up on a bi-weekly or seasonal basis and asked if Murrey's would be open to hiring our current staff to pick up refuse. Mayor Hopkins responded to both Councilmember Hardin and Councilmember Syler letting them know he and Mr. Moser would address their questions and update Council. Mayor Hopkins received an email from a concerned Ruston resident regarding the Point Defiance park closure and the impact of the closure created an increase of cars speeding and parking within the City of Ruston. Mayor Hopkins wanted everyone to know Ruston Police Chief Nestor Bautista has responded to the inquiry and was monitoring this situation. Mayor Hopkins completed Census 2020 to find that his information was reporting to Tacoma instead of the City of Ruston. Mayor Hopkins reached out to the local Census 2020 representative to resolve this issue. Councilmember Huson noted he experienced the same issue and decided to forego reporting until the Census Bureau got back to him with a resolution. Councilmember Hedrick noted he experienced the same issue however completed Census 2020. During Governor Inslee's Stay Home Stay Safe Proclamation the state determined Point Ruston essential and issued an exemption so they could continue construction at the Point Ruston development site. Mayor Hopkins thanked staff for their efforts working remotely, without missing a beat, during Governor Inslee's Stay Home Stay Save Proclamation. This would not have been possible without Council's support in keeping the systems updated. Mayor Hopkins noted that our current system needs an upgrade and would bring this before Council in the coming months.

Mayor Hopkins, City Planner Rob White and City Attorney Robertson met with City of Tacoma regarding Point Ruston Development sewer connections and City of Tacoma's attempt to claim they had authority in the City of Ruston. At this meeting, the City learned the Department of Ecology proposed to introduce a General Nutrient Permit for a wastewater treatment plant which would cap the amount of affluent that can be processed. Statewide, any new construction will be required to go through this permit process to evaluate whether the treatment plant has enough capacity for growth. City of Tacoma alluded they are maxed out at the Point Ruston Development. If this is true, once Point Ruston finishes construction of Building 9 and 11 it is possible they will not be able to build anything else. Not only does this have Point Ruston implications, it could have potential implications for any redevelopment within the City of Ruston. This initiative is currently being discussed and has not yet been approved. Mayor Hopkins shared this information with Council and will provide an update as information is made available.

**COUNCIL TIME –**

**Councilmember Hedrick** – Went for a walk with his family down on the Point Ruston site and found a mound of uncovered contaminated soil and was questioning what the plan was? Mayor Hopkins discussed this with EPA who explained the mound of contaminated soil had a sealant that covers the top of the dirt and prevents it from blowing around. Mayor Hopkins stated there have been talks to place the dirt at the southside of the railroad tracks to fill in the valley from Rust Park to Baltimore Street. This could potentially support a fire station to service both Tacoma Fire and Ruston Fire departments.

**Councilmember Hardin** – Wanted to recognize both the City of Ruston Police Department and Ruston Fire Department for checking on the wellbeing of Ruston residents during this time of Coronavirus pandemic. Councilmember Hardin experienced a situation, after dark, on Pearl Street when he turned onto 51<sup>st</sup> Street. There were 8-10 teenagers coming out of the Chevron gas station parking lot. These teenagers burst out into the street in front and behind Councilmember Hardin's car, running around in the street. If anyone experiences this please contact the Ruston Police.

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

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

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

**MEETING AJOURNED** – At 7:51PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Grams