

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 16, 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 amend and approve the agenda, removing Ordinance 1554 – Public Hearing, Business Item #3, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of November 2, 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 –

ORD 1552 – Public Hearing – Adoption of Property Tax Levy for 2022 –

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.

ORD 1552 – Adoption of Property Tax Levy for 2022 (2nd reading) - As part of the budget process, Ruston considered a budget and the revenue sources for City operations and capital expenses. As part of that process, the city was required to hold a public hearing on this topic. The public hearing on revenue sources was scheduled to coincide with Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1552 on November 16, 2021. Ruston was 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 was scheduled 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. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Ordinance 1552, with a second from Councilmember Hardin, passed 5-0.

ORD 1554 – FY2022 Budget (1st reading) - In accordance with State law, the Mayor of the City of Ruston completed and placed on file with the City Clerk-Treasurer a proposed budget and estimate of the amount of monies required to meet the public expenses, interest, reserve funds, and expense of government of the city of Ruston for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. The Council is required to adopt its budget ordinance prior to January 1, 2022.

The City Council Budget consideration schedule for Fiscal Year 2021 is as follows:

Mayor's Budget Message to Council:	November 2, 2021
Council discussion of revenue sources:	November 2, 2021
Public Hearing on Revenue Sources	November 16, 2021
Adoption of Tax Levy Ordinance No. 1552	November 16, 2021
Public Hearing on Proposed Budget:	November 16, 2021
Budget Discussion #1:	November 2, 2021
Budget Discussion #2:	November 16, 2021
Budget Discussion #3:	December 7, 2021
Adoption of Final Annual Budget for 2022:	December 7 or 21, 2021

Prior to budget adoption, the City Clerk will have fully complied with state law by publishing notice of the availability of the budget for public review and publishing notice of the required public hearings on the City's proposed tax levy and budget (November 16th).

The Final Budget's beginning balance is \$3,473,000.00 plus taxes, license fees, service charges, fine, forfeitures and other revenues totaling \$4,495,897.00, including inter-fund transfer(s) of \$419,000.00 are combined in the Final Budget for total expenditures and ending balances amount of \$4,714,383.00. The Ending Balance is projected as \$3,254,514.00.

The totals of estimated revenues and appropriations for each separate fund and the aggregate totals for all such funds combined are set forth below:

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Fund Name	Resources	Uses	2022 Interfund Transfers In	2022 Interfund
Fund 001 – General Fund	\$ 1,879,347	\$ 2,029,684		
Fund 0005 – Surplus Fund	\$ 17,000	\$		
Fund 050 – Point Ruston Development	\$	\$ 14,000		
Fund 101 – City Street Fund	\$ 289,400	\$ 256,700		
Fund 301 – Capital Construction	\$ 40,000	\$ 101,000		
Fund 401 - Electric Utility	\$ 1,234,300	\$ 999,037		\$ 100,000
Fund 402 – Electric Utility Reserve	\$	\$ 375,000	\$ 100,000	
Fund 403 – Sewer Utility	\$ 675,500	\$ 594,050		\$ 207,000
Fund 404 – Sewer Reserve	\$	\$	\$ 25,000	\$ 112,000
Fund 407 – Storm Sewer Utility	\$ 57,000	\$ 56,053		
Fund 410 – Sewer Capital Projects	\$ 182,000	\$ 181,215	\$ 294,000	
Fund 411 – Electric Meter Deposit Fund	\$ 18,000	\$ 12,000		
Fund 622 – WR Rust Playfield	\$ 14,000	\$ 9,378		
Fund 624 – School Building Fund	\$ 89,000	\$ 86,066		
Fund 634 – Custodial Pass through Fund	\$ 350	\$ 200		
Total	\$ 4,495,897	\$ 4,714,383	\$ 419,000	\$ 419,000

The Public Hearing will be held on November 16, 2021. The public hearing must take place prior to adoption. The City is required to pass the budget before the end of this calendar year.

ORD 1555 – Update Utility Tax on Solid Waste and Sewer Systems (1st reading) - The City of Ruston has the authority to levy utility taxes under Washington law. Under Washington law the City may levy utility tax upon Cable TV, electricity, gas, sewer, storm water, solid waste, steam, telephone services, and water. The City first adopted its utility tax code (Chapter 5.20 RMC) was first enacted in 2010 and was significantly updated in 2018 by adoption of Ordinance No. 1501. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic City resources have been diminished while needs have increased. In order to maintain current city services, new revenue sources need to be found. There is no state law limitation on levying utility taxes on stormwater, sewer, or solid waste. Therefore, the Finance Department is recommending that the utility taxes on these services be increased. Note that Ruston combines storm water and sewer into a single definition of “sewer system business” which applies to both types of services. These are currently at 8 percent and are proposed to be increased to 10 percent. The Ordinance also contains a referendum clause for the portion that enacts the rate increase as required by law. If passed, these rate increases will take effect on January 1, 2022.

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

MAYOR’S TIME – Mayor Hopkins presented an overview of the proposed 2022 budget noting that 2021 was another challenging year. Mayor Hopkins shared that with an uptick in crime the Police Department will be asking for an increase in the police budget. Mayor Hopkins will dedicate the next council meeting for a complete budget review.

Councilmember Hedrick – Shared that his cars, parked out front of his home, had been broken into and that this was the first time in the seventeen years of living in the City of Ruston that this has happened. With the increase in homelessness and the recent shooting it has now found its way into Ruston.

Councilmember Hardin – Requested a closer review of Ordinance 1555 – Solid Waste Tax, and how the increase will impact Ruston residents.

Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – Noted that the budget has been difficult to understand every year and recommended a solution on how the proposed budget should be present going forward

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

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MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:54PM 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, November 16, 2021**

Chief of Police:

During the previous 28 days the Police Department logged 119 calls for service. This is 40 more than the same period in 2020 and most all are traffic stops.

The Police Commission secretary confirmed with me last week that we can move forward on the hiring list, and we shall do that after one of the candidates successfully completes an emergency vehicle operations course at the Washington State Patrol Academy later this month. We are still waiting to learn whether another of our officers will be hired by Tacoma Police.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for October 2021

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

Total Incidents October: (3 Fire/Service, 10 Medical Aid)

Volunteer Hours: October 1015 Hours, **YTD** 10,656 Hours

Membership Roster (20 out of 25): (16 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 3 members also doing the EMT class.
- Engine 339 has passed it's annual Pump Certification.
- All fire tools are fully operational.

Ruston Fire Department's Master Business Objectives for October 2021

OBJECTIVE	START DATE	TARGET COMPLETION	COMPLETE	ACTION OWNERS
Recruitment	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	20 of 25	B. Allen
CPR Training	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	S. Anderson
Fire Training	1/2021	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	M. Anderson