

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

MINUTES - Councilmember Kristovich moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of July 18, 2023, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORT –

Ruston Police Chief Bautista – See attached.

Ruston Fire Chief Allen – See attached.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Doug Hammond – Could not hear Council response and reminded Councilmembers to use their microphones. Mr. Hammond questioned which Point Ruston properties went up for auction.

Joe Beck – Sent a formal petition to City of Tacoma regarding the livability in the Point Ruston development. Mr. Beck wanted cooperation between the City of Tacoma, Metro Parks and the City of Ruston when addressing noise and crime in the area. See attached. Councilmember Hedrick welcomed an invitation to meet with City of Tacoma and Metro Parks and asked Mr. Beck to contact him directly.

Talia Thepvongasa – Thank the Ruston Police Department for their efforts in keeping Ruston safe. Ms. Thepvongasa was interested in a City of Ruston Volunteer Program and raising funds to sponsor a program.

BUSINESS –

Objection Hearing – Continued Council Deliberation on Three Appeals of Rust Phase 2

Electrical Undergrounding – The Council continued deliberations on three objections that were filed in the Rust Way-Phase 2 Electric Undergrounding Project. Hearings on these three objections were held on July 18, 2023 and were then closed. The three objections were filed by the following:

1. Terry Cole and Michael Gosciniak – 4908 N. Winnifred Street
2. John Hardin – 5427 N. 49th Street
3. Shawn and Jesse Kelley – 5433 N. 49th Street

Each objection had a separate hearing and each of the objecting parties had an opportunity to testify and to provide additional submittals to the Council. The Council began its deliberations on July 18th and then continued its deliberations to tonight’s meeting. Councilmember Kristovich and Councilmember Syler were unable to attend the hearings, however, they were provided access to the recordings, as well as all information that was provided to Council. Councilmember Kristovich and Councilmember Syler were available to participate in the deliberations after confirming their review of the recording and all material. All Councilmembers confirmed they had no contact with the objectors or other members of the public about these matters outside of the public hearing establishing no conflict of interest. Mayor Pro Tem Hedrick asked the parties, who had filed their objections, if they wished to challenge any decisionmaker on the basis of appearance of fairness, any ex parte contacts, or conflicts of interest. There was no response from the objectors. Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Kristovich, Councilmember Syler, Councilmember Huson and Councilmember Jensen verbally provided the basis for their decision, including any findings and conclusions. Mayor Pro Tem Hedrick moved to reject Terry Cole and Michael Gosciniak, John Hardin and Jessica Mitchell-Hardin, and Shawn and Jessie Kelley’s objection, with the instruction that the objector must complete the conversion to underground before March 2, 2024. With a second from Councilmember Jensen passed 4-0.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL – Councilmember Kristovich moved to approve Claims for August 3, 2023 and Payroll for July 20, 2023 and August 5, 2023, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 4-0.

MAYOR’S TIME – Was excused.

Councilmember Hedrick – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Huson – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Jensen – Nothing at this time.

MEETING AJOURNED – At 7:37PM Councilmember Kristovich moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Syler, passed 4-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams



**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

In a previous 28 days period (July 12-Aug 9), the Department recorded 283 calls for service, 108 of which were traffic stops. A breakdown comparing the percent of change from the same period in 2022 is shown below:

<u>Calls/Service (non-traffic)</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>PERCENT OF CHANGE</u>
175	135	+30%	
<u>Traffic Stops</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>PERCENT OF CHANGE</u>
108	57	+89.5%	

Sergeant Clayton Grubb is being recognized by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for his efforts in traffic enforcement. Sergeant Grubb is within the top 5 performers of all police and sheriff deputies in Pierce County and has been invited to receive his award the NHTSA annual conference in Wenatchee next month.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista

Ruston Fire Department Monthly Review for July 2023

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Presented by Chief Bruce Allen

Total Incidents (YTD) 103, July 22 (9 Fire/Service, 13 Medical Aid)

Volunteer Hours: July 2137 Hours, YTD 9590 Hours

Membership Roster (24 out of 25): (20 Members, 4 Officers)

State of the Business

- We had 3 people start the Firefighter 1 class through Riverside Fire yesterday.
- We have 2 people starting EMT class in September at Pierce College.
- Engine 339 will be going in for its annual pump test late this month.
- We will need to replace our stretcher soon now that we are transporting.
- All fire tools are fully operational.

My name is Joe Beck and my wife and I live in the Point Ruston community directly on the border between the City of Tacoma and the City of Ruston and adjoining the Metro Parks Tacoma Ruston Way Waterwalk and Point Defiance Park. I am the vice president of my condominium HOA and am writing this in my personal capacity as well as on behalf of my HOA Board (members cc'd) and other residents and businesses in the Point Ruston Community. I plan to attend an upcoming council meeting and, if allowed, address the attached petition during public comment. I am also simultaneously transmitting this petition and request to the Metro Parks Tacoma and the City of Tacoma. We are asking Metro Parks Tacoma, the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Police Department, the City of Ruston, and the Ruston Police Department to work together to address safety, nuisance, and law enforcement issues in and surrounding the Point Ruston community. Those of us who live and work in the Point Ruston community are in somewhat unique position of existing in a community bisected by three different jurisdictional entities. As such, when we have a law enforcement or nuisance problem, we suffer from a lot of finger pointing between the various entities. When we call law enforcement we are routinely told that the activity is occurring on Park Property and law enforcement does not get involved without Metro Park's request. When we call or write Metro Parks the response is so delayed that no significant deterrent to the illegal activity is realized. There seems to be a real disconnect between the various jurisdictions. We are simply asking that the various jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies begin to work together in a more cohesive way to address chronic law enforcement issues in our community related to safety and nuisance and specifically ongoing issues with regard to the high speed operation of various personal mobility devices such as electrified scooters and skate boards, electronically amplified and unpermitted music and public speaking, as well as general issues of public safety some of which involve firearms and assaultive behaviors by people visiting our community.

Attached is a petition signed by people representing over 200 residents and business owners in this Community. We are asking that the various entities and law enforcement agencies begin to formally work together to address these issues. Specifically, we are requesting that you:

1. Prepare a comprehensive plan of action to address these issues;
2. Coordinate with law enforcement and authorize and encourage law enforcement to enforce the existing laws and regulations; and
3. Direct Metro Parks staff to take active measures to curtail these illegal activities on park property.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe Beck
Vice President Century Condominium HOA