

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 7, 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 May 17, 2022, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

**STAFF REPORT** – Nothing at this time.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

**David Bell** – Acknowledged the Ruston Police and Fire departments for their quick response and aid. Mr. Bell spoke with other residents regarding the City’s slow building permit processing and recommended Council review the current system in speeding up the process.

**Randy Plain** – Commended Ray Johnson, Public Works, for his quick response to a streetlight that was out in his neighborhood and Mr. Johnson’s concern for the security and safety of city residents.

**BUSINESS** –

**RES 747 – TIB Project Park Avenue Consultant Contract** - The City awarded an On-Call Civil Engineer contract to SCJ Alliance via Resolution No. 738 on December 21, 202. The Scope of Work for that Agreement included the following: Engineering work that may be performed specific to funding grants received by the City may be assigned under this Scope of Work to the Consultant. Any such assignment shall be made in the City's sole discretion. To the extent that such work may be subject to and/or require any additional agreement in accordance with the requirements of the funding agency, the Consultant may be required to execute the additional agreement as a pre-requisite to receiving the assigned work. The City recently obtained grant funding from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) for the Park Avenue – End of Road to Bennett Street Improvement Project (SEP 22-00039). The TIB requires

the City to use its Consultant Agreement for engineering services. Pursuant to the Scope of Work between the City and SCJ Alliance, entering into this subsequent agreement is included within the work awarded via Resolution No. 738. However, authorizing this TIB Consultant Agreement still requires Council approval because the agreement amount exceeds the Mayoral authority set forth in RMC 1.21.010. The maximum contract price is \$73,674.00. The TIB reimburses 95% and the City matches the remaining 5% of the contract price. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 747, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

**RES 748 – Planning Commission Appointment – Karen Murphy** - Position #5 on the Ruston Planning Commission was previously held by Kathy Brown. Commissioner Brown’s expired on June 30, 2020 but the seat was left vacant due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of Planning Commission meetings during that time. The Mayor recommends appointing Karen Murphy to this seat to complete the partial 6-year term which will expire on June 30, 2026. In accordance with RMC 1.07.020, the process for appointing Planning Commissioners is an appointment by the Mayor and a confirmation by the Council. The attached Resolution #748 appoints Karen Murphy to Position #5 for a partial 6-year term ending June 30, 2026. If Council agrees with the Mayor’s appointment, then adoption of the Resolution is recommended. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 748, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

**RES 749 – Planning Commission Appointment – Mark Shingledecker** - Position #4 on the Ruston Planning Commission was previously held by Jennifer Jensen. Ms. Jensen was elected to the City Council in 2021 rendering her seat vacant. The Mayor recommends appointing Mark Shingledecker to this seat to complete the partial 6-year term which will expire on June 30, 2025. In accordance with RMC 1.07.020, the process for appointing Planning Commissioners is an appointment by the Mayor and a confirmation by the Council. The attached Resolution #749 appoints Mark Shingledecker to Position #4 for a partial 6-year term ending June 30, 2025. If Council agrees with the Mayor’s appointment, then adoption of the Resolution is recommended. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 749, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

**Discussion - 6-Year TIP Update** - State law mandates all local jurisdictions to annually adopt and submit to the state a six-year program of transportation improvements, known as the Local TIP. To be eligible to seek federal and state funding, the City must comply with state law and adopt an annual TIP.

**Background.** The six-year Local TIP serves as a general work plan for the development of local transportation systems and, as such, represents an important planning component under the State's Growth Management Act.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) use Local TIPs as a tool for coordinating the transportation programs of local jurisdictions with those of regional agencies. PSRC monitors Local TIPs for projects of regional significance (to be modeled for air quality conformity) and projects supported by federal funds. These projects are incorporated into the Regional TIP, which is then forwarded for inclusion in the State TIP. In most instances, projects must be included on a Local TIP to be eligible for state and federal grant programs. Local TIPs need not be revenue constrained; jurisdictions can include projects they would choose to implement within the timeframe if funding were available. The updated TIP reflects the movement of projects which have been funded. There are five projects which are being removed from the TIP that were on the most recently adopted TIP as these projects have been completed. These include:

1. 53rd Street Preservation and Maintenance Project
2. 50th Street Seal Coat and Signage Project
3. Shirley Street Seal Coat and Signage Project
4. Bennett Street Seal Coat and Signage Project
5. Rust Way Seal Coat and Signage Project

