

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, June 15, 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 a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

**MINUTES**

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of June 1, 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** –

**John Linn** – Mr. Linn congratulated the City Council, Mayor Hopkins, Police Chief Bautista and City Attorney Robertson for the fantastic work they had done in passing the Street Racing code into law. Mr. Linn suggested this information be included in the newsletter which goes out along with the utility bill, so that all residents are made aware of this new law.

**Jan Griffiths** – Was interested in knowing why the road improvement between Rust Way and Winnifred did not continue all the way to Pearl Street.

**BUSINESS** –

**Public Hearing – 6 Year TIP** – Councilmember Hedrick moved to open Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0. There was no Public Comment. Councilmember Hedrick moved to close Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

**RES 729 – 6 Year TIP** - State law mandates all local jurisdictions to annually adopt and submit to the state a six-year program of transportation improvements, known as the Local TIP. To be eligible to seek federal and state funding, the City must comply with state law and adopt an annual TIP. The six-year Local TIP serves as a general work plan for the development of local transportation systems and, as such, represents an important planning component under the State's Growth Management Act.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) use Local TIPs as a tool for coordinating the transportation programs of local jurisdictions with those of regional agencies. PSRC monitors Local TIPs for projects of regional significance (to be modeled for air quality conformity) and projects supported by federal funds. These projects are incorporated into the Regional TIP, which is then forwarded for inclusion in the State TIP. In most instances, projects must be included on a Local TIP to be eligible for state and federal grant programs. Local TIPs need not be revenue constrained; jurisdictions can include projects they would choose to implement within the timeframe if funding were available. The updated TIP reflects any changes since last June as well as the movement of projects which have been funded. The City issued a SEPA Determination of Non-Significance on May 26, 2021, and the comment period has now passed. The resolution adopting the 6-Year TIP may be approved following the public hearing. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 729, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

**RES 730 – ARPA Funds Acceptance** – On March 11 President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 into law. This legislation allocated \$1.9 trillion in aid across a variety of programs intended to address the impacts of COVID-19. Over 70 percent of the ARPA funding went towards direct individual economic impact payments (\$1,400 one-time checks for individuals with less than \$75,000 in income), providing enhanced unemployment insurance (\$300 per week in additional unemployment payments), expansion of business and individual tax credit programs, and direct funding for education and pension systems. In addition, there was substantial funding for economic development and small business relief (\$40 billion), relief for children and families (\$15 billion), housing and utility assistance (\$47 billion), food assistance programs (\$8 billion), disaster relief (\$50 billion), and state and local government fiscal aid (\$350 billion). ARPA is not the only significant piece of legislation that has passed in the past several months supporting human services programs, economic recovery, small business support, and public health which the City of Ruston, its residents, small businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations can potentially access for relief funding. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (\$323 billion), Washington House Bill 1368 (\$772 million), and the 2021-2023 Washington State Budget (\$3.9 billion) all have additional funding available to address economic recovery, human services, and COVID-19 relief needs. The amounts noted in parenthesis above are the funds potentially available for relief funding. ARPA established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF/CLFRF, or Fiscal Recovery Funds) to deliver \$350 billion to eligible states, metropolitan cities, counties, Tribal governments, and non-entitlement units of local government to bolster their response to the COVID-19 emergency and its economic impacts. Some cities will receive funds directly from the U.S. Treasury, while smaller cities and towns, like Ruston, (called non-entitlement units (NEUs)) will not receive their funds directly from the U.S. Treasury. Instead, Treasury will send these funds to the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) for distribution.

Award amounts are based on the population of the non-entitlement unit. Ruston's award is based on its population and will provide a total of \$235,880 in two distributions (called "tranches") of \$117,940. The first distribution will occur this year with the second occurring in 2022. If the City provides its acceptance of the funds by June 18<sup>th</sup>, the funds should transfer on June 27<sup>th</sup>. The funding has a broad range of eligible uses. Per the Treasury Department's Interim Final Rule (IFR) – the federal guidance governing this program – the legislative intent of the funds is to "provide support to state, local, and tribal governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain COVID-19 on their communities, residents and businesses."

The guidance identifies the following broad categories as eligible uses of funds:

1. Responding to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
2. Providing premium pay to eligible essential workers employed by local governments, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work.
3. For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency, factoring in growth.
4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

The Treasury Department interprets the requirements laid out in ARPA that eligible costs "be incurred" by December 31, 2024, to require only that recipients have obligated the funds by December 31, 2024. Funds may be spent to cover such obligations through December 31, 2026. Per the IFR, the City of Ruston will be required to provide annual monitoring reports (due on October 31<sup>st</sup>) through the end of 2026 to the Treasury Department regarding the use of these funds. This funding is the most fungible due to the broad allowable uses, therefore, to the extent the City wants to fund programs or projects that may be eligible for other COVID-19-related grant funding, it may be good to consider applying for the more restrictive grants for eligible expenses and using the ARPA funds for expenses that are not eligible for the other categories of grants. The City has taken all steps necessary to be eligible to obtain these distributions with the last action being the City sending a form indicating its acceptance of the funds. That is what tonight's action asks the Council to authorize. Accepting the funds does not allocate the funds and does not decide how they will be spent. The action simply allows the City to receive and hold the funding until Council directs the allocation. At a later time, the City Council will need to adopt a budget amendment allocating these funds. By formally accepting the funds, the City will receive \$235,880 in two tranches of \$117,940.

The first distribution will occur this summer with the second occurring in mid-2022. Allocation of these funds will occur at a later date via budget amendment. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 730, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0

**RES 731 – State Auditor Data Sharing ILA** – Cities may make agreements with other governmental agencies under the Interlocal Cooperation Act. The City regularly works in cooperation with the State Auditor’s Office for routine audits. The Data Sharing Agreement provides procedures and safeguards for the transfer of confidential information between the City and the Auditor’s Office. This new agreement takes effect after execution and expires on June 6, 2024. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 731, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

**CLAIMS** – Councilmember Hedrick move to pass Claims for June 8, 2021, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

**MAYOR’S TIME** – Mayor Hopkins reached out to EPA with an invitation to join a Council meeting. EPA responded that they could not attend in person meetings, and they were unable to provide a timeframe for when this would be lifted. Mayor Hopkins planned to contact EPA at the end of June for any updates. Mayor Hopkins hoped to hold in person public meetings in July. At our last Council meeting Mayor Hopkins announced the hiring of Associate Planner Ian Williams and with regret announced Mr. Williams resignation. Mr. Williams gave the City nine days of work and noted that he did not believe it was a good fit for his career. Mayor Hopkins and City Planner have tried to reach Mr. Williams to identify the basis for his decision. One item glaring is that City Hall lacks modernization. Mayor Hopkins presented to Council the opportunity to move City Hall from its current location to the SW corner of the basement at the Ruston School building. Kevin Moser is evaluating the cost for ADA access in the building. As it stands today, City Hall and the School Building are not ADA accessible. Moving City Hall to this location will present a more modern surrounding based on the improvements made by a previous tenant. This will also provide staff actual offices. Mayor Hopkins was looking for Council feedback. Mayor Hopkins noted that the sale of the 49<sup>th</sup> Street property should close within the next two or three weeks. Mayor Hopkins addressed Ms. Griffiths public comment regarding road improvement from Rust Way and Winnifred. The City was awarded a grant and the TIB representative, along with the Ruston City Planner and Engineer, identified the areas in need of repair.

**Councilmember Hedrick** – Wanted to invite everyone to the BEST event of the year – Ruston’s Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bicycle Parade.

**Councilmember Hardin** – Looked forward to a robust public discussion once Kevin Moser makes his assessment on moving City Hall to the Ruston School building.

**Councilmember Kristovich** – Was excited that things were opening up and that the City of Ruston can once again hold the great 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bicycle Parade.

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

**Councilmember Huson** – Was pleased the City was looking at the option of moving City Hall to the Ruston School building.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – At 7:37PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

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Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

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Judy Grams



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

**Chief of Police:**

During the 28 days prior to today, the Police Department logged 89 calls for service. Twenty-four were traffic stops.

- Since the passage of the SOAR municipal code, the Department has been working with the City Planner to make sure the new warning signs are in compliance with Ruston's standard and with Mr. Johnson to get them installed. We are also designing a new city infraction form for submission to the printer, and once they are, we will conduct training for the officers regarding the new law. Our goal is to commence enforcement within the next 3 weeks.
- Two part-time officers, both previously retired from other agencies, have resigned in the last month. One retired deputy-sheriff from Michigan has been hired, with two others in background.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

## Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for May 2021

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

**Total Incidents: 9** (2 Fire/ Service, 7 Medical Aid)

**Total Volunteer Hours: Total 5302 Hours, April 785 Hours**

**Membership Roster 17 (out of 25):** (12 FF, 5 Officers)

### State of the Business:

- All fire tools are fully operational.
- Our 4 recruits will be starting their finals in the Fire Fighter I starting next week.
- We have no one in the EMT program this semester.
- We have our Highrise plan in place for the Silve Cloud Hotel.
- We promoted Scott Watkins to Lieutenant to help with training.

### Ruston Fire Department's Master Business Objectives for May 2021

OBJECTIVE	START DATE	TARGET COMPLETION	COMPLETE	ACTION OWNERS
Recruitment	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	17 of 25	B. Allen
CPR Training	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	S. Anderson
Fire Training	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	M. Anderson