

City of Ruston

Est. 1906

May 2020

5117 N Winnifred Street

Ruston, WA 98407

www.rustonwa.org

253-759-3544

Open M-F 9am–5pm

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- City Council Meets: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 and Tuesday, June 16, 2020.
- Regular Council Meetings are held at The Mary Joyce Community Center, 5219 N. Shirley St, at 7:00 PM.
- Individuals who desire special accommodations should contact the City Clerk at (253)759-3544 at least 48 business hours prior to Council Meetings.
- Planning Commission: Watch the bulletin board and the website for meetings scheduled.

Mayors Corner

City Hall remains closed to walk in traffic but available via email or telephone. While foot traffic has been restricted, we continue to provide all necessary services utilizing social distancing.

I am sad to report that our City Engineer, Jerry Morrisette passed away on May 10th. It was my pleasure to have worked with Jerry for over a decade. Jerry was such a pleasant person with a sense of humor rarely seen in an engineer and he will be missed by many. We thank Jerry for his years of service.

Ruston, along with the City of Tacoma, continue to review Point Ruston's latest permit application for Buildings 9 & 11. This project consists of approximately 78,000 sq/ft of commercial space and 206 residential units which will surround the parking garage.

The main issue faced by both municipalities is that this project, when considered along with Building 4 (Tacoma side currently under review), exceeds the combined residential and commercial densities allowed under the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) prepared under SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act). As a result, issuance of permits for Buildings 4, 9 and 11 would require completion of the mitigation prior to occupancy. Unfortunately, much of the mitigation to be provided within Ruston has yet to be proposed by Point Ruston, which includes various design and construction projects such as Promontory Hill Park, Baltimore Street improvements, pedestrian safety improvements, and mitigation related to emergency services (Police & Fire). This action appears to be unprecedented and we are concerned that by postponing the requirements they delay the public safety (fire & police) mitigation and places a bigger burden on your tax dollars to provide public safety to Pt Ruston.

Although the proposed increase in residential and commercial density may be acceptable, the proper process would be through the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement process, not through a minor addendum, as is currently proposed by the developer. The current approach would allow unprecedented delay of provisions for required mitigation in both jurisdictions, which we believe is inconsistent with SEPA regulations. Washington's Growth Management Act and SEPA regulations have been in place for decades and are intended to prevent exactly this sort of situation – one where developers make impacts without first mitigating them or worse, passing costs on to taxpayers. We are concerned that the combination of allowing increased density while also delaying completion of required mitigation will place a substantial burden on your tax dollars and Ruston's ability to serve the Point Ruston project with adequate fire and police public safety services.

For anyone interested in reading our staff comments, made in a formal response to the City of Tacoma, we have placed these comments on to our website.

Hope you and your family are well – and remain safe. Thanks for reading – your mayor – Bruce Hopkins

From the Clerk's Office

The City has completed the annual reset of sewer rates. Your rates decreased, remained the same, or increased based on your household consumption usage. This will be reflected in your utility bill due May 15, 2020.

From the Police Department

The officers and I hope you are all healthy and well in this interesting time. I am happy to report that all your officers are healthy and ready to serve. Recently, there is a rise in reckless driving at the boat launch parking lot north of our city and in a parking lot off Yacht Club Road. It is the crime of reckless driving because the operator is willingly operating the vehicle in a manner that lacks control of its desired direction. If you happen to be walking or riding your bike nearby, please stay extremely distant and call 911 so we can respond.

This year's 4th of July celebration has been postponed, as has the Taste of Tacoma. The most recent information I have is they are considering dates in August and/or September.

When walking your dog in our community, remember that it should be leashed. Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Take along a baggie with you to pick up waste and then dispose of it properly. By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you contribute not only to the beautification of our community, but also towards the elimination of one of the most irritating nuisances in our community. Thank you for your cooperation. Nestor Bautista, Chief of Police

From the Fire Department

The fire academy is halfway finished and our recruit, Geraldo Ceballos, is doing very well. Wish him luck in his final push to finish. Summer means warmer weather and BBQ time. There are some simple safety tips to follow when using an outside grill.

1. Grill outside and away from structures. 2. Make sure your grill is stable. 3. Keep your grill clean. 4. Check for propane leaks on your gas grill. 5. Be careful with charcoal starter fluid. 6. Be prepared to put a fire out. 7. Never leave kids unattended around a lit grill.

For any emergencies, do not hesitate to call 911. Thank you all for your continued support and thank you for reading.
Sara Anderson-MSO Ruston Fire

From the Public Works Department

Please 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 sidewalk, alley and street. This is a safety concern for walkers and small children using our sidewalks.

Do not set out overfilled garbage carts. An overfilled cart is one where the lid does not lie flat on the cart when closed, because the contents of the cart are more than its capacity. Garbage that is out in the open because the lid will not close is an invitation to critters and crows that are always looking for their next meal and do not clean up after themselves. Remember, overfilled carts, set out for pick-up, are subject to an extra charge on your utility bill. Thank you.

The Public Works Department

MAYOR

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

Council

Jim Hedrick 253-759-0944 jimh@rustonwa.org
Lyle Hardin 253-759-6227 lyleh@rustonwa.org
Deb Holland 253-988-8121 debk@rustonwa.org
Lynn Syler 253-223-7459 lsyler@rustonwa.org
Bradley Huson 253-759-6391 bradleyhuson@rustonwa.org

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

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
City Attorney	253-759-3544
Assist Fire Chief	253-330-7755
Assist Fire Chief	253-330-7755
Public Works	253-759-3544
Building Services Code Pros	253-759-3544
http://www.rustonwa.org/services/community-development/code-enforcement	
City Planner	253-759-3544
	Rob White