**Discussion.** The draft TIP was being presented to the Council for consideration and discussion on June 7th, but not for action. Action cannot be taken until *after* the required Public Hearing has been held. The Council will hold the required Public Hearing on the proposed City of Ruston 2023-2028 TIP project list on June 21, 2022 after which time the Council may adopt the updated TIP. The deadline for adoption is June 30, 2022. There is no direct fiscal impact of adopting the 2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. However, the projects listed on the TIP become eligible for federal and state grant funding. Councilmember Hedrick noted the City has done an excellent job in getting Transportation Improvement funding and would like to review the order of priority and discuss further at the next meeting. Councilmember Jensen spoke to residents' concerns related to streets, curbs and bulb outs asking the City to reconsider bulb outs in future street improvement projects. Bulb outs sounded like a great idea in the beginning but now in practice they do not seem to work. Mayor Hopkins explained that bulb outs and bollards were designed for public safety and as traffic calming on City streets such as down Winnifred and 51<sup>st</sup> Streets. They also present a much better score when applying for funds. Mayor Hopkins reminded everyone that the 6 Year TIP could be found on the City of Ruston website for viewing and comment. Mayor Hopkins would like to hear from the public noting it was impossible to please everyone. Mayor Hopkins reminded everyone that the 6 Year TIP could be found on the City of Ruston website for viewing and comment.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL** – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Claims of June 7, 2022 and Payroll of May 20, 2022 and June 5, 2022, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

**MAYOR’S TIME** – Mayor Hopkins responded to Mr. Bell’s public comment regarding the building permit process. Mayor Hopkins shared that the City brought on the Associate Planner who is exploring a move to a new permitting system called iCloud Permitting. This should help enhance the current permitting process and noted the City of Ruston was comparable to other cities in the time it is taking for building permit issuance. Mayor Hopkins noted that Metro Parks and Tacoma were sponsoring a 4<sup>th</sup> of July event which would inundate the City of Ruston with parking and traffic issues. Ruston Police and Fire are having discussions and will be looking to close down city streets and only keep 51<sup>st</sup> and Baltimore streets open to traffic. Mayor Hopkins and Councilmember Hedrick will be meeting with Tacoma Fire regarding an ILA mutual aid agreement with the City of Tacoma and will hold open dialog regarding the EIS mitigation and the developer’s public safety expectations. Mayor Hopkins hoped everyone had a moment to tour new City Hall and thanked Project Manager Kevin Moser and Ray Johnson for their work in making the move happen. Mayor Hopkins received a cost estimate from Ruston Fire Chief Allen on remodeling old City Hall and will look to Council for direction. Mayor Hopkins thanked Ms. Murphy and Mr. Shingledecker for volunteering their time as Planning Commissioners.

**Councilmember Hedrick** – Reminded everyone that in the past the Point Ruston developer had been four years in arrears in paying their property taxes and the new owner of the parking garage has now paid the property taxes in full. Councilmember Hedrick was excited to announce the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July bicycle parade will be held on Monday, July 4, 2022 at 12PM at 51<sup>st</sup> and Winnifred Streets and invited everyone to attend.

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

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

**Councilmember Huson** – Addressed the time it takes for a permit approval noting that in Pacific County, Washington, it can take up to one hundred days so in comparison City of Ruston is doing great at ninety days. Councilmember Huson thanked Ms. Murphy and Mr. Shingledecker for volunteering their time as Ruston’s newest Planning Commissioners.

**Councilmember Jensen** – Wanted to discuss scheduling a special meeting or council retreat with all Councilmembers wanting to determine a date that could work for all. Councilmember Jensen suggested, August 2, 2022. Mayor Hopkins reminded everyone that August 2, 2022 was National Night, and the City would not hold a Council meeting so Councilmembers could meet with their community at National Night Out.

Councilmember Hedrick noted the month of August could work for him. Councilmember Huson said he would try to make whatever date is decided upon work. Councilmember Syler and Councilmember Kristovich noted the summer months were hard to schedule however they were open to meeting in the fall. Councilmember Jensen agreed to have further discussions on the matter. Councilmember Jensen thanked Ms. Murphy and Mr. Shingledecker for volunteering as Planning Commissioners and thanked everyone who joined the open house and new City Hall tour prior to the Ruston Council meeting.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – At 7:42PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 5-0.

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Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

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Judy Grams