

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 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 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 October 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 –

ORD 1552 – Adoption of Property Tax Levy for 2022 (1st reading) - As part of the budget process, Ruston will consider a budget and the revenue sources for City operations and capital expenses. As part of that process, the city is required to hold a public hearing on this topic. The public hearing on revenue sources is currently scheduled to coincide with Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1552 on November 16, 2021. Ruston is required to adopt its property tax levy in November of each year by ordinance and transmit a certified copy of the ordinance to Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer and to the Pierce County Council no later than November 30th. A Levy Certification must also be transmitted with the Ordinance. Adoption of this Ordinance will be scheduled on the agenda during the meeting on **November 16, 2021**, following the Public Hearing. This levy ordinance increases the property taxes levied by Ruston by the maximum amount allowed by law (one percent plus new construction, etc.). However, the maximum amount allowed by law (\$596,566.57) is less than was collected in 2021 (\$597,446.89). Therefore, the ordinance shows that there is a 0% increase for 2022. Prior year 2020 Levy amount was \$562,098.80, but the actual amount collected was \$597,446.89. The city will raise the statutory levy by 1%, or \$5,620.99 plus levy new construction whose assessed value is \$15,419,800 at a rate of 1.8185475828 for an additional amount of \$28,041.64. The City will also levy for refunded property taxes in the amount of \$805.14. The total change from last year's levy amount is \$34,467.77, for a total 2022 collection of \$596,566.57. Since this is less than was collected last year, the ordinance reads that there will be a zero-percentage increase.

RES 735 - Pierce County Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Planning ILA - Cities may make agreements with other governmental agencies under the Interlocal Cooperation Act. State law requires or authorizes counties, in cooperation with the various cities located within such county, to prepare a coordinated, comprehensive solid & hazardous waste management plan. All solid waste management plans must be maintained in current condition by periodic updates that include the estimated long-range planning needs for solid waste handling facilities projected twenty years into the future and local governments may also periodically update their hazardous waste plans. Washington requires cities to either 1) prepare their own solid waste management plans for integration into the county plan or 2) agree with the county to participate in a joint city-county solid waste management plan or 3) authorize the county to prepare a city plan for inclusion in the comprehensive county solid waste management plan. Ruston and many other Pierce County cities previously entered into an Interlocal Agreement for the purpose of implementing the 2000 Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan. The 2000 Plan must now be updated and replaced. While Ruston has the right to create its own solid and hazardous waste plan, that is a significant body of work which is why the City joined Pierce County in the regional planning effort last time. The County desires to develop and implement environmentally sound and cost-effective solid waste management programs including waste reduction and recycling programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions as appropriate from the disposed waste stream in cooperation and consultation with its cities. The scope of this work will include adopting, maintaining, and enforcing minimum levels of service for residential source separation and collection of recyclables, including residential curbside recycling programs, multi-family recycling programs, and residential yard waste collection programs. The scope will also include creating a coordinated system for the management and disposal of solid waste in Pierce County. Under the proposed Agreement, Ruston will have opportunities to review and provide input on the plan and to approve or reject the Ruston plan prepared by the County. However, if Ruston rejects the plan, it will then be required to prepare its own plan. The Agreement is for 20 years. Given the time it will take to prepare an independent city plan, the Agreement may only be terminated with 12 months' notice and the submission of a city-specific plan. The expense of this contract is minimal. The city staff will need to participate in working with the County on the planning, provide input to the County, and the Council will need to either accept or reject the draft plan. Councilmember Hedrick move to approve Resolution 735, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

CLAIMS – Councilmember Hedrick move to approve Claims of November 2, 2021, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Point Ruston Development requested that EPA give them an extension for the mediation clean up Point Ruston was required to complete. Before EPA would consider an extension Point Ruston was required to pay all delinquent property taxes which are now paid. The city received \$75,000 for the FSEIS payment supporting the design and construction of the Ruston entrance signage which will be placed at the roundabout located at the jurisdictional boundary between City of Tacoma and the City of Ruston. This payment was necessary so Point Ruston could receive the Certificate of Occupancy on the Rainier Building. Mayor Hopkins will present the 2022 Budget to Council at the council meeting of November 16, 2021.

Councilmember Hedrick – Clarified that Serpanok Construction paid all delinquent taxes on the Public Market and surrounding properties. Councilmember Hedrick asked about the vacant lot between Mr. Albertson's and Mr. Wombacher's homes. It looks to be staked for potential building. Mayor Hopkins noted it was a buildable lot which was purchased some time ago and Mayor Hopkins did not have any further information on this lot.

Councilmember Hardin – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:17PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams