

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

The City Council of the City of Ruston met on this date via In Person

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 and Councilmember Huson. Councilmember Jensen was excused. 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 June 7, 2022, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police – Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire – Chief Bautista – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Angel Gureon – Requested clarification on the Freedom Fair and 4th of July festivities and where the events would be held.

Kevin Moser – At the last council meeting Councilmember Hedrick recommended a reallocation of 6-Year TIP projects, changing the order in which streets are completed. With the recent inquiries from residents to close the Court and Commercial Street alley Mr. Moser was concerned about the amount of traffic this would create. The Court and Commercial Street alley is one of two alleys in the City that is not asphalted at this time and should be addressed as a higher priority on the 6-Year TIP.

Randy Plain – At the last council meeting Mayor Hopkins and Councilmember Hedrick noted they were planning to meet with Tacoma Fire and was hoping for an update on that meeting.

BUSINESS –

ORD 1558 – Electricity Rate Increase (1st reading) – The City of Ruston is entitled to operate its own electrical utility to sell power to its residents and to set the rates for such electrical utility. The City is experiencing higher costs to operate the electric utility based on the rates charged by its electricity provider (City of Tacoma). The City of Ruston last increased rates in 2019 (effective 2020).

Since that time Tacoma has increased its rates by 3.5 percent which Ruston has absorbed without passing these increases on to its customers. An increase is proposed for both fixed rates and kWh rates in the amount of 3.5%. This rate increase is proposed to take effect on August 1, 2022.

Customer Class	Current kWh	Effective 8/1/2022
Regular Rates	\$0.104	\$0.1076
Low Income/Disabled	\$0.0704	\$0.0768

In addition, the minimum charge for both regular and low-income customers would increase by \$2.50 per month in 2019 and another \$2.50 per month in 2020. These fees help pay for infrastructure and to replenish depleted reserves.

Customer Class	Current Minimum Charge	Effective 8/1/2022
Regular Rates	\$21.50	\$22.25
Low Income/Disabled	\$17.50	\$18.11

This increase will ensure that the City recovers the increased cost of purchasing electrical power from Tacoma Power as well as recovering the costs of operating this utility system. The new rates will help ensure that the City’s electrical utility will continue to be fiscally sound and have the resources needed to replace and refurbish the capital infrastructure and maintain high quality operations. In discussion Councilmember Hedrick requested that City Attorney make a correction to the minimum charge and year for regular and low-income customers to 2022 and 2023, at \$.075 and \$0.61 respectively for 2nd reading of Ordinance 1558.

RES 746 – Public Hearing – 6-Year TIP – Councilmember Hedrick moved to open Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0. Kevin Moser provided public comment and requested consideration of changing the order of completion of streets, as noted in his earlier public comment. Councilmember Hedrick moved to close Public Hearing, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

RES 746 – 6-Year TIP – 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 any changes since last June as well as 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

The City issued a SEPA Determination of Non-Significance on June 2, 2022, and the comment period has now passed. The resolution adopting the 6-Year TIP may be approved following the public hearing. The City Council held a Public Hearing on the proposed Local TIP. The deadline for adoption of the TIP is June 30, 2022. There is no direct fiscal impact of adopting the 2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. The projects listed on the TIP become eligible for federal and state grant funding. Councilmember Hedrick amended moved to adopt Resolution 746, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

