

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 18, 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 Kristovich, Councilmember Syler and Councilmember Huson. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda with an amendment to add Ruston Police and Ruston Fire staff reports and change Resolution number 723 to Resolution 726. With a second from Councilmember Hardin, the agenda as amended, passed 5-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of May 4, 2021, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police – Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire – Chief Allen – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Nothing at this time.

BUSINESS –

RES 726 – 53rd Street Project – TIB Award – This project is the 53rd Street Improvement Project from Pearl Street to Bennett Street. The City Engineer is recommending the Council award the contract to Active Construction, Inc. as the lowest responsible bidder.

Public Bidding Process. In accordance with State law, any public works project over \$300,000 must be awarded via the full competitive bidding process which requires advertising for bids or a “call for bids.” The Call for Bids published in the Tacoma Daily Index March 25, 2021. In addition, the solicitation was sent out via email to a large group list that was obtained from MRSC. The bid call was open for approximately 3 weeks from March 24, 2021 to April 15, 2021. The bid opening took place at 2:00 PM on April 15, 2021 at Ruston City Hall. The City received four bids as follows:

	Contractor	Total
1	Norvind Company	\$621,490.00
2	Northwest Cascade, Inc.	\$641,641.00
3	Tucci & Sons, Inc.	\$594,114.45
4	Active Construction, Inc.	\$577,577.00

The City Engineer's Office recommends awarding the Project Contract to the lowest responsible bidder which was Active Construction. If the Council authorizes this Contract award at the May 18, 2021 Council Meeting, then construction is anticipated to begin in this summer and is expected to be substantially complete on or before November 1, 2021. The public works contract is attached. The documents that attach to the public works contract consist of over 260 pages and are not attached but will be available for your review at the Council meeting. If Council would like to view these additional pages prior to that time, they can be emailed to you. If you would like to receive the plans electronically, please contact Ken Bartenhagen of the City Engineer's Office and he will make those available. The initial grant from TIB is funding this project up to \$644,504.00. The City's required match is up to \$46,073.00. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 726, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

ORD 1546 – Street Racing Code (1st reading) – Ruston Police Chief Nestor Bautista provided an overview. Since the start of the pandemic, certain streets of the City of Ruston have become favorite sites for young persons to congregate in large numbers and, together with their vehicles, engage in an activity known as “racing”. This is an issue both across Pierce County and the greater region. The racing consists of driving at high speeds on certain streets and may include driving unsafely, purposely squealing tires, and other activities which disrupt and create danger for pedestrians and other vehicles. This creates a public safety hazard as well as a disturbance due to the noise. These activities have served to deprive the residents along and near these streets of the peaceful enjoyment of their property since the racing activities often occurs in the nighttime hours when the property owners are trying to sleep. These activities have also made it unsafe for residents who may walk, bike, or drive in the area. The County is working on an emphasis patrol to stop these dangerous and disturbing activities. Ruston is participating in these activities. In addition, cities in Pierce County are encouraged to adopt local ordinance to prohibit these activities. The final section of the ordinance creates new local violations for certain state laws when they occur in the “no racing” zones. Since these are local violations, the Council will need to adopt the fines for these activities. When this ordinance is brought back for second reading and action, it will be accompanied by a resolution which sets forth the applicable fines. In discussion, Councilmember Hardin had vehicle impound concerns, Councilmember Hedrick commented on the volatile nature of car clubs and asked if our Ruston Police Department was equipped to enforce car racing and noise. Councilmember Syler would support adding police officers if necessary.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Claims of May 4, 2021 and Payroll of May 5, 2021, May 20, 2021, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Announced the City has hired Associate Planner, Ian Williams, who will join the City on June 1, 2021. Mr. Williams comes to us from the City of Covington and brings great work experience. Mr. Williams will share duties with our current City Planner and Ian will bring his Code Enforcement skills to the City with less reliance on current City consultants. Mayor Hopkins noted that National Night Out, August 3, 2021, will return this year. Governor Inslee announced that the state is moving toward a statewide reopening June 30, 2021. Mayor Hopkins was pleased to see things moving in the right direction. The Silver Cloud will hold a soft opening in June 2021 and will accept guests in July 2021. City of Ruston was named in a lawsuit against Point Ruston by a sub-contractor who worked on the parking garage. The City has hired a litigation attorney who is working in getting the City dismissed from this lawsuit. The Point Ruston development continues to be mired in lawsuits. EPA informed Mayor Hopkins that Loren Cohen had secured funding to remove all lawsuits against Point Ruston. City Attorney Jennifer Robertson has joined a new law firm, Inslee Best, and will continue to provide legal services to the City of Ruston.

Councilmember Hedrick – Thanked Mayor Hopkins for sharing EPA's information regarding Point Ruston. Councilmember Hedrick would like an update from EPA on Point Ruston's timeline related to the contaminated dirt pile and an update from City Planner Rob White on where Tacoma was with Point Ruston permitting. Councilmember Hedrick was pleased that the state was moving toward a reopen date of June 30, 2021 and hoped the City would consider the return of the annual 4th of July Bicycle Parade.

Councilmember Hardin – Commended Mayor Hopkins in the hiring of the new Associate Planner who will be active in Code Enforcement throughout the City. Councilmember Hardin thanked Mayor Hopkins for sharing information regarding the American Rescue Plan Act funds and guidance about receiving and using these funds.

Councilmember Holland – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

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Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:46PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams