

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, April 5, 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 Kristovich, Councilmember Syler, Councilmember Huson and Councilmember Jensen. Councilmember Hedrick was excused. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Huson moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

MINUTES - Councilmember Huson moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of March 15, 2022. Councilmember Syler moved to amend the minutes under Business, Ordinance 1557, removing the third bullet, which is the same as the second bullet. With a second from Councilmember Kristovich the Regular Council Meeting minutes of March 15, 2022 as amended, passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORT – Nothing at this time.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Emily Wood – Was interested in helping with community engagement. Ms. Wood reached out to several Councilmembers, via email, with suggestions in bringing neighbors together.

BUSINESS – Nothing at this time.

PAYROLL – Councilmember Huson moved to approve Payroll of March 20, 2022 and April 5, 2022, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

MAYOR'S TIME – Mayor Hopkins presented an update on the Point Ruston and EPA remedial action plan related to the mound of dirt that is now positioned at the cooling pond. In plan the developer was to bring the dirt to street level; however, it appears this will not happen. EPA does not have authority over the developer so the mound of dirt may stay, as is, for some time. The developer will be required to cap the mound with uncontaminated dirt and reseed it and this remedial action must be completed by March 30, 2022 although there may be an extension due to weather. The developer must have proof of financing for building 11 and has presented financing information to the Department of Justice.

The Department of Justice is currently reviewing the developer's submission. If the developer does not have proper financing in place, parcels 9 and 11 would require remediation and a cap, in the form of asphalt or grass, and must be completed by the end of June 2022. The City sent the developer notice to remove all material stored on the lot at Yacht Club Road. Storage of material at this site is not permitted. Mayor Hopkins also noted he had received communication from residents regarding the trailers housed on the OCF. These trailers have been tagged with graffiti. Code enforcement will be difficult because it is hard to identify and track who the owner(s) of the trailers are. If the developer does not meet the June 30th deadline, then the trailers will have to be removed as required by the EPA. Mayor Hopkins provided an update on the Phase II undergrounding project. Kevin Moser, City Project Manager, is leading this project. The project will address 49th and Winnifred Street and Rust Way to Argyle Place going north. The undergrounding initiative will be subject to available funds in the annual revenues and City Council approval. The future plan for undergrounding will go from east to west then from south to north of the City.

Councilmember Hedrick – Excused.

Councilmember Kristovich – Traveled cross country by car for a month and was happy to be back home. In taking this trip Councilmember Kristovich realized just how lucky and proud she was to live in Ruston. Councilmember Kristovich thanked Emily Wood for her interest and passion exploring the possibility for an off-leash dog park at Rust Park. Councilmember Kristovich apologized for the gap in communication, while being out of town, and noted that she would be sending a detailed email to Ms. Wood.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Asked Emily Wood to contact him directly and provided his telephone number. Councilmember Huson would like to coordinate a meeting with both Emily Wood and Councilmember Jensen to discuss an off-leash dog park and ways to bring community together.

Councilmember Jensen – Appreciated Mayor Hopkins comments regarding the undergrounding project which provided helpful background and historical information. Councilmember Jensen requested a copy of the underground project presentation, presented in 2018, so she could post it to the Ruston website. This would provide clarification and answer neighbors' questions. Councilmember Jensen was making progress with the Ruston website development and thanked Emily Wood for her support in building better communication and citizen interface.

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Councilmember Jensen was sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on July 15, 2022, to be held at the Totem Yacht Club, and asked that everyone to save the date.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:27PM Councilmember Huson moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.



Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:



Judy Grams