RES 751 – Tercom – Rust Way Phase 2 - The City is in the process of undergrounding electrical distribution lines as funding becomes available. Rust Way Phase 2 is next location/phase where the City desires to underground the electrical lines. Using the small works roster process as adopted by the City under the small works roster bidding process, the City solicited bids from qualified contractors who are on the MRSC Small Works Roster. Tercom Construction was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder with a bid of \$120,380.00, tax not included. The other two bids were in the amounts of \$470,883.00 and \$442,850.00. A copy of the scope of work and the bid are both attached to the public works contract. Tercom Construction has executed the City's contract and the Mayor seeks authorization to (1) award the bid to Tercom Construction; and (2) execute the contract on behalf of the City. The maximum contract price is of \$120,380.00, tax not included. This amount is available in the City's budget. Councilmember Hedrick moved to adopt Resolution 751, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Payroll of June 20, 2022, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Mayor Hopkins noted he would present a need for a property tax levy lid lift and would provide Council with the documentation ahead of the next council meeting. The property tax levy lid lift would support the public safety needs of the City and properly fund the Ruston Police and Fire departments. With all the growth at the Point Ruston development the City has not seen the expected increase of property tax revenue. Mayor Hopkins invited the City's CPA to join virtually at a council meeting and to present the City's limitations along with other options that may be available. Mayor Hopkins noted that Ruston would soon see the next ARPA funding release in the amount of approximately \$117,000 in the next few weeks which will help with the reduction of sales tax due to the pandemic.

Councilmember Hedrick – Was excited to remind everyone that the annual 4th of July bicycle parade would be held at 12PM at 51st and Winnifred Street. Councilmember Hedrick made his official request to close intersection of 51st and Winnifred in observance of the annual bicycle parade. Councilmember Hedrick provided an update on the meeting with Tacoma Fire. Mayor Hopkins and Councilmember Hedrick had a great one-hour discussion with the Tacoma Fire Chief, along with two Deputy Fire Chiefs to learn that Tacoma Fire was at a crossroads in the overall capacity and servicing of the Point Ruston development. Tacoma Fire Chief Green was open to building a Tacoma fire facility in Ruston and suggested the property at the roundabout at 51st and Baltimore on the northeast and northwest corner or at the property across from the public market at Yacht Club Road. There was also discussion regarding a police substation in Ruston. Councilmember Hedrick was encouraged after meeting with Tacoma Fire and looked forward to more discussion in the future.

Councilmember Kristovich – Was excited to hear that Mayor Hopkins and Councilmember Hedrick had a great meeting with Tacoma Fire and looked forward to more conversation regarding a joint fire facility to be locate in the City of Ruston.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Asked Mayor Hopkins to gather property tax information from other jurisdictions that surround the City of Ruston; such as City of Tacoma, Fircrest and University Place. The information would provide a city-by-city property tax comparison when considering a property tax levy lid lift. At some point citizens will ask why property taxes are being raised and Councilmember Huson wanted to have as much information when it comes time to respond to citizens inquiry.

CITY OF RUSTON
Regular Council Minutes
June 21, 2022

Councilmember Jensen – Was excused

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:45PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams



**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
Tuesday, June 21, 2022**

Chief of Police:

During the previous 28 days the Police Department logged 202 calls for service. Eighty-eight were traffic stops, particularly SOAR-related stops.

The Department will have all officers on duty during the 4th of July event which stretches from Dune Peninsula to Cummings Park (with Ruston Way closed for pedestrians-only for much of that distance). We intend to have some local-access-only road closures on Stack Hill and adjacent streets, with a command post for police and fire departments near the base of the hill.

At the conclusion of the event our priority will be to get event goer traffic out of the City, possibly turning both lanes of 51st into a westbound-only road for a short period of time.

Public safety updates will be provided on the Department's Twitter page, @RustonWAPolice.

In March, the Department started issuing body-worn cameras (BWC) to officers. Last week we received a complaint from a passenger in a car which was stopped for expired registration. The complaint alleged several wrongdoings, including being racially targeted by officers. The video footage from the BWC's exonerated the officers of the allegations. Without the footage, an administrative investigation of this nature could have taken several weeks to conclude.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for May 2022

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

Total Incidents (YTD) 41, May: 3(1 Fire/Service, 2 Medical Aid)

Volunteer Hours: May 702 Hours, YTD 3604 Hours

Membership Roster (14 out of 25): (11 Members, 3 Officers)

State of the Business:

- Al Williams has been promoted to Captain/MSO replacing Sara Anderson who resigned.
- Pat Peden has also been promoted to Lieutenant.
- Tyler Grover is doing well at the Browns Point Academy.
- We have one new EMT, Josiah Figueroa.
- We have 3 strong applicants to start with the hiring process.
- All fire tools are fully operational.