

**Subject: Ordinance #1571 – Update Of Public Works Standards (Chapter 12.09 RMC)**

**Proposed Council Action:**

This is scheduled Second Reading. The Council should discuss the matter and may give direction to staff and defer action for Third Reading or may take Action to Adopt Ordinance No. 1571 on February 20, 2024.

**Dept. Origin:** Engineering Department  
 Planning Department  
 City Attorney’s Office

**Prepared by:** Jennifer Robertson,  
 City Attorney

**For Agenda of:** February 20, 2024

**Exhibits:** Ordinance #1571 & Updated  
 Manuals/Guides

	Initial & Date
<b>Concurred by Mayor:</b>	_____
<b>Approved by City Planner:</b>	_____
<b>Approved as to form by City Atty:</b>	<u>JSR/2-14-2024</u>
<b>Approved by City Engineer:</b>	_____

**INFORMATION / BACKGROUND**

**1. What and why does Ruston adopt public works standards?**

The purpose of adopting public work standards is to create a uniform set of standards, plans, and guidelines for construction of City infrastructure. This ensures that the construction of such infrastructure is to a high-quality standard, is correct from an engineering perspective, complies with professional standards and applicable laws, and that there is a uniform level of infrastructure throughout that the City that is consistent. This provides better infrastructure and better quality of design.

These standards are used by City staff, City contractors doing public works, and by private developers when they are building or connecting to City infrastructure as part of private development. For example, without consistent sidewalk standards, a new sidewalk may not match up with existing sidewalk and may look, feel, and perform differently. In addition, it may not be of the same quality as existing sidewalks. Without public works standards, the City could end up having substandard and inconsistent infrastructure constructed which leads to a less harmonious city as well as the risk of significant added expense at the City would need to fund corrections and replacement infrastructure.

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**2. History of public works standards in Ruston.**

Under state law,<sup>1</sup> the City is permitted to adopt the codes and standards of other government agencies by reference, including those adopted or published by the State and by other cities. This City first adopted public works standards in August 2013 by enacting Ordinance 1416. This is updated from time to time when standards change. The most recent update was via Ordinance No. 1500 on November 21, 2017. Since Ruston is surrounded on three sides by Tacoma, it makes sense for Ruston to have the same or similar standards as Tacoma and Ruston has typically taken Tacoma standards and modified them specific to Ruston as part of the adoption process.

**3. What is included in the 2024 update.**

Since the 2017 update, new standards have been created (such as street trees) and others have been simply updated. In addition, one standard has been repealed and a new code section added.

**a. *Updated Public Works Standards.***

The proposed updated standards include the following:

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Date of Update or Version Adopted</b>	<b>New in 2024</b>	<b>Code Reference</b>
The Standard Specifications and Standard Plans for Road, Bridge and Municipal Construction, promulgated by the Washington State Department of Transportation	2023	No	12.09.010
Ruston Right of Way Design Manual	2018	No	12.09.030
Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices	2023	No	12.09.040
Tacoma Stormwater Management Manual	2021	No	12.09.050
Tacoma Right of Way Restoration Policy	2023	<b>Yes</b>	12.09.065
Traffic Control Handbook	2021	<b>Yes</b>	12.09.068
Sewerage Works Design Manual	2023	No	12.09.070
Street Light Standards	2021	No	12.09.080
Street Tree Manual	2024	<b>Yes</b>	12.09.085
Tacoma Street Utility Standards	2021	No	12.09.090
Tacoma Traffic Signal Standard Plans	2017	No	12.09.100
Sign Fabrication Manual	2021	No	12.09.110

<sup>1</sup> RCW 35A.12.140.

**b. Other revisions to Chapter 12.09 RMC.**

In addition to updating standards and adding three new standards, Ordinance No. 1571 repeals the Right of Way Design Manual that was adopted under RMC 12.09.060 as superfluous to other manuals, including the Ruston Right of Way Design Manual adopted under RMC 12.09.030.

A new code section is also proposed at RMC 12.09.125 which will read as follows:

**12.09.125 Interpretation; applicable standards; authority of City Engineer.**

If there is a question or ambiguity regarding which public works standards apply, including if there are more than one standard which may be applicable to a specific project or where a standard may be missing, the City Engineer shall determine which standard shall be utilized and applied.

The purpose of this section is to create a process to resolve any confusion regarding the applicable standard(s) by allowing the City Engineer to determine the appropriate standard(s) that will be utilized if there is any ambiguity or question.

**4. Development of 2024 update and recommendation.**

The City Planner, City Electrical Engineer, and City Engineer were all very involved with the City Attorney in reviewing and developing this 2024 Public Works Standards Update. These manuals and standards have all been reviewed by your professional staff and adoption is recommended.

**FISCAL CONSIDERATION**

None.

**BOARD OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

None.

**RECOMMENDATION / MOTION**

This is scheduled Second Reading. The Council should discuss the matter and may either give direction to staff and defer action until Third Reading, or take Action to Adopt Ordinance No. 1571 on February 20, 2024. If not adopted on February 20<sup>th</sup>, this will return for Third Reading on March 5, 2024.

MOTION: I move adoption of Ordinance No. 1571, relating to public works standards for the City of Ruston, amending Chapter 12.09 of the Ruston Municipal Code as follows: amending Sections 12.09.010, 12.09.030, 12.09.040, 12.09.050, 12.09.070, 12.09.080, 12.09.090, 12.09.100, and 12.09.110, repealing Section 12.09.060, and adding new Sections 12.09.065, 12.09.068, 12.09.085 and 12.09.125 for the purpose of updating and adopting the public works manuals and standards applicable within the City of Ruston; providing for severability and corrections; and establishing an effective date.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1571**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO PUBLIC WORKS STANDARDS FOR THE CITY OF RUSTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 12.09 OF THE RUSTON MUNICIPAL CODE AS FOLLOWS: AMENDING SECTIONS 12.09.010, 12.09.030, 12.09.040, 12.09.050, 12.09.070, 12.09.080, 12.09.090, 12.09.100, AND 12.09.110, REPEALING SECTION 12.09.060, AND ADDING NEW SECTIONS 12.09.065, 12.09.068, 12.09.085 AND 12.09.125 FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPDATING AND ADOPTING THE PUBLIC WORKS MANUALS AND STANDARDS APPLICABLE WITHIN THE CITY OF RUSTON; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CORRECTIONS; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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**WHEREAS**, in accordance with RCW 35A.12.140 the City is permitted to adopt the codes and standards of other government agencies by reference, including those adopted or published by the State and by other cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City last updated its public works standards in 2017 by adoption of Ordinance No. 1500; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has adopted some of the City of Tacoma standards, and Tacoma has since developed or adopted updated standards that provide clear and specific public works, design standards and standard plans which were adopted by the City of Ruston under Ordinance No. 1500; and

**WHEREAS**, copies of each of the manuals adopted by this ordinance were placed on file with the City Clerk and available for public inspection prior to the adoption of this ordinance as required by RCW 35A.12.140; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 16, 2024, the City Council held the first reading of this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2024, the City Council held second reading of this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on February \_\_, 2024 the City Council adopted this Ordinance during its regular meeting at the \_\_\_\_\_ reading; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RUSTON HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** Section 12.09.010 of the Ruston Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**12.09.010 Adoption of 2016-WSDOT Standard Specifications – Reader’s Guide.**

(a) ~~The 2016~~ The City of Ruston Standard Specifications are hereby adopted for all work within the City’s rights-of-way. The City of Ruston adopts the 2024 WSDOT Standard Specifications and Standard Plans for Road, Bridge and Municipal Construction (WSDOT Standard Specifications), ~~promulgated~~ published by the Washington State Department of Transportation, ~~are adopted as the standards of the City of Ruston applicable to such construction,~~ for all work within City rights-of-way, except as noted herein. One copy of ~~such publication~~ the 2024 WSDOT Standard Specifications has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the office of the City Clerk.

(b) The following sections of the 2024 WSDOT Standard Specifications shall be deleted for private contracts for work within City rights-of-way:

- 1) Division 1 General Requirements;
- 2) Division 8-20 Illumination, Traffic Signal Systems, Intelligent Transportation Systems, and Electrical;
- 3) Division 9-29 Illumination, Signal, Electrical.

(c) All materials installed within City rights-of-way in the City of Ruston shall be identical to those approved by WSDOT, except that the categories of pipe specified in the following Divisions shall not be accepted for installation within City rights-of-way:

- 1) 9-05.1(6);
- 2) 9-05.1(7);
- 3) 9-05.2(7);
- 4) 9-05.2(8);
- 5) 9-05.19;
- 6) 9-05.20;
- 7) 9-05.21;

- 8) 9-05.22; and
- 9) 9-05.23.

(d) The 2024 WSDOT – APWA General Special Provisions (GSPs) for Road, Bridge and Municipal Construction, published by the Washington State Department of Transportation, are also adopted as standards of the City of Ruston for all work within City rights-of-way. One copy of the WSDOT - APWA GSPs has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the office of the City Clerk.

**Section 2.** Section 12.09.030 of the Ruston Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**12.09.030 Adoption of City of Ruston Right of Way Design Manual.**

The City of Ruston Right of Way Design Manual is hereby adopted by the City of Ruston for all work within the City’s rights-of-way. The City of Ruston adopts the City of Tacoma Right-of-Way Design Manual, Version 1-20 Dated January 11, 2018, as revised by the City of Ruston. ~~as the public works design standards of the City of Ruston applicable to any project involving public works, public rights-of-way or public property.~~ One copy of such publication has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the office of the City Clerk.

**Section 3.** Section 12.09.040 of the Ruston Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**12.09.040 Adoption of Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.**

The City of Ruston Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices is hereby adopted. The City of Ruston Adopts tThe United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration 2009~~23~~ Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, including Revisions 1 and 2 of May 2012, is hereby adopted by the City of Ruston. One copy of such publication has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the office of the City Clerk.

**Section 4.** Section 12.09.050 of the Ruston Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**12.09.050 Adoption of ~~City of Tacoma~~ Storm Water Management Manual.**

The City of Ruston Stormwater Management Manual is hereby adopted. The City has adopted the ~~The 2016-2021~~ Edition of the City of Tacoma Storm Water Management Manual (as updated in July 2021), along with an attached Ruston Reader's Guide is hereby adopted by the City of Ruston as the "City of Ruston Storm Water Management Manual." One copy of such publication has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the office of the City Clerk.

**Section 5.** Section 12.09.060 of the Ruston Municipal Code is hereby repealed.

**Section 6.** A new section 12.09.065 is hereby added to the Ruston Municipal Code

to read as follows:

**12.09.065 Adoption of Right of Way Restoration Policy.**

The City of Ruston Right-of-Way Restoration Policy is hereby adopted. The City has adopted the August 2017 Edition of the City of Tacoma Right-of-Way Restoration Policy, with modifications identified in the adopted Ruston Reader's Guide, as the City of Ruston Right-of-Way Restoration Policy. One copy of such publication has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the Office of the City Clerk.

**Section 7.** A new section 12.09.068 is hereby added to the Ruston Municipal Code to read

as follows:

**12.09.068 Adoption of Traffic Control Handbook.**

The City of Ruston Traffic Control Handbook is hereby adopted. The City has adopted the February 5, 2021 Edition of the City of Tacoma Traffic Control Handbook, with modifications identified in the adopted Ruston Reader's Guide, as the City of Ruston Traffic Control Handbook. One copy of such publication has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the Office of the City Clerk.

**Section 8.** Section 12.09.070 of the Ruston Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as

follows:

**12.09.070 Adoption of ~~criteria for~~ the Sewage Works Design Manual.**

The City of Ruston Sewage Works Design Manual is hereby adopted. The City has adopted the August ~~The 2008~~ Edition of the Washington State Department of Ecology Criteria for Sewage Works Design Manual "Orange Book" as Revised in February 2019, with modifications to grinder pump standards identified in the adopted grinder pump section, as the City of Ruston Sewage Works Design Manual. ~~is hereby adopted by the City of Ruston.~~ One copy of such publication has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the office of the City Clerk.

**Section 9.** Section 12.09.080 of the Ruston Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**12.09.080 - Adoption of Street Light Standards~~s plans.~~**

The City of Ruston Street Light Standards are hereby adopted. The City of Ruston has adopted the The City of Tacoma “Street Light Standard Plans”, with modifications identified in the adopted details, as the City of Ruston Street Light Standards. are hereby adopted by the City of Ruston as its street light standard plans. City of Tacoma Standard Plans SL-1 through SL-10 are hereby adopted, as modified by the City of Ruston Street Lighting Material Specifications with separate poles and hardware for commercial-zoned and residential-zoned locations. One copy of such publications haves been filed for the use and examination of the public in the office of the City Clerk.

**Section 10.** A new Section 12.09.085 is hereby added to the Ruston Municipal Code to read as follows:

**12.09.085 Adoption of Street Tree Standards.**

The City of Ruston Street Tree Standards are hereby adopted for all street tree planting, removal or management within the City’s rights-of-way. One copy of such publication has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the office of the City Clerk.

**Section 11.** Section 12.09.090 of the Ruston Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**12.09.090 Adoption of the Street and Utility StandardsPlans.**

The City of Ruston Street and Utility Standard Plans are hereby adopted for all work within the City’s rights-of-way. The City of Ruston has adopted the The City of Tacoma “Street Utility Standard Plans” as amended in 2016, along with additional standards that have been adopted through 2021, are hereby adopted by the City of Ruston as its Street Utility Standards as modified by the adopted Ruston revisions. One copy of such publication has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the office of the City Clerk.

**Section 12.** Section RMC 12.09.100 of the Ruston Municipal Code is hereby



amended to read as follows:

**12.09.100 Adoption of Traffic Signal Standard Plans**

The City of Ruston Traffic Signal Standard Plans are hereby adopted for all traffic signal work within the City's right-of-way. The City of Ruston adopts the  
~~The City of Tacoma "Traffic Signal Standard Plans", are hereby adopted by the~~  
City of Ruston as its traffic signal standard plans as revised by the City of Ruston.  
One copy of The City of Ruston Traffic Signal Standard Plans has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the Office of the City Clerk.

**Section 13.** Section RMC 12.09.110 of the Ruston Municipal Code is hereby

amended to read as follows:

**12.09.110 Adoption of ~~WSDOT~~ Sign Fabrication Manual.**

The City of Ruston Sign Fabrication Manual is hereby adopted for traffic signs within the City's right-of-way. The City of Ruston adopts the  
~~The 2006~~2021  
Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Sign Fabrication, as revised by City of Ruston  
~~Manual is hereby adopted by the City of Ruston.~~ One copy of such publication The City of Ruston Sign Fabrication Manual has been filed for the use and examination of the public in the office of the City Clerk.

**Section 14.** A new Section RMC 12.09.125 is hereby added to the Ruston Municipal Code

to read as follows:

**12.09.125 Interpretation; applicable standards; authority of City Engineer.**

If there is a question or ambiguity regarding which public works standards apply, including if there are more than one standard which may be applicable to a specific project or where a standard may be missing, the City Engineer shall determine which standard shall be utilized and applied.

**Section 15. Direction to Clerk.** The City Clerk is directed to maintain on copy of each of the Manuals or Standards referenced in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of this Ordinance on file in the Clerk's Office available for examination and use by the public during regular business hours.

**Section 16. Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or

unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

**Section 17. Corrections.** The City Clerk, City Attorney, and the Codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

**Section 18. Publication.** This Ordinance shall be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

**Section 19. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be effective five days after publication as provided by law.

**ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Ruston and attested by the City Clerk in authentication of such passage on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

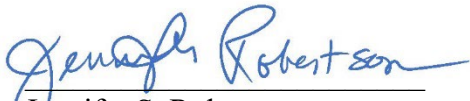
**APPROVED** by the Mayor this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Cassell, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer S. Robertson  
Office of the City Attorney

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: \_\_\_\_\_  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
PUBLISHED: \_\_\_\_\_  
EFFECTIVE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ORDINANCE NO: 1571