

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 2, 2021**

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, Councilmember Syler and Councilmember Huson. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Hardin passed 5-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of January 19, 2021, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

STAFF REPORT – Nothing at this time.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Nothing at this time.

BUSINESS –

Pierce Transit – Presentation by City of Fife Mayor Kim Roscoe, Alexandra Mather Government Relations Administrator and Lindsey Sehmel Principal Planner with Pierce Transit – See attached.

ORD 1542 – Construction Codes Update (1st reading) – City Attorney Jennifer Robertson provided an overview. Under State law, the City is required to adopt the State Building Codes. The only flexibility that the City has with regard to these codes is to enact stricter requirements. The City is not permitted to relax any of these standards. The exception to this requirement is if a provision is deemed “optional” by the State Building Code Council. The Washington State Building Code Council has adopted a number of the 2018 editions of the various International Building Codes for to be adopted and enforced by local jurisdictions after July 1, 2020. Due to COVID-19, this deadline was extended to February 1, 2021 and again to July 1, 2021. The Governor recently rejected the extension to July 1, 2021, therefore, the deadline reverted to February 1, 2021. Therefore, these updates are being brought forward to Council for adoption as soon as possible after the Governor rejected the extension. Mike Barth, the City Building Official, has carefully reviewed all of the code changes and is recommending that the City Council adopt these codes as shown in this ordinance. All of the revisions are housekeeping updates (changing the edition dates, re-numbering or deleting appendices to track with State adopted versions, etc.) The International Property Maintenance Code which was adopted in Chapter 12.05 RMC is an optional code which the City first adopted in 2011. This Ordinance adopts the 2018 version.

RES 724 – Sewer IIA - City Attorney Jennifer Robertson provided an overview. Cities or towns owning or operating its own sewer system may contract with any other city or town for the discharge into its sewer system of sewage from all or any part or parts of such other city or town, upon such terms and conditions and for such periods of time as may be deemed reasonable. Ruston has had its own sewer system for decades and has also used Tacoma for wastewater treatment for decades. Tacoma owns and operates a POTW (publicly owned treatment works), which POTW includes the Central Treatment Plant (CTP) and the North End Treatment Plant (NETP). Ruston’s wastewater has been treated at the North End Treatment Plant since it was opened. The two cities have worked cooperatively since at least the 1960s on providing sewer services to their respective jurisdictions, including sharing sewer facilities, jointly developing sewer facilities, Ruston has wheeled Tacoma’s wastewater through its system for many years, and Tacoma has provided wastewater treatment for properties located in Ruston. Contracts relating to sewer facilities and services between Ruston and Tacoma include the following:

1. A joint use sewer agreement dated April 5, 1966, which provided for the construction and operation by Tacoma of a sanitary sewer interceptor line through Ruston, and establishing the rights, duties and obligations of Tacoma and Ruston related to the use of the interceptor line and the terms and conditions upon which Tacoma would provide Wastewater treatment and disposal services to Ruston;
2. A construction and extension agreement dated June 30, 1978 providing for construction and dedication to Ruston of a sewer extension through Ruston to convey wastewater originating from Tacoma and Ruston to a connection to the Tacoma POTW at the Ruston City limits;
3. A contract for sewage disposal commencing January 1, 1979 incorporating by reference the above-referenced 1978 construction and extension agreement and certain provision of the above-referenced 1966 joint use sewer agreement, and providing for wastewater treatment and disposal services to Ruston; and
4. An interlocal agreement dated September 17, 2008, pursuant to which the Parties agreed to jointly cooperate and participate in the Ruston Way Local Improvement District Project, pursuant to which the Parties formed LID No. 3967 providing for the relocation and construction of sanitary sewer mains of various diameters, as a joint project of both jurisdictions, to serve the Point Ruston development within the City of Tacoma and the City of Ruston.

The term of the 1978 agreement expired several years ago but the parties agreed to continue operating under the 1978 agreement until a new agreement was in place. The parties have now negotiated the new agreement to replace the 1978 agreement and it is ready for approval. This new agreement takes effect on March 1, 2021 and is a forty-year agreement which will expire on February 28, 2041. The City will continue to pay Tacoma for wastewater treatment, including any rates increases adopted by the Tacoma City Council. Tacoma is in the process of updating its

rates which will include consideration of the wheeling of Tacoma's wastewater through Ruston. Councilmember Hedrick move to approve Resolution 724, 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 noted with the passage of the Sewer ILA and discussion of a Stormwater ILA it would formalize the wastewater process between City of Ruston and City of Tacoma. There has been discussion regarding Baltimore Street and City of Tacoma tying into Ruston's stormwater for many years. As discussions continue it will become interesting because of the Clean Water claim that was made. City of Tacoma staff have been pleasant and very cooperative in working with Ruston to get these items resolved. It has been a shift in how Ruston has been received in the past. Mayor Hopkins had the pleasure of touring the Silver Cloud Hotel and noted the hotel would be one of the finest hotels in the state. The hotel and its amenities far exceeded Mayor Hopkins expectations. The hotel has been accepting reservations for stays starting July 15, 2021. City of Ruston will finally realize revenue from this project. Silver Cloud Hotel will be planning a VIP tour in the next several months. Mayor Hopkins will send advance notice inviting Councilmembers to attend

Councilmember Hedrick – Had a question related to an email from City of Tacoma and Tacoma's invoice to Point Ruston on the ILA. Councilmember Hedrick has always thought of February as the month that Ruston stayed up into the early hours of the morning negotiating a City of Ruston and City of Tacoma ILA in a meeting with Point Ruston and City of Tacoma at Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier's office. In the ILA, the City was to receive one-third of \$44,000. Was this subject to the ILA? Mayor Hopkins confirmed this was what was negotiated as part of the ILA, and that the City was now getting around to collecting these funds. Mayor Hopkins clarified that there have been permits issued and the City should have been receiving thirty percent of those permits from inception. City of Tacoma will be pursuing these funds from Point Ruston. The hope will be that Tacoma will invoice and Point Ruston will pay, per the ILA.

Councilmember Hardin – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Holland – Was one of the lucky few that joined the Silver Cloud Hotel tour and was beyond impressed with the hotel and its amenities. Councilmember Holland noted it was worth the wait and was excited that the hotel will open soon. Councilmember Holland will be looking forward to the upcoming VIP tour.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:42PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams

Ruston City Council

February 2, 2021



2021 Financial Update

A transit-rich community is a thriving community

- Agency passed a continuing resolution at Dec. at board meeting
- 85% of agency's budget dependent on sales tax
- Ridership and revenue trends through pandemic present new challenges and expose transit as an equity issue

Bus Rapid Transit System Update

Bus Rapid Transit is Expanding in Pierce County

- Agency has funded a system-expansion study in 2021 budget
- Estimated to be complete Summer 2021
- Will inform five-route build out and electrification needs

Bus Stop Balancing Project

Customer service through efficiency and safety

- Increases safety to customers throughout the system
- Helps the system through speed reliability and efficiency
- Public outreach will begin in February; Stops removed with September 2021 service change.

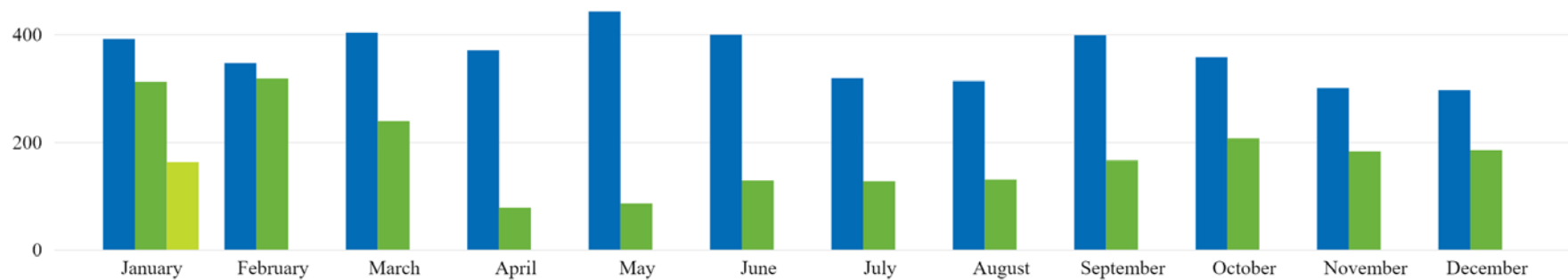
2019/20 Ridership Activity – City of Ruston

Year over year average weekday bus stop activity

Activity: Boardings + Alightings

All PT Ruston [Click to clear all filters](#)

● AVG Weekday Activity for 2019 ● AVG Weekday Activity for 2020 ● AVG Weekday Activity for 2021



- Two Routes 10, 11
- 3 Stops within city limits.

341	361	366	367	371	361	
AVG Monday Activity	AVG Tuesday Activity	AVG Wednesday Activity	AVG Thursday Activity	AVG Friday Activity	AVG Weekday Activity 2...	
184	176	183	176	176	179	-50%
AVG Monday Activity	AVG Tuesday Activity	AVG Wednesday Activity	AVG Thursday Activity	AVG Friday Activity	AVG Weekday Activity 2...	YOY 19-20 % Activity
186	166	204	155	118	162.63	-9%
AVG Monday Activity	AVG Tuesday Activity	AVG Wednesday Activity	AVG Thursday Activity	AVG Friday Activity	AVG Weekday Activity 2...	YOY 20-21 % Activity

March Service Change

- Recovering service to 95% of Pre-Covid service hours.
- Focused on recovering Sunday Service Hours and trunk routes
- Route frequency improvements in Ruston:
 - Route 10 has six additional trips added for Sundays. 60 minute frequency returns for most of the day.
 - No additional trips on Route 11 for Sundays.



**Pierce
Transit**

Thank you!

Questions?

524

Pierce Transit

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