

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

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, Councilmember Huson, and Councilmember Jensen. Councilmember Syler was excused. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Hopkins proclaimed the month of March 2022 as Red Cross Month – See attached.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of February 1, 2022, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police – Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire – Chief Allen – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Nothing at this time.

BUSINESS – Nothing at this time.

PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Payroll of February 5, 2022, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

MAYOR’S TIME – Mayor Hopkins outlined the remedial action plan the EPA was considering for the former Asarco site. On behalf of the City Mayor Hopkins prepared a formal letter to EPA with our comments to the proposed 5th amendment to the Consent Decree. The Consent Decree is a legal agreement that EPA enters with the potentially responsible party of a superfund site. Mayor Hopkins sent the letter out to Council for their review and noted the letter would be posted to the Ruston website. Mayor Hopkins announced a change to the Ruston Fire Department. When former Fire Chief, Don Torbet, retired, the Fire Chief position was split between two Assistant Chief roles. Mayor Hopkins congratulated Assistant Chief Bruce Allen as the new Fire Chief for the City of Ruston and thanked Assistant Chief Anderson for his years of service to the Ruston Fire Department.

Mayor Hopkins shared the move of City Hall to the Ruston School is anticipated for mid-March 2022. The City is waiting for IT to install additional equipment. Once old City Hall is vacated there will be discussions with Council in moving the Ruston Fire Department to old City Hall and the surplus of Myrtle's house.

Councilmember Hedrick – Thanked Mayor Hopkins for his appointment as the Public Safety Liaison to the Council. Councilmember Hedrick had the opportunity to meet with Fire Chief Allen, getting to know a little more about the Fire Department and discussed the changes coming along regarding the mutual aid agreement with Tacoma Fire. Councilmember Hedrick also had the opportunity to meet with Police Chief Bautista and is looking forward to learning how the Council and City of Ruston could support both Fire Chief Allen and Police Chief Bautista and their departments going forward.

Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – Excused.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Jensen – Thanked Mayor Hopkins for proclaiming the month of March 2022 as Red Cross Month. Councilmember Jensen noted the importance of highlighting all the volunteerism that happens in our City and the many people that have already supported the Red Cross. Councilmember Jensen thanked the Mayor for posting the EPA letter to the Ruston website. Many of the citizens of Ruston have forgotten all the complicated history related to the development.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:17PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

ATTEST:

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

Judy Grams

Whereas: In times of crisis, people in Ruston come together to care for one another. This humanitarian spirit is part of the foundation of our community and is exemplified by American Red Cross volunteers and donors; and

Whereas: In 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross, turning her steadfast dedication for helping others into a bold mission of preventing and alleviating people's suffering. Today, more than 140 years later, we honor the kindness and generosity of Red Cross volunteers here in Ruston, who continue to carry out Clara's lifesaving legacy. They join the millions of people across the United States who volunteer, give blood, donate financially or learn vital life-preserving skills through the Red Cross; and

Whereas: In Ruston, the contributions of local Red Cross volunteers give hope to the most vulnerable in their darkest hours — whether it's providing emergency shelter, food and comfort for families devastated by local disasters like home fires, Ruston; donating essential blood for accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease; supporting service members and veterans, along with their families and caregivers, through the unique challenges of military life; helping to save the lives of others with first aid, CPR and other skills; or delivering international humanitarian aid; and

Whereas: Their work to prevent and alleviate human suffering is vital to strengthening our community's resilience. We dedicate this month of March to all those who continue to advance the noble legacy of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, who lived by her words, "You must never think of anything except the need, and how to meet it." We ask others to join in this commitment to give back in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce Hopkins, Mayor of the City of Ruston, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the **month of March 2022** as:

Red Cross Month

and encourage all residents of Ruston to reach out and support its humanitarian mission.

Bruce Hopkins, Mayor
City of Ruston



**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
Tuesday, February 15, 2022**

Chief of Police:

During the previous 28 days the Police Department logged 157 calls for service. Calls will include traffic stops, 911 calls or other calls for service. The number is up by approximately 50% from our previous council report and it matches the trend experienced throughout the county. I predict crimes will continue to rise in our region and I generally attribute this to the Blake Decision, the unintended fallout of the anti-police laws of 2021, and the inability for police to book suspects into the Pierce County Jail.

Sarah Ramey, the arsonist suspected of starting at least 2 fires in Ruston is still in the Pierce County Jail. The investigation continues and evidence is being sought to determine if she may have been involved in one other.

The Department has 3 full-time openings after the departure of Shawn Hoey to the Tacoma Police Department. A part-time officer will take Hoey's shift until we can replace him. We currently have one person in the background for part-time work, and with satisfactory performance, will be considered for a full-time position.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for January 2022

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

Total Incidents (YTD) 11, January: (5 Fire/Service, 6 Medical Aid)

Volunteer Hours: January 795 Hours, **YTD** 795 Hours

Membership Roster (18 out of 25): (16 Members, 2 Officers)

State of the Business:

- **Our call volume has increased to date by 38% over last year, 57% of those are daytime responses (6AM – 6PM).**
- We have 1 person in the Fire Fighter 1 class at Browns Point Academy
- We have 3 new EMT's that just graduated.
- We have 3 people wanting to join our department
- All fire tools are fully operational.

Ruston Fire Department's Master Business Objectives for January 2022

OBJECTIVE	START DATE	TARGET COMPLETION	COMPLETE	ACTION OWNERS
Recruitment	1/2022	<i>ongoing</i>	18 of 25	B. Allen
CPR Training	1/2022	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	S. Anderson
Fire Training	1/2022	<i>ongoing</i>	100%	B. Allen