

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, April 19, 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 Syler, Councilmember Huson and Councilmember Jensen. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

MINUTES - Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of April 5, 2022, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, 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 – Nothing at this time.

PAYROLL – Councilmember Huson moved to approve Payroll of April 20, 2022, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

MAYOR’S TIME – Mayor Hopkins thanked the organizers, all the volunteers and public safety personnel who helped in making this year’s Easter Egg Hunt one of the most successful Easter Egg Hunts that we’ve seen in years. It was great to see everyone gather and celebrate together. Mayor Hopkins thanked the Ruston Police Department for all their hard work keeping the City safe and asked all residents to remain vigilant as crime is on the rise in Tacoma and spilling over into Ruston. Mayor Hopkins encouraged everyone to reach out to Ruston Police should they see anything suspicious. Mayor Hopkins would like to research the cost in placing cameras at major intersections within the City of Ruston. This would provide a tool for the Ruston Police department in preventing or solving a crime before or after one occurs. There has been an increase in graffiti and some residents have requested code enforcement where places have been tagged. Property owners are responsible for taking care of any graffiti on their property, by removing or covering it up. The City contacted a realtor, who has helped with City surplus property in the past, to provide a market value analysis of the Ruston Fire house. The realtor estimated a market value of \$875,000.

Now that City Hall has relocated and fully functioning at the Ruston School Building, the next step is to transition the Fire Department over to old City Hall. Chief Allen has been working on layout plans for a remodel of the building in order to meet Fire Department needs. The funds from the sale of the Fire House would be earmarked to improve City properties. The Ruston School is in need of a new roof, which could cost about \$245,000, and the City is looking to bring the Ruston School building into ADA compliance. Mayor Hopkins will continue to keep Council apprised.

Councilmember Hedrick – Was sorry to have missed the Easter Egg Hunt this year as he attended his sons JV baseball game. Councilmember Hedrick was happy to hear the event was a huge success. Councilmember Hedrick reported seeing dirt being moved from Point Ruston to 51st and Baltimore, noting that there has been a lot of activity at that location. Councilmember Hedrick would like to know what the developer planned to do as the contaminated dirt is moving the hill higher and questioned what the final outcome would be. Councilmember Hedrick requested the EPA attend a council meeting to present a timeline of remediation. Councilmember Hedrick was interested in going back to in-person public meetings.

Councilmember Kristovich – Was interested in a presentation by the EPA to gain clarity on the remediation efforts. Councilmember Kristovich enjoyed being part of the annual Easter Egg Hunt and seeing so many familiar faces, without masks, all smiling and hugging. It was a great community gathering. With a small foundation of volunteers, along with the Fire and Police departments, this event brought great joy to so many and thanked everyone who participated.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Jensen – Wanted to share how cool the Easter Egg Hunt was. Councilmember Jensen thanked Lynette Hopkins and the herd of bunnies that were all about town. It was an incredible turnout and Councilmember Jensen heard from many residents that events like this was why they loved Ruston. Councilmember Jensen was looking forward to in-person public meetings and stressed the value of face-to-face interactions. Councilmember Jensen proposed a council retreat to be held in July or August. A retreat would bring Councilmembers together to discuss goals, build a City vision, and give purpose to the budget cycle. Councilmember Jensen thanked Ruston Police Chief Bautista and the police department for their increased emphasis patrols and working together with other agencies in managing street racing, the noise it brings and the danger it can cause. Councilmember Jensen would be sharing this information with her neighbors.

CITY OF RUSTON
Regular Council Minutes
April 19, 2022

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:28PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams



**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
Tuesday, April 18, 2022**

Chief of Police:

During the previous 28 days the Police Department logged 160 calls for service. Calls include traffic stops, 911 calls or other miscellaneous calls service. The number is up by approximately 50% from our previous council report and we attribute it to an increase in self-initiated traffic stops.

Our newest officer, Cory Hansen, should complete field training by mid-May. Two full-time vacancies are still unfilled, but one of our current reserve officers, Jason Vela, would like to work full-time starting in June. Officer Vela is a master chief in the US Navy and will apply for full-time status next month. A few other applicants have been deemed not suitable for our agency.

Ruston officers have been part of an anti-racer strike team with Tacoma and Lakewood Police, the Sheriff's Office, and the State Patrol. In anticipation of increased presence by racers as the weather improves, the Department will also have its own emphasis patrol to enforce our SOAR ordinance.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for March 2022

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

Total Incidents (YTD) 25, March: 9(5 Fire/Service, 4 Medical Aid)

Volunteer Hours: March 716 Hours, YTD 2087 Hours

Membership Roster (17 out of 25): (15 Members, 2 Officers)

State of the Business:

- Tyler Grover is doing well at the Browns Point Academy.
- We have one new EMT, Jacob Ring and Josiah Figueroa is in EMT Class.
- We have 3 strong applicants to start with the hiring process.
- 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