

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

**The City Council of the City of Ruston met on this date via Virtual Teleconference**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:04PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Kristovich, Councilmember Syler, and Councilmember Jensen. Councilmember Huson joined after Staff Report. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

**MINUTES**

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of January 4, 2022, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

**STAFF REPORT –**

Ruston Police – Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire – Assistant Chief Allen – See attached.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

**Emily Wood** – Wanted to know if there was an Environmental Impact Report for moving dirt from where it is now, next to the hotel, to 51<sup>st</sup> and Baltimore. This was discussed at the last Council meeting.

**BUSINESS** – Nothing at this time.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL** – Nothing at this time.

**MAYOR’S TIME** – Mayor Hopkins responded to Ms. Wood regarding the movement of dirt on an EPA Superfund site. EPA is exempt from following protocol and the movement of dirt is under the supervision and management of the EPA. The City tracks and holds EPA accountable, however, it can be difficult when dealing with the federal government and their authority. The area, where the dirt is being moved, was remediated and was slated to be a pond with open space for citizens to enjoy. Mayor Hopkins directed Ms. Woods to the EPA for additional information related to the Superfund site. Mayor Hopkins shared there was a slide at 51<sup>st</sup> and Bennett along the hillside. BSNF, City Engineer and GEO agents were scheduled to visit the site and evaluate the situation. Mayor Hopkins will provide an update when the report is made available.

**Councilmember Hedrick** – Along with City Planner Rob White, Building Official Mike Barth, Councilmember Hedrick met with Mr. Serpanok, the new owner of the parking garage and market, to discuss their plans, paid property taxes and any permits that have been issued by the City of Tacoma. There were challenges in getting proper permits since Mr. Serpanok’s property straddles parcels that are owned by separate entities. Councilmember Hedrick did not foresee any further construction to take place until the ownership of parcels north and east of the parking garage was settled. Mr. Serpanok would like to do some tenant improvements at the parking garage; however, he is uncertain who will provide the permits. The interlocal agreement for between the City of Ruston and City of Tacoma, for permitting at Point Ruston, will expire in a year. Ruston will be reviewing this agreement prior to expiration.

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

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

**Councilmember Huson** – Had a gentleman visiting who has a precarious medical condition and required medical aid and transport to St. Joseph Hospital. Councilmember Huson wanted to thank the Ruston Fire for their extremely professional and quick response. Councilmember Huson also thanked the Ruston Police Officer on duty that day.

**Councilmember Jensen** – Worked with Ruston City Attorney to begin the process of writing a snow policy and keeping it as simple as possible. One focus was to clear roads for emergency responders. Councilmember Jensen will present a draft to Mayor Hopkins and Councilmembers as soon as it is available.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – At 7:29PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 5-0.

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Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

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Judy Grams