

City of Ruston

Est. 1906

April 2023

253-759-3544

**5219 N Shirley Street
Ruston, WA 98407
www.rustonwa.org**

Open M-F 9am–5pm

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- City Council Meets: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 is canceled. Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7PM.
- Please refer to the Ruston website at www.rustonwa.org for updates May 16, 2023 Council Meeting.
- Planning Commission: Watch the bulletin board and the website for scheduled meetings.
- Ruston City Council will hold a Council Retreat & Budget Workshop on May 16th from 3-6:30PM. This special meeting will take place in the Mary Joyce Community Center, will be open to the public and will be prior to the regular Council Meeting of May 16th at 7PM.

Mayors Corner

At our last council meeting we had a well-attended presentation from the Department of Commerce on Middle Housing. The City received a Middle Housing grant from the State in their effort to have local municipalities support the adoption of middle housing types into our zoning code. Currently our Planning Commission is working on updating our Comprehensive Plan along with integrating the middle housing request from the State. Ruston currently supports several of the “middle housing types” such as Duplexes and ADUs (accessory dwelling units). These are done via a Conditional Use Permit and this process is currently under evaluation by our Planning Commission.

I think it’s important for residents to understand that your leadership, the Council and Planning Commission, are under pressure from the State to increase density. We really want to be able to continue to determine how/where to scale density that makes the most sense for our residents. The current legislative session had House Bill 1110 seeking to give the State control over our zoning laws by allowing multi-family units, duplexes and fourplexes, on residential lots and trumping local land zoning laws. There is also little consideration for infrastructure, most notably parking, and the impact that this will have on residential neighborhoods. While the bill did pass the final bill was changed enough that it excluded Ruston from being affected.

The fact that we still have control over our planning and land use decisions is extremely important. As residents, I encourage you all to attend the current Planning Commission meetings and provide input on your vision for the future of our City. This is especially important in the year ahead when Ruston will do its periodic update of the Ruston Comprehensive Plan. It’s *your* city, come to the Planning Commission and the Council meetings and have your say!

Thanks for reading – you mayor – Bruce Hopkins

From the Police Department

In December of 2021, the Ruston City Council approved a budget that provided the recruitment and hiring of two additional officers. Due to the highly competitive nature of attracting applicants (some agencies offer up to \$25,000 signing bonuses and cash retention benefits), it took nearly 18 months to find, hire and train the right people for our Department. We were very fortunate to fill the positions despite our competition.

On April 1st, the Department started a new deployment schedule that provides the City with 24 hours of law enforcement service for the first time in Ruston’s history. Additionally, there will be *two officers on duty* for up to 19 hours in the 24-hour period. This will allow us to safely set and achieve goals/programs aimed entirely toward public safety. One example is the use of high-volume traffic stops to encourage observance of our City Ordinances and to discourage reckless driving by racing vehicles.

<u>Traffic stops by officers</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>PERCENT OF CHANGE</u>
3/26-4/16	115	31	+271%

But calls for service have also increased over the same period in 2022. A call for service is any incident the police are asked to handle through a 911 call, citizen contact, phone call to the City, etc.

<u>Calls for Service</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>PERCENT OF CHANGE</u>
3/26-4/14	256	158	+62%

We know that crime throughout the country is increasing, but it is increasing higher and faster in Washington State. The Department is committed to combatting this trend from occurring in Ruston.

Thank you. Nestor Bautista, Chief of Police

From the Fire Department

As a reminder, from last month, all spring cleanup should be recycled and not burned. We don't allow burning of any yard waste or trash.

Welcome to allergy season! We will start to see lots of insects and bees. Please check your Epi-Pens and make sure they are still good for those of you that need them.

Thank you. Fire Chief Bruce Allen

From the Public Works Department

Spring is here! Now is the time for pruning, keep an eye on trees and bushes growing around the perimeter of your property. Trim or cut branches that are growing into or overhead of the sidewalk, alley, street, and service wires and maintain at least 15 feet from the feed lines. I have seen improvement for those who use our sidewalks. The Service line to your house is your responsibility. Please make sure to keep the meters clear of branches and obstruction. Thank you to those that are doing their part.

A big shout out to all the Mothers - HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!

Thank you for your time in reading this newsletter. The Public Works Department

MAYOR

Bruce Hopkins 253-759-3544 bruceh@rustonwa.org

Council

Jim Hedrick 360-789-4700 jimh@rustonwa.org
 Deb Kristovich 253-988-8121 debk@rustonwa.org
 Lynn Syler 253-223-7459 lsyler@rustonwa.org
 Bradley Huson 253-759-6391 bradleyhuson@rustonwa.org
 Jennifer Jensen 206-853-1992 jenniferj@rustonwa.org

If you need assistance to attend a Council meeting please contact City Hall at 253-759-3544 x 102.

Emergency - Dial 911 or Non-Emergency Dispatcher

253-798-4721(24 hour) Use dispatcher number to request a Ruston Police officer contact you for urgent non-emergency responses

City of Ruston Personnel

Police Department	253-798-4721	
Nestor Bautista		Police Chief
City Hall	253-759-3544	
City Clerk	253-759-3544	Judy Grams
City Attorney	253-759-3544	Jennifer Robertson
Fire Chief	253-330-7755	Bruce Allen
Public Works	253-759-3544	Ray Johnson
Building Services Code Pros	253-759-3544	Mike Barth
http://www.rustonwa.org/services/community-development/code-enforcement		
City Planner	253-759-3544	Rob White
Associate Planner	253-759-3544	Charles McKenna