

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:02PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Hardin, Councilmember Holland, Councilmember Syler. Councilmember Huson was excused. 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 February 2, 2021, 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** –

**Jan Griffith** – Had a question regarding an incident that happened with the police officer in Tacoma. Do our officers wear bodycams or are there cameras in the police cars to help the officers against accusations that come out after this type of incident? Chief Bautista responded that Ruston Police do not wear body cameras nor have in-car cameras. Chief Bautista is a proponent of these devices and explained these devices were cost prohibited, not just in the acquisition of this equipment, but in the storage and administrative costs related to public disclosure requests. City of Tacoma now has body cameras and have employed six disclosure coordinators to manage their public records requests. Chief Bautista noted that if the current political environment continues there may be a call for agencies to demand that the state pay for this equipment. This would be the only assistance the City would have in obtaining this type of technology.

**BUSINESS** –

**ORD 1542 – Construction Codes Update (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)** – 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. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Ordinance 1542, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

**ORD 1543 – Sewer Rates (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** - Under State law, the City is authorized to provide sanitary sewer services to properties within the City. As a sanitary sewer utility provider, the City may establish charges for sanitary sewer service. The City of Tacoma accepts the flow from Ruston sanitary sewers for the purpose of sewage treatment. The City of Ruston pays Tacoma for this service. The last time the City of Ruston changed its rates was in May of 2017. Since that time, the City of Tacoma has instituted several sewer rate increases. This ordinance does not change the fixed rate for Ruston customers, which remain unchanged since 2017, but it does bring the flow charges equal to what Tacoma charges its customers for flow charges for both 2021 and 2022. As is the City’s practice for utilities, rate increases are passed through to its ratepayers to ensure continued financial viability of the sanitary sewer utility. The rate increases are outlined below, including a look back at 2016 rates.

Rate Type	Since 2017	Increase	2021	Increase	2022
Fixed Rate - RES	\$ 67.67	\$ -0-	\$ 67.67	\$ -0-	\$ 67.67
Flow Charge - RES	\$ 4.73	\$ 0.42	\$ 5.15	\$ 0.08	\$ 5.23
Fixed Rate - COM - Categorized	\$ 55.60	\$ -0-	\$ 55.60	\$ -0-	\$ 55.60
Flow Charge - COM by Category					
1	\$ 6.31	\$ 0.93	\$ 7.24	\$ 0.22	\$ 7.46
2	\$ 6.68	\$ 0.85	\$ 7.53	\$ 0.23	\$ 7.76
3	\$ 8.41	\$ 1.07	\$ 9.48	\$ 0.29	\$ 9.77
4	\$ 10.33	\$ 0.80	\$ 11.13	\$ 0.34	\$ 11.47
5	\$ 10.33	\$ 0.98	\$ 11.31	\$ 0.34	\$ 11.65
6	\$ 12.27	\$ 0.69	\$ 12.96	\$ 0.39	\$ 13.35
7	\$ 13.93	\$ 0.72	\$ 14.65	\$ 0.44	\$ 15.09
8	\$ 14.42	\$ 0.73	\$ 15.15	\$ 0.46	\$ 15.61
Fixed Rate - COM - Not Categorized	\$ 66.96	\$ -0-	\$ 66.96	\$ -0-	\$ 66.96
Flow Charge - COM - Not Categorized	\$ 4.73	\$ 0.42	\$ 5.15	\$ 0.08	\$ 5.23

The City Council will hold a Public Hearing on this Ordinance during Second Reading on March 2, 2021. By increasing the sanitary sewer flow rates to be the same as Tacoma charges its sanitary sewer customers for flow for 2021 and 2022, the City will ensure that its sanitary sewer utility is self-sustaining and that these increased costs are born by the ratepayers rather than the general public.

**CLAIMS** – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Claims, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

**MAYOR’S TIME** – Mayor Hopkins wanted to express appreciation to city staff who worked on the transfer of the city’s computer system onto a new server. The transfer should be completed by end of the week. The next project will be to update the Ruston website making the navigation process through the website easier and far more user friendly. Mayor Hopkins discussed the plow or not to plow snow situation this past snowfall. The City does not own a designated snowplow but has equipped one of the City’s trucks with a plow attachment. The intent was to use the plow attachment for emergencies when public safety equipment needed to get to a resident. The Police and Fire departments were in position, and a protocol was in place to handle emergencies in a bad snowfall. Mayor Hopkins thanked Ray Johnson, Maintenance, for being on call in supporting the Police and Fire departments, who were ready for any type of emergency, and for their work in blocking off city streets. If the snow becomes more of an issue in the years to come and the general public would like a designated snowplow the City could look to acquiring one with the understanding there would be significant cost.

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

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

**Councilmember Holland** – Nothing at this time

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

**Councilmember Huson** – Was excused.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – At 7:26PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 4-0.

ATTEST:

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

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



**Chief's Report  
Ruston Police Department  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

**Chief of Police:**

The Department logged 115 calls for service in the last reporting period as compared to 139 during the same time in 2020. We expect this number to rise as the weather improves.

- In anticipation of car clubs and street racer activities, all Pierce County police chiefs and the sheriff held a meeting to address the problem. All were in agreement that this problem affects all jurisdictions in the county and all have agreed to send officers for task force emphasis patrols in the future.
- Several officers will observe and engage with them on nights the regional intelligence group indicates planned activities. There is a substantial safety concern of racers "swarming" an officer during traffic stops (as seen in Tacoma last month).
- The Sheriff opened bookings at the jail for people engaging in racing activities.
- Ruston officers participated in two task force events last month.
- The Department will also deploy a second officer in town on Friday evenings and Saturdays when possible to cover the primary shift officer.
- Officers have been directed to focus their attention on nuisance-making equipment violations (i.e., modified exhaust), and other non-allowable modifications send a message that visitors with these vehicles that it will cost them additional time and money to visit Ruston.
- I will be meeting with the new director of Point Defiance this week to survey the areas around Yacht Club Road and the multi-purpose parking lots at the marina to design features to discourage car club visitors.

- The Department applied for and was awarded a federal certification which will allow the Department to apply for federal grants in the future (assuming continuing funding).

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

## **Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for January 2021**

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

**Total Incidents: 8** (3 Fire/ Service, 5 Medical Aid)

**Total Volunteer Hours: Total 1224 Hours, January 1224 Hours**

**Membership Roster 22 (out of 25):** (18 FF, 4 Officers)

### **State of the Business:**

- All fire tools are fully operational.
- The regional Fire Academy is starting March 1.
- We have 5 recruits signed up for the academy.

### **Ruston Fire Department's Master Business Objectives for January 2021**

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>TARGET COMPLETION</b>	<b>COMPLETE</b>	<b>ACTION OWNERS</b>
Recruitment	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	22 of 25	B. Allen
CPR Training	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	S. Anderson
Fire Training	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	M. Anderson