

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, September 20, 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, 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 September 6, 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 –

Mark Shingledecker – Wanted to recognize the team for getting poles down on Rust Way. Mr. Shingledecker was pleased to see progress around the City even though a bit disruptive.

BUSINESS –

RES 756 – Revise City Procurement Policy – In 2014 the City Council adopted Resolution No. 590 which established updated Procurement Policies for use by the City in public works contracting and purchasing. Since that time, State law has changed allowing smaller cities, like Ruston, to use a process called “piggybacking.” Piggybacking is the process of using another public agency's active contract for purchases of products, services, or public works. Local government agencies piggyback on contracts awarded by “host” agencies, allowing the piggybacking agencies to save time and obtain better prices and terms than they might be able to on their own. This can take the form of using the contract from another Washington city, a State agency, a federal contract, or local government from another state. There are cooperatives that exist that assemble many of these contracts into one location for use by cities. However, any contract that the City would choose to use through a cooperative must have used procedures consistent with Washington law. (*See RCW 39.34.030 and 39.32.090.*) In order to utilize this process, the City’s Procurement Policies need to be modified. The attached resolution updates Resolution No. 590 to allow this expanded piggybacking process.

Use of piggybacking can save the City time and money. Amending the Procurement Policies will make this possible. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 756, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich passed 5-0.

RES 757 - Authorize Execution of Agreement with Omnia Partners - Resolution No. 756 will update the City's Procurement Policies to allow expanded use of piggybacking in accordance with State law. The City would like to also enter into an agreement with Omnia Partners which is a cooperative for government contracts in accordance with the updated piggybacking policy. A copy of the agreement with Omnia Partners is attached to Resolution No. 757. The primary purpose for entering into the cooperative is to access supplies from Graybar. Graybar has been the City's "go to" supplier for electrical equipment. The prices through Omnia Partners arise out of a contract between Graybar and Kansas City, MO which has fully complied with Washington public bidding laws. By piggybacking onto this contract, the City will not only get better pricing than it has enjoyed in the past when doing the public bidding itself, but it will save considerable staff time and resources by not having to go through that process every time it desires to purchase some electrical supplies. In addition to the Graybar contract, the Omnia Partner agreement will give the City access to many other contracts that may be a potential source of public works services and supplies. Each contract that the City wants to use through Omnia Partners will need to be vetted individually to ensure that the Washington bidding laws have been complied with. There is no cost to enter into an agreement with Omnia Partners but doing so will potentially save the City time and money by allowing access to other public works and purchasing contracts that the City can piggyback onto to meet its public work needs. Purchasing supplies under the Graybar contract through Omnia Partners is an expense but will be at better pricing. The authorization for purchasing under the Graybar contract is limited to the amounts in the City's budget for the year of purchase. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 757, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich passed 5-0.

PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve payroll for September 20, 2022, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich passed 5-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Mayor Hopkins provided an update on the Ruston School lease negotiation and let everyone know that negotiation process was terminated. The negotiations were multi faceted and at every turn became more and more difficult. Project Manager Kevin Moser worked diligently with the interested party and found negotiations were getting more complicated as time went on. Mayor Hopkins noted that Phase 2 of the Rust Way project would be underway October 10, 2022, following with Bennett Street and the alley between Commercial and Court Streets. Mayor Hopkins thanked Mr. Moser for his continued support and service on the street projects throughout the City. Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Moser to confirm that signage was included when working the street projects. Mayor Hopkins announced that EPA requested time to update the public on the Point Ruston remediation. The meeting with EPA was scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 7-9PM.

Councilmember Hedrick – Provided an update on the eight Point Ruston parcels, which had their assessed values reduced to \$100.00, and noted he planned to contact Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer Mike Lonergan to discuss the reduction of values. Councilmember Hedrick would have an update at the next council meeting.

Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Jensen – See attached.

Mayor Hopkins addressed Councilmember Huson’s concern regarding speed bumps and the authorization of speed bumps. Mayor Hopkins planned to contact Associate Planner McKenna and City Engineer for additional information and would return a response to Councilmember Huson.

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

ATTEST:

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

Judy Grams



**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

Chief of Police:

Calls-for-service data is not available at the time of this writing.

The Department convened an interview panel to select a candidate to continue to the next phase of the hiring process. The person who will continue in the process is a 27 year-old woman from University Place. She is a graduate of the Washington Basic Law Enforcement Academy and was last employed by the Pierce County Sheriff's office. She must pass a three-phase background investigation before a final offer is given. If hired, she will be in field training for approximately 4 months.

Officer Jason Vela, who was hired in June, will be attending the Basic Law Enforcement Academy starting September 27th. If he passes, he will graduate in early February. We will then have all the FTE's filled and the Department will be able to deploy officers for a complete 24 hours duration.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for August 2022

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

Total Incidents (YTD) 80, August 14(7 Fire/Service, 7 Medical Aid)

Volunteer Hours: August 1079 Hours, YTD 5991 Hours

Membership Roster (18 out of 25): (15 Members, 3 Officers)

State of the Business:

- We have one new member Joshua McCarthy.
- Mike Lundy is doing well at the Browns Point Academy.
- Moises Guzman and Taylor Crowell are starting the EMT program at Pierce College.
- Moving forward with the move into the Old City Hall.
- Engine 33 is in for repairs.
- All fire tools are fully operational.

Councilmember Jensen Comments for Sept 20th City Council Meeting

- Budget season is just around the corner – per the timeline provided by the Mayor and city attorney last November, October is when council will see the first draft budget
- We did not have the opportunity this year to meet as a council and discuss goals and budget priorities; therefore, for 2023's budget I propose:
 - o Budget item for **City Council Retreat**: Nominal amount to fund a meeting to discuss goals and priorities for next year - \$1000 could cover lunch and a small fee towards a facilitator if we are not able to use volunteers (General Fund Item 511 – Legislative)
 - o Budget item for: **street sign repair and maintenance**; asking to repair existing “safety/traffic management equipment” in the city to keep street signs functional for the next 3-6 years until they are replaced in accordance with the TIP - \$1000 should cover the repair / maintenance (supplies and labor) of at least 10 street signs (General Fund Item 542 – City Streets Fund)
 - o Budget item increase for: **Emergency Winter Storm street maintenance/snow removal**: we have not finished writing a policy for snow removal, but we know that there is cost to maintaining at least an emergency supply of road sand & salt and overtime funds for our street maintenance staff that might be required to ensure emergency vehicle operation and potential electrical repairs. (Electric Utility Fund – Town Maintenance? Currently General Fund Item 542 Street Maintenance – Snow and Ice Control = \$1000)
- I welcome council discussion at this time