

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Hardin, Councilmember Holland and Councilmember Syler. Councilmember Huson was not in attendance. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Hardin passed 4-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of November 3, 2020, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police – Chief Bautista – See attached

Ruston Fire – Chief Allen – See attached

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Nothing at this time.

BUSINESS –

Public Hearing - ORD 1537 – FY2021 Tax Levy – Councilmember Hedrick moved to open Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0. There was no Public Comment. Councilmember Hedrick moved to close the Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

ORD 1537 – FY2021 Tax Levy (2nd reading) - As part of the budget process, Ruston will consider a budget and the revenue sources for City operations and capital expenses. As part of that process, the City is required to hold a public hearing on this topic. The public hearing on revenue sources was currently scheduled to coincide with Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1537 on November 17, 2020. Ruston is 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. Adoption of this Ordinance should be scheduled on the agenda for after the public hearing on the revenue during the meeting on **November 17, 2020**. 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 **\$597,303.01**, which includes additional property tax estimated from new construction (**\$13,011.21**, based on a new construction value of \$6,576,700) and the estimated additional revenue from the increase in administrative refunds (**\$35,348.09**). In 2020, the City collected \$593,076.53. In Section 2, Ordinance No. 1537 provides that there is a zero increase from last year. That is due to refunds which actually created as 7.44% (or \$4,132.81) decrease. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Ordinance 1537, with a second by Councilmember Hardin passed 4-0.

Public Hearing - ORD 1538 – 2021 Budget – Councilmember Hedrick moved to open Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0. There was no Public Comment. Councilmember Hedrick moved to close the Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

ORD 1538 – 2021 Budget (2nd 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, 2021. The Council is required to adopt its budget ordinance prior to January 1, 2021.

The City Council Budget consideration schedule for Fiscal Year 2021 is as follows:

Mayor’s Budget Message to Council:	November 3, 2020
Council discussion of revenue sources:	November 3, 2020
Public Hearing on Revenue Sources	November 17, 2020
Adoption of Tax Levy Ordinance No. 1537	November 17, 2020
Public Hearing on Proposed Budget:	November 17, 2020
Budget Discussion #1:	November 3, 2020
Budget Discussion #2:	November 17, 2020
Budget Discussion #3:	December 1, 2020
Adoption of Final Annual Budget for 2020:	December 1 or 15, 2020

Prior to budget adoption, the City Clerk will have 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 (November 17th).

The Final Budget’s beginning balance is \$4,803,771.00 plus taxes, license fees, service charges, fine, forfeitures and other revenues totaling \$9,145,915.00, including inter-fund transfer(s) of \$355,000.00 are combined in the Final Budget for a total expenditures and ending balances amount of \$8,899,494.00. The totals of estimated revenues and appropriations for each separate fund and the aggregate totals for all such funds combined are set forth below:

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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

After discussion Councilmember Hedrick moved to place Ordinance 1538 to a third reading at the council meeting of December 1, 2020, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

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

MAYOR'S TIME – Mayor Hopkins discussed the budget and noted 2020 was a challenging year. From COVID-19 to the ongoing Point Ruston litigation related to sewer connections. EPA has granted Point Ruston multiple extensions on their permits. Mayor Hopkins has spoken to Ms. Cooke at EPA, sharing his disappointment and noted that Ruston would not be the home for Point Ruston's mountain of contaminated soil. Mayor Hopkins noted the two City owned surplus properties are now up for sale and the City has received multiple offers on each.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick – Thanked Chief Bautista for his efforts regarding the large number of coyotes in Ruston. Councilmember Hedrick wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Hardin – Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Holland – Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Was not in attendance.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:35PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams