

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, October 19, 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 Kristovich and Councilmember Huson. Councilmember Hardin and Councilmember Syler joined during General Comments. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of October 5, 2021, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 3-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police – Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire – Chief Allen – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Julie Anderson – Pierce County Auditor – The State Legislature passed a bill dictating very strict ballot drop box site requirements for every county in Washington State. Ms. Anderson asked Ruston to support the installation of a ballot box, within the city, for the federal election in 2022. This would bring Pierce County compliant with all election laws. Ms. Anderson looked forward to talking with councilmembers and Mayor at a later date.

Randy Plain – Wanted to know about the vaccine mandates for government employees and how it impacted volunteers and full-time employees. Mr. Plain asked when the City would return to public meetings versus virtual meetings.

Gina Bruce – Received the general election ballot and wanted to know more about the two councilmembers that are running. Ms. Bruce could not find any information about them.

BUSINESS –

RES 773 – The City has created a Hearing Examiner position and adopted a chapter in the Ruston Municipal Code establishing the Office of the Hearing Examiner. On February 17, 2015 the Council adopted Resolution No. 598 which confirmed Mayor Hopkins' appointment of Stephen K. Causseaux, Jr. of the firm McCarthy & Causseaux, P.S. as the City's Hearing Examiner.

Mr. Causseaux has served as Ruston's hearing examiner ever since. In August of this year, Mr. Causseaux informed the City that he would be retiring at the end of 2021 and suggested that the City hire Mr. Stephen R. Shelton as his replacement. In addition to serving as the Ruston Municipal Judge as well as Judge Pro Tem in the past, Mr. Shelton has served as the Pro Tem Examiner to Mr. Causseaux for multiple jurisdictions and is currently serving as the deputy hearing examiner for Pierce County. Mayor Hopkins has determined that Mr. Shelton is qualified and should be appointed as the City of Ruston Hearing Examiner. Councilmember Hedrick move to approve Resolution 773, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick move to approve Payroll of October 20, 2021, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – The City is working to move City Hall over to the school building in the space previously occupied by a former tenant. The tenant had completed significant infrastructure upgrades and CAT five cable. The City continues to evaluate the ADA work that will need to be done at the Ruston School. Mayor Hopkins noted there were residents who approached the City asking to remove a tree in the City's right of way. The residents paid for the removal and cleanup. This was not a City project paid with City funds. The removal of the tree aligns with the City's long-term goal to place a community garden at that property. Mayor Hopkins re-iterated the City hired a new Associate Planner to support the permitting processes for the City of Ruston and Charles McKenna has already made great impact.

Councilmember Hedrick – Was reminded of the recent shooting that occur in the City when walking by a memorial setup for the victim. Councilmember Hedrick noted violent crime was on the rise, and with police reforms and legalizing narcotics, it has encroached into our fair community. Councilmember Hedrick would like to work together to find solutions that would keep our community safe and a place where we want to go and deserve to be.

Councilmember Hardin – Provided contact information for the new Associate Planner, Charles McKenna. Email address at charlesm@rustonwa.org and telephone number at 253-759-3544 x105.

Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

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Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:30PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams



**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
Tuesday, October 19, 2021**

Chief of Police:

During the previous 28 days the Police Department logged 137 calls for service, with a significant amount of SOAR enforcement in the month of September.

Chief Bautista had a meet-and-greet with the owner and management team of Serpanok Construction. Topics discussed were the safety of the parking garage and illegal activities within it, and the prevention of access to race-modified cars and car clubs. It was a very good meeting and the Department believes they will be great partners.

Officer Sergei Andres has resigned and accepted a job with the Tucson Police Department. Part-time officer Wayne Lake is being considered for the vacancy, but the Department is conducting a minor secondary background check and consulting with the Police Commission to ensure all administrative requirements are met. It is anticipated that another Ruston officer will be hired by the Tacoma Police Department before the holidays.

At this point the Department believes it will have difficulty filling any further police officer vacancies.

A week ago Saturday, a homicide occurred at the 5300 block of N. Yacht Club Road. The Pierce County Sheriff's Office is the lead investigative agency since the Department has a specialized services agreement with them for major investigations.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for September 2021

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

Total Incidents August: 12 (3 Fire/ Service, 9 Medical Aid)

September 10 (2 Fire/Service, 8 Medical Aid)

Volunteer Hours: August 980 Hours, September 1029 Hours, YTD 9641 Hours

Membership Roster (19 out of 25): (15 Members, 4 Officers)

State of the Business:

- We are trying something new this year, we are doing an in-house Fire Fighter I class, we have 4 members working their way through this.
- We have 4 members also doing the EMT class.
- Engine 339 is in for its annual Pump Certification.
- All fire tools are fully operational.

Ruston Fire Department's Master Business Objectives for September 2021

OBJECTIVE	START DATE	TARGET COMPLETION	COMPLETE	ACTION OWNERS
Recruitment	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	19 of 25	B. Allen
CPR Training	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	S. Anderson
Fire Training	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	M. Anderson