

**City of Rainier**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**April 2, 2018**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Rainier City Hall**

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 7:08pm

**Council Present:** Mike Kreger, Jenna Weaver, Steve Massey, Robert duPlessis, Sloan Nelson

**Council Absent:** James Bradfield

**City Staff Present:** Debra (Debbie) Dudley, City Administrator/Finance Director/Recorder; Gregg Griffith, Police Chief

**City Attorney Present:** No

**Flag Salute**

**Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:** Addition to Approve Timber Road Construction in the Watershed as recommended by Byron Rickert, Nelson moved, Kreger 2<sup>nd</sup> to add Approval of Timber Road Construction to the Agenda- **motion passed unanimously**

Addition of RV Show in the City Park Rental Agreement, Kreger moved, Nelson 2<sup>nd</sup> to add RV Show in the City Park Rental Agreement to the Agenda- **motion passed unanimously**

**Mayor's Address:** Mayor Cole read the names of nine service personnel who lost their lives serving in Afghanistan and Iraq and a moment of silence was observed. Mayor Cole noted publicly the need to donate to HOPE and announced and read the proclamation for HOPE.

Deborah Horan and Lisa Beggio gave a presentation from Columbia Humane Society. Deborah noted that she recently joined the board of directors for the Columbia Humane Society. Lisa noted she has worked at the shelter for twenty years. Deborah stated due to a lot of recent changes at the Humane Society they wanted to update the City with what is happening at the Humane Society. Lisa explained that the last four years they had a contract with Columbia County Animal Control to house all the stray and neglected animals and to care for them. Lisa noted that in July 2017 the County ended the contract and wanted to take back their control of the animals they bring in and they split their ways and now the shelter is two thirds Humane Society and one third the County and that any stray dogs that come to the shelter go into the Humane Society. Lisa noted that people are confused

of the operations of each facility and where their dogs are when they call in because it is the same facility and they don't understand the rolls of each facility. Lisa stated they are trying to get the word out to Columbia County that they still take in homeless dogs and have the adoption services they just don't have the dogs that were picked up by Animal Control. Lisa stated they are reaching out to see what all the Columbia County cities want or need the Humane Society to do to help the residents be responsible with regards to pet ownership. Lisa stated they currently have forty volunteers and only three employs to run the Humane Society. Deborah stated they spend a lot of time training and rehabilitating the animals and getting them ready for adoption and also with matching the pet with new owners. Mayor Cole asked what their board member needs were and Lisa said they could have up to twelve and that they have five now and that they meet once a month. Nelson noted the vaccination events could be put on the back of the City's water bills. Mayor Cole noted he would put information on his Facebook page promoting the shelter's needs. Mayor Cole noted they (Humane Society) are asking what we want, and asked Lisa what can they provide and Lisa stated any program can be built if funded and for example they started a senior dog program and they are working on a senior for seniors programs and that it just depends on what you want. Lisa also stated they take in homeless peoples pets during the winter on cold nights and give them back to them during the day and they help them with their animal's needs and they also help with pets of women in the women's shelter in certain circumstances. Mayor Cole recommended they look into speaking at the City's Chamber meetings and also at the Senior Center in Rainier.

Mayor Cole introduced Thomas Merrell, the City's new Contracted Public Works Director. Mayor Cole noted that he has worked for the City previously as a contractor. Debbie noted that one of our utility workers resigned to take another position and we have a temporary worker from Express Employment to take the spot and that we hope to fill the position soon. Debbie also noted we have a new employee certified in water and waste water starting on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Visitor Comments:** none

**Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

Consider Approval of the March 19, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes & Monthly and Annual Financials- Debbie noted she is scheduling the auditor to come and give a presentation of the report. Nelson moved, Kreger 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the

Regular Meeting Minutes & Financials as presented-**motion passed  
unanimously**

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**Unfinished Business:**

**a. Affordable / Senior Housing-** Debbie said she would be sending out a summary of the housing studying that was done by us (Rainier) and St. Helens.

**b. 'A' Street Update-** Debbie said there is a rumor that there is some timing issues with regard to construction and she has sent out emails to gather more information on the Rail Safety Project and they would get back to her in a couple of weeks and Ken from ODOT said he would setup a meeting with all the partners.

**c. 'A' Street Plaza Update-** Debbie stated in the packet is several pages referencing the project and that only one bid was received. Debbie stated AES has worked with the City for potential areas that we could reduce costs. Debbie stated laying asphalt instead of the areas marked for concrete saves about \$76,000 but it changes the whole aesthetics of the project. Debbie stated the \$15,000 obelisk could be cut. AES representative stated construction costs are continually going up and on the jobs they have bid, they are seeing fewer and fewer contractors which drives the costs up and subcontractors are so busy they aren't even bidding on jobs. AES talked about the three areas they identified where there could be some cost savings. AES stated to get the same structural value as the concrete, you would have to put more into the base and thickening up the asphalt, but you would still have a substantial savings. Council noted the concrete was more for aesthetics than structural strength. AES said the hauling was another possibility of cost saving and Debbie noted the engineer indicated that the hauling needs would be minimal. AES noted the structural wall item could have reduced costs by using fabric versus the structural wall panels. Mayor Cole asked the cost savings of the structural wall and AES noted they hadn't been asked to put together the savings, just ideas. Mayor Cole noted we wanted to shave of as much possible but still have a nice project down there. Mayor Cole stated we want to keep the project moving forward and still try to save as much money as possible and he read a letter to be addressed to the IFA, "The City of Rainier formally requests an additional \$300,000 funding for the 'A' Street Plaza project. The City will fund approximately \$220,000 from our capital improvement reserve. I have included the bid document for your review as you can see the bid is significantly higher

than the engineers estimate. Additionally, we are requesting consideration for change in the loan term from twenty to twenty five years.” Mayor Cole stated

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this keeps the project moving forward, our bidder knows that this is his project and he can get going on it, and he would like a motion to present this to the Oregon Business Development Department. Kreger moved, Massey 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the letter of request to the IFA for more funding and a longer loan term.

**Discussion:** Debbie noted cost saving possibilities in that the \$300,000 included a ten percent contingency that IFA asked for and hopefully it won't be required and also cost difference of using a fabric wall versus a concrete wall. AES stated they would work up some cost saving numbers. AES and Council discussed the timing and details of the project. AES noted their big thing is notice of award, and then they can plan and also get ahold of subs and have them get prepared. Mayor Cole noted that even though there is an increase, there is going to be a firm due diligence by council and staff to keep the project below the additional \$300,000-**motion passed with Nelson abstaining due to direct conflict of interest.**

#### **New Business:**

**a. Consider Approval of the Hudson Garbage Addendum-** Rich Bailey of Hudson Garbage noted that the recycle now costs more than it does to dispose of garbage and stated he brought some literature on the issue and expressed his views on the history of recycling. Rich presented an amendment to the City's solid waste franchise agreement requesting a rate increase on recycling and to also provide containers to customers at no cost to the customer. Nelson asked Herb when the franchise is agreement up and Bailey thought a year. Nelson asked who the other communities are using and Bailey replied Hudson Garbage. Nelson questioned Bailey on the changing of the cart size and can it only be changed once a year and Bailey noted that he can get rid of that statement because they never practice that. After a lengthy question and answer discussion between Council members and Bailey, it was decided to table the approval of the addendum until all other options can be reviewed.

**b. Consider Acceptance of Intent to Award of the AES Bid -** Kreger moved, Massey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Debbie clarified the motion is to accept the intent to award with the continued negotiation with regard to the wall and to remove the obelisk. Nelson asked to get a real number on the obelisk to keep it or to remove it.-**motion passed with Nelson abstaining with a direct conflict of interest**

**c. Consider Budget Appointments-** Debbie noted that there is currently two budget committee positions open and she checked with both individuals to see if they are interested in renewing their terms and they both indicated would like to renew their terms. Debbie stated the persons are Connie Budge and Tom Friedlein and noted the terms would expire December 31, 2020. Kreger moved, Massey 2<sup>nd</sup> to renew Connie Budge and Tom Friedlein's terms on the Budget Committee-**motion passed unanimously**

**d. Consider Approval of the DEA Amendment-** Debbie explained this is an addendum for an additional fee of \$15,682 for revised services and not to exceed \$82,182 on the 'A' Street Plaza Project and that they are working out of contract. Kreger moved, duPlessis 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the DEA Amendment. Kreger and duPlessis asked why are we adding this and Debbie noted to pay them for the work they have already done and we have some additional work that needs to be done and if any money is left over it will be used for project management-**motion passed with Nelson abstaining with direct conflict of interest**

**e. Consider Approval of the Budget Calendar-** Debbie noted that she would be providing three budget workshops to go through process with the budget committee members so that when we get to the budget committee meeting it will go through seamlessly without any issues. Debbie noted the first budget committee meeting is May 21, 2018 and a second meeting tentatively scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 if needed and that the budget hearing will be on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Weaver moved, Massey 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the Budget Calendar as presented.-**motion passed unanimously**

**f. Consider Approval of Park RV Rental Agreement-** Mayor Cole stated this is for the RV show in the park like we had last year and that it was very successful. Mayor noted it would be from approximately June 12-26<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Cole noted the charge to Guaranty RV would be \$5,000. Thomas Merrell stated the Public Works Crew had told him that repairs had to be done to the irrigation system last year after the RV Show and to make sure we cover those costs. Nelson noted maybe we could charge them the same rate and they pay the actual costs to repair the sprinkler heads. Debbie stated we do the repairs ourselves and it is a minimal cost. Debbie stated maybe we should do a better job of locating and marking the sprinkler heads and Merrell stated it is really hard to avoid them with that many vehicles covering the area. Mayor Cole said to make note of what's working before they get there and then make note of what's damaged and that he would talk to Jason about it. Nelson stated the

only complaint he heard from last year was that the outside park trail was blocked and Mayor Cole said he would talk to them about it for this year. Kreger moved, Massey

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2<sup>nd</sup> to approve Park RV Rental Agreement as presented-**motion passed unanimously**

**g. Consider Approval of Timber Road Construction Agreement-** Mayor Cole explained a recommendation by Byron Rickert for road construction costs of approximately \$4-5,000 in the Watershed. Kreger moved, Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the Timber Road Construction Agreement as presented.-**motion passed unanimously.**

**Staff Reports:** Chief Griffith stated the City received a new police vehicle. Mayor invited Council to look at it after the meeting. Debbie noted that we could sell the old 2008 police car as surplus.

Thomas Merrell stated he was looking at applications to fill positions and he is getting work orders started to keep track of what is going on.

**Council Reports:** Nelson noted he noticed the gravel that was put on Lewis Rd. and that on the sharp corner, there are rocks on the edge of the road and asked Thomas to get them moved and Thomas said he was working on it. Nelson asked Thomas to look up the hill from where the rocks are and that there is a sewer line suspended up in the air and it would be a good idea to inspect it.

Kreger stated he contacted Betsy Johnson regarding the Highway 30 crosswalk warning system the City would like to install and that she said she would look into it on our behalf as long as she had permission to do so. Kreger noted that he needed more specific details on the project. Debbie stated Mark Buffington contacted her today and she told him we were looking into installing a crosswalk sign as we do not want to have a fatality there as sometimes that's what it takes to get ODOT to move on a project and that the City would be willing to take care of it on our own. Mark Buffington said he would get back to Debbie Monday.

duPlessis stated the Frisbee golf came down last year for the RV Show and stayed down for quite a while. Mayor Cole stated they would go back up after Rainier Days.

Nelson stated Bill Vilardi ordered the lighting for the Obelisk entering Rainier and he will get with public works to dig the trench.

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Nelson noted that the lighting products should be coming in for the LED retro fit lighting project. Debbie noted they contