

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

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:03PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Hardin, Councilmember Syler and Councilmember Huson. Councilmember Holland was excused. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Hardin the agenda passed 4-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of June 16, 2020, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORT – Nothing at this time.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Jan Griffiths – Wanted a follow up on the parking structure at Point Ruston and if the City was receiving B&O tax. Ms. Griffiths's friend recently moved to the Point Ruston development and was told that a full day parking costs \$36 along with an additional \$10 added to that cost.

BUSINESS –

ORD 1534 – Updated Solid Waste (1st reading) - For many years, the City of Ruston has had its own solid waste utility for hauling garbage, recycling, and yard waste for the residents and businesses in Ruston. Over the past several years, operational costs have increased, and the long-term sustainability of the services was put at risk. Following a competitive RFP process, the City Council awarded a contract to Murrey's Disposal Company for hauling all solid waste, recycling, and yard waste in Ruston. This contract was awarded on June 16, 2020 by passage of Resolution No. 711. Murrey's will commence service under the contract on August 1, 2020. The City's solid waste code that is within three chapters of Title 6 (6.01, 6.03, and 6.04) has been in place for decades with few updates apart from rates. This code is based on the premise that the City is the waste hauler. In order to provide consistency with the new contract and to move these services outside of City operations, the solid waste code needed a major overhaul. This Ordinance consolidates Chapters 6.01, 6.03 and 6.04 into a new Chapter 6.01 of the Ruston Municipal Code. The new chapter also was made consistent with the Solid Waste Services Agreement that was authorized in June.

1. What remains the same. The following provisions are the same or similar to the prior code:

Description of Section	Prior RMC Section	New RMC Section
The purpose and declaration of policy language.	6.01.010	6.01.005
Violation/prohibited acts contained in the prior code (i.e. to maintain the area around containers clean and litter free, penalties for improper disposal, prohibitions on overloading or damaging containers, prohibiting hazardous waste, etc.).	6.01.050 6.01.060 6.01.070 6.01.080 6.01.085 6.01.090 6.01.140 6.01.160 6.01.210 6.01.220 6.01.230	6.01.120 6.01.130 6.01.120 6.01.130 6.01.130 6.01.130 6.01.130 6.01.055 6.01.140 6.01.150 6.01.160 6.01.170
Most of the definitions contained in the old code have been retained and new definitions from the Agreement have been added	6.01.020	6.01.020
Penalties for improper disposal or violations in this chapter are still in place but with a uniform penalty.	6.01.420	6.01.060 6.01.190
The only section contained in Chapter 6.04 regarding compliance with the State indoor clear air act has been relocated to	6.04.010	6.01.080

2. What has changed. In converting from a City utility to a contract, several portions of the new code needed revising:

Description of Section	Prior RMC Section	New RMC Section
The provisions that had the City performing an act (i.e. cleaning up spilled litter around cans and charging the customer) have been removed.	6.01.030 6.01.120 6.01.180 6.01.200 6.01.240 6.01.270 6.01.290 6.01.300	--

	6.01.310 6.01.320 6.01.330 6.01.340 6.01.350	
All sections setting rates and service levels.	6.01.250 6.01.260	6.01.090
Separate provisions or definitions for garbage, recycle, and yard waste have been consolidated where appropriate.	6.01.370 6.01.380 6.01.390 6.01.400	6.01.045 6.01.055 6.01.090
Rate changes need to follow state law notice requirements (45 days).	--	6.01.090
Removing items from recycle bins is now an infraction	--	6.01.100
Weight limits on containers have been added to the code consistent with Murrey's equipment load capacity.	--	6.01.055
The enforcement and penalties have been streamlined to allow police to write civil infraction tickets as opposed to using a hybrid civil violation procedure (as was contained in the prior code).	6.01.420	6.01.190
Chapter 6.03 which established the garbage utility for Ruston has been repealed.	6.03.010	--

Councilmember Hardin questioned curbside pickup and its definition as many resident's garbage, recycle and yard waste totes were picked up in the alley. Mayor Hopkins would contact Murrey's Disposal and send clarification to all City Councilmembers.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Claims and Payroll, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Mayor Hopkins responded to Ms. Griffiths question regarding the parking garage and the payment of B&O tax. City of Ruston is receiving B&O tax from Republic Parking and there has been ongoing discussion regarding the reporting of parking versus retail classifications. To compound the issue Point Ruston is now renting ground floor stalls to condominium owners on a monthly basis and are not reporting this revenue to the City. The City is aware and will pursue this issue. Currently, Republic Parking is reporting about \$4000 per quarter in tax revenue generation and with COVID the City expects this amount to drop.

Mayor Hopkins wanted to share that the Department of Ecology was looking to bring a Nutrient Permit Policy before legislature. During discussions with City of Tacoma about Point Ruston sewer connections, City of Tacoma alerted City of Ruston about this Nutrient Permit and noted the permit was moving along with strong support. Department of Ecology believes the Tacoma treatment plant, which Ruston and the north end were connected to, would be in excess of the nutrient levels under this new permit. If the Nutrient Permit Policy passes and Department of Ecology implements it no new development would be allowed in the north end of Tacoma and the Point Ruston Development. This permit would have significant ramifications and negative impacts for the City of Ruston and any development, including single family homes and expansion projects, who would require sewer connections. Most importantly the Nutrient Permit runs against the Growth Management Act and its efforts to increase density and reduce gas emissions. Ruston's Comprehensive Plan will also be challenged. With all the current events happening, everyone's attention on COVID and protesting, Mayor Hopkins was concerned this permit would move under the radar and not get the attention it requires. Mayor Hopkins encouraged Council to read up on this initiative and suggested the City invite legislators to speak to Council about this permit. Mayor Hopkins and staff plan to meet with the owners of the Silver Cloud Hotel on Thursday. The Silver Cloud is hoping to have their Certificate of Occupancy by December 2020. They project their building will be completed this year to avoid any issues that the Nutrient Permit will present if it passes. The Public Market was issued their Certificate of Occupancy and are holding a soft opening next weekend. At this time there are there are four business that have committed to space there.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick – Wanted to have more discussion on the Nutrient Permit. Councilmember Hedrick would like to reach out to Pierce County and developer groups to learn what their concerns were and what impacts this initiative would have on them before engaging our legislators.

Councilmember Hardin – Wanted to know if City of Tacoma has done any forecasting of costs to upgrade the existing plant. Mayor Hopkins noted that Tacoma has estimated a staggering amount which could triple sewer rates.

Councilmember Holland – Excused.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

CITY OF RUSTON
Regular Council Minutes
July 7, 2020

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:20PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams