

**CITY OF RUSTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:00PM Mayor Hopkins called the regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Councilmember Hedrick, Councilmember Holland, Councilmember Syler, Councilmember Huson and Councilmember Jensen. Following the flag salute, Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 5-0.

**MINUTES** - Councilmember Hedrick moved to approve the minutes for the regular Council Meeting of January 16, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 5-0.

**STAFF REPORT** – Nothing at this time.

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

**BUSINESS** – RES 786 – SCJ Alliance Agreement – Park Avenue Amendments #3 and #4

Ruston entered into a Professional Services Agreement with SCJ Alliance on December 21, 2021 for on-call engineering services which was authorized by the City Council via Resolution No. 738. The Scope of Work for that Agreement was updated and expanded via Resolution No. 747 following the award of TIB funds to the City for the Park Avenue – End of Road to Bennett Street Improvement Project (SEP 22-00039) (hereinafter “Project”). The Agreement was amended again in October of 2023 via Resolution No. 777 in order to address stormwater system conflicts which required additional work related to the street lighting design and undergrounding of existing electrical facilities. The contract maximum was increased to \$110,542.48. On November 21, 2023, the Council passed Resolution No. 783 adding \$9,374.00 to the project budget for potholing for utility locate purposes (bringing the total to \$119,916.48). Since November, costs have increased, and the City also desires to also remediate the soil in the right way. The city should be able to obtain grant funding for the soil remediation after more information is known in order to estimate the remediation costs. The amended work is described below:

**Amendment #3:** This Amendment #3 adds the following to the current scope of work: contaminated materials testing, redesign of the sidewalk at 5327 Shirley St, permitting, and bidding support. The work will be done by GeoEngineers as a subcontractor to SCJ Alliance. This work is estimated to add \$53,741.51 to the project budget. After this work is completed, the City will use the information to request additional funding to clean up the soil (remediation work) from the Department of Ecology and will also be requesting inflation adjustments from TIB. The \$53,741.51 added cost will come from the general fund unless the City is successful in getting the State Legislature to provide this as part of a remediation funding appropriation.

**Amendment #4:** This Amendment changes the scope of work to provide full time construction inspection, half time administration, and material testing through the end of the Park Avenue Project. This work is estimated to add \$179,236.88 to the project budget. This work is expected to be funded by the increase request that will be made to TIB, for which Ruston has a five percent match. The City will not give a Notice to Proceed on this portion of the work until Ruston has confirmed the grant funding is approved by TIB and a contractor has been selected. With these two amendments, the new contract maximum will increase to \$352,827.62. Resolution No. 786 authorizes the amendments of the Agreement to increase the project maximum to enable completion of the work.

Councilmember Hedrick and Mayor Hopkins discussed the funding with TIB and would not move the project forward until we have the funding in place. Councilmember Jensen and Mayor Hopkins discussed the amendments to the contract as this is an addition to the original scope of work. The city will need the testing done first and are assured the money is coming from the state before it goes out to bid.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL** – Councilmember Syler moved to approve Claims for January 16, 2024, and Payroll for January 5, 2024, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 5-0.

**MAYOR’S TIME** – Mayor Hopkins and Planning Director, Rob White, met with the City of Tacoma with their city attorney and planning staff on the EIS. A meeting is scheduled for next week with a private equity firm, Terracotta, regarding lots 14, 15 and 16 regarding the development of those lots. Mayor Hopkins provided an overview on the Rust Park remediation project and would like to consider a solar farm as an option for power. We will have a demonstration next month of the GIS system.

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

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

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

**Councilmember Huson** – He had a conversation with a member of a car club who is interested in using Winnifred Street for a car show this summer. Councilmembers’ consensus is in support of the car show event. He will bring back more information at the next meeting.

**Councilmember Jensen** – She loves the idea for the car show idea discussed by Councilmember Huson. She likes the idea of the solar park and getting public’s input.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – At 7:29PM Councilmember Hedrick moved to adjourn, with a second from Councilmember Holland, passed 5-0.

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Mayor Hopkins

ATTEST:

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Laurie Cassell