

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

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 Syler and Councilmember Jensen. Councilmember Kristovich and Councilmember Huson were excused. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 3-0.

MINUTES - Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of January 17, 2023 , with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 3-0.

STAFF REPORT – Nothing at this time.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Nothing at this time.

BUSINESS –

RES 764 – Closure of Solid Waste Funds 405 and 406 - In 2020, the City of Ruston ceased providing solid waste services as a Ruston employee-provided service and started providing this service via a contract with Murrey’s Disposal Services, Inc. The 2021 budget (Ordinance No. 1538) included the repayment of the interfund loan for purchase of a garbage truck and moved all remaining proceeds from the Garbage Operating Fund (Fund 405) and Garbage Reserve Fund (Fund 406) to the Surplus Property Fund which consolidates to the General Fund. Despite having zero balances, the funds two Garbage Funds have never been officially closed. For record-keeping purposes, these funds should now be closed. This Resolution takes that action and therefore, these funds will no longer appear on the City’s budget or other financial tracking documents. Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Resolution 764, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 3-0.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL – Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve Claims for February 7, 2023, Payroll for January 20, 2023, and February 5, 2023, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 3-0.

MAYOR’S TIME – Mayor Hopkins presented an update on the Baltimore Street project and bond company discussions. City staff met with representatives from the bonding company for the Baltimore Street project, which remains at a standstill. Ruston continues to place pressure to complete the work and would like swift judgement so the contractor can resume and complete the project. Mayor Hopkins restated that this was a Point Ruston project and not a City project.

There has been strong interest by potential tenants to lease space on the main floor of the Ruston School building, with location and safety in Ruston two main factors. City staff are currently working to update the space with new paint and flooring. At a recent staff meeting, City staff noted they were closely monitoring Point Ruston's submission of the EIS. Point Ruston is rebutting the mitigation requirements. Until the EIS is completed the developers will have a difficult time obtaining building permits at Point Ruston. With exception, Mayor Hopkins shared that Building 9-11 was currently undergoing the permitting process. North End on Pearl was slated to open sometime in February. They still require final inspection to be completed and a Certificate of Occupancy issued.

Councilmember Hedrick – Questioned why the insurance company would want the Baltimore Street project to go back to a bidding process. Mayor Hopkins' responded that it was his understanding that the contractors who were doing the work were seeking outstanding money which was owed them and were looking for reimbursement.

Councilmember Kristovich – Was excused.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Was excused.

Councilmember Jensen - Wanted to remind everyone there was a Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, with Washington State Department of Commerce presenting Middle Housing. Councilmember Jensen welcomed all to attend.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:17PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 3-0.

ATTEST:

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

Judy Grams