



Town Clerk <townclerk@rustonwa.org>

End of Session Wrap Up Meeting

1 message

Bruce Hopkins <bruceh@rustonwa.org>

Fri, Dec 1, 2023 at 11:57 AM

To: "Jinkins, Rep. Laurie" <Laurie.Jinkins@leg.wa.gov>

Cc: "Flaherty, Faith" <Faith.Flaherty@leg.wa.gov>, Jim Hedrick <jimh@rustonwa.org>, Jim Hedrick <jim_hedrick@comcast.net>, Jennifer Jensen <Jenniferj@rustonwa.org>

Bcc: townclerk@rustonwa.org

Speaker Jinkins,

I would like to thank you for providing councilmembers Hedrick and Jensen, City Planner White and myself with your end of session wrap up meeting on November 6th. We appreciated hearing of all the legislative accomplishments and want to extend our gratitude to you for your hard work representing our district and the State of Washington.

In our meeting you mentioned that an opportunity may exist to help the City of Ruston (Ruston) with our capital improvement projects that require funding beyond our fiscal capabilities. Specifically, the immediate need is to address our aging Community Center and provide our residents with an accessible and safe Community gathering place. Over the years we have developed the scope of work needed for the identified improvements as well as contracting with an architect and engineer to provide us with construction ready improvement plans and costs. Attached you will find the list of Community Center Improvements contained in our capital improvement project list. The most needed repairs and improvements amount to a grand total of \$1,175,000 per attached document (costs listed in red).

The other area we spoke about was centered around an environmental and remedial action perspective. Ruston has incurred cleanup costs that have not been completely reimbursed by either the state Department of Ecology (Ecology) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

We still have a balance on our books for a street project (Winnifred St) in which we incurred \$325,000 in additional costs for which Ecology has only reimbursed \$100, Ecology has told us that any amount over \$100,000 is outside of their authority and would require legislative action. Ruston has been left with significant long-term environmental concerns that need to be addressed. We have projected future expenditures essential for the completion of environmental cleanup on Ruston-owned properties and the right-of-way that were left unfinished by the EPA, or were cleaned, but not to the level required by Ecology, which is 20 PPM for arsenic. Given the amount of remedial action still left within the Ruston city limits it is the city's belief that we should have been awarded funds from the Asarco settlement agreement rather than Ruston having to go to Ecology on bended knee every time we have a project. More importantly, we need to clean up our city rights of way to a healthy and safe level. We are asking that the legislature carve out \$6,489,000 from the Asarco settlement fund and award it to the City of Ruston to allow us to properly remediate our city. I have attached the documentation that provides the basis for this request.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and we look forward to your response and direction.

Regards,

Bruce

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Bruce Hopkins

Mayor

City of Ruston

Tel: (253) 759-3544

bruceh@rustonwa.org

2 attachments **Ruston Community Center Cost Estimates Overview.pdf**

638K

 **Environmental Cost Estimates.pdf**

474K