

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:00PM City Clerk Grams called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Kristovich, Councilmember Huson, and Councilmember Jensen. Mayor Hopkins and Councilmember Syler were excused. Councilmember Kristovich moved to elect Councilmember Hedrick as Mayor Pro Tem, with a second by Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Kristovich moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

**MINUTES** - Councilmember Kristovich moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of December 20, 2022 and noted there were no Regular Council meeting minutes for January 3, 2023, as it was canceled. With a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

**STAFF REPORT** –

**Ruston Police – Chief Bautista – See attached.**

**Ruston Fire – Chief Allen – See attached.**

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Nothing at this time.

**BUSINESS** – Nothing at this time.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL** – Councilmember Kristovich moved to approve Claims for January 3, 2023 and January 17, 2023 and Payroll for January 5, 2023, with a second from Councilmember Huson, passed 4-0.

**MAYOR’S TIME** – Was excused.

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

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

**Councilmember Syler** - Was excused.

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

**Councilmember Jensen** – Wanted to follow up with discussion on the proposal to hold a Ruston City Council Retreat and Budget Workshop. Councilmember Jensen suggested that a Council Retreat be held May 2, 2023, from 3-6:30PM, at the Mary Joyce Community Center. In preparation, Councilmember Jensen recommended that special presentations be added to the regular Council Meetings of March 7, 2023 – Budget Training by City Finance Director and April 4, 2023 – Comprehensive Plan and Vision by City Planner. A facilitator would work with participants, between April 5 – April 25, 2023, in completing a workshop questionnaire identifying goals and priorities for the City. Councilmember Jensen invited Ruston Police Chief Bautista, Ruston Fire Chief Allen and City staff to participate, and confirmed with City Attorney Robertson, that the public should be invited to attend the Council Retreat and Budget Workshop. All Ruston Councilmembers, present, agreed with Councilmembers Jensen’s proposal. See attached.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – At 7:27PM Councilmember Jensen 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, January 17, 2023**

The following is a recap of calls for service and self-initiated traffic stops in 2022, with a percent of change from the same category totals of 2021.

Calls for Service 2022 2300	Calls for Service 2021 1655	Percent of Change 61% increase
Traffic Stops 2022 523	Traffic Stops 2021 751	Percent of Change 56% increase

The SOAR Ordinance was instrumental in giving the officers the tools they needed to go after the nuisance and danger of reckless drivers. We are starting to see SOAR orders, signed by Judge Miller, issued upon those who disturb our City with their vehicle noise and dangerous driving. The Department will put the license plates contained in the SOAR order into the automatic license plate readers, which will then alert our officers when they return to the City. If they violate the order, we will impound their vehicle and book the offending driver into the Pierce County Jail.

The 2021 so-called police reform laws of Washington will be addressed this legislative session by Pierce County Prosecutor Mary Robnett (and others), and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. The changes in use of force by officers compelled an unfunded mandate to provide more less-lethal options for officers due to unprecedented "rules of engagement" by police.

In response, the Department recently completed the purchase of a projectile launcher by a Belgian company called Fabrique Nationale. Known as the FN303 launcher, it is a pain compliance tool which launches accurate disintegrating projectiles at suspects. The projectiles can contain paint to mark the suspect for later identification, OC powder to severely irritate the eyes, and even polymer projectiles to break auto glass in the case of a barricaded suspect. Though the devices were expensive, and the non-reusable projectiles even more so, it is necessary to be able show the Department considers lethal force to be a final option.

Presented by Nestor Bautista

## **Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for December 2022**

Tuesday, January 17, 2022

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

**Total Incidents (YTD) 130, December 10**(2 Fire/Service, 8 Medical Aid)

**Volunteer Hours: December 1040 Hours, YTD 10441 Hours**

**Membership Roster (19 out of 25): (15 Members, 4 Officers)**

### **State of the Business**

- We are now registered as an Ambulance with BLS transport capabilities.
- We will need to replace our stretcher now that we are transporting.
- Utility 33(Expedition) has now been changed to Squad 33.
- We are meeting with Olympic Ambulance to explore the possibility of them handling our ALS transports.
- Tyler Grover has been promoted to Lieutenant.
- All fire tools are fully operational.



Town Clerk &lt;townclerk@rustonwa.org&gt;

**Council Retreat / Budget Workshop Tentative Date: May 2d 2023; 3-6:30 PM**

1 message

jenniferj@rustonwa.org &lt;jenniferj@rustonwa.org&gt;

Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 5:37 PM

To: Lynn Syler <lsyler@rustonwa.org>, Deb Kristovich <debk@rustonwa.org>, bradleyhuson@rustonwa.org, Jim Hedrick <jimh@rustonwa.org>  
Cc: Bruce Hopkins <bruceh@rustonwa.org>, gina.andrews.bruce@gmail.com, Jeremiah Treacy <jtreacy@resinglobal.com>, townclerk@rustonwa.org

Good afternoon,

This is a follow up to our retreat discussion at the council meeting of December 20<sup>th</sup>. I will open this topic during my council time tomorrow night, but wanted to email the following **proposal**:

Council Retreat: May 2d, 2023, from 3-6:30.

In preparation for the retreat:

March 7<sup>th</sup> – Special Presentation added to Regular Council Agenda – Budget Training/explanation by City Finance Director

April 4<sup>th</sup> – Special Presentation added to Regular Council Agenda – Comprehensive Plan and current vision presentation by City Planner

April 5<sup>th</sup> – April 25<sup>th</sup> – Retreat participants complete workshop questionnaire for retreat facilitators (individual goals and priorities for city – these contributions prior to the retreat will streamline our work the night of the retreat)

The city's lawyer has confirmed that residents must be invited to attend the retreat (I've added the content of her message below my signature block – it is instructive for how to best set up this "Special Meeting").

All meetings will be held in the Mary Joyce Community Center.

I recommend inviting city staff, Fire Chief and Police Chief as participants. Will need agreement from council.

I will work with the city clerk and the mayor to add the above presentations to our agendas.

I look forward to discussion tomorrow evening as well as the contributions we all bring these meetings.

*Jenn Jensen*

Ruston City Councilmember

**"ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION**

Dear Councilmember Jensen,

Under the Open Public Meetings Act (Ch. 42.30 RCW), nearly all council meetings where a quorum is present are required to be noticed and open to the public. The only exceptions are when discussing matters that are

considered appropriate for an executive session (RCW 42.30.110), or "closed sessions" where the Council may be discussing items that are not subject to the OPMA (e.g. discussions of labor negotiations). A retreat where general business is discussed is not an exception to the OPMA and therefore the retreat must be open to the public.

That said, if a council retreat is set as a special meeting, then only the items listed on the agenda can be taken up. So if the Council wants to restrict this to council discussion only (as may be appropriate for a council workshop), then you wouldn't put a public comment as an item on the agenda. In that circumstance, the public can watch, but not speak. In addition, for many retreats, councils need/want to work on deeper issues that are not well-suited to a regular council meeting including interpersonal relationships among members, thorny/highly political issues, internal council operations, or large visioning work (i.e., creating a council vision statement). Many council members feel inhibited in this type of work if it is done in front of the public (which can and does have a chilling effect in my experience). The solution is to hold this type of retreat at least 1-2 hours (or more) away from the city to reduce the chance of the public showing up. It would still be an open meeting, but many members of the public can't be bothered to go that far to watch. Also, since only meeting minutes are required for meetings, many retreats do not audio or video record and do not broadcast. The meeting minutes are generally very high level in this circumstance. And if it is a special meeting with no public comment and no final decisions being made, there is no requirement to provide a video/telephone connection to the public. "

• Jennifer S. Robertson

Ruston City Attorney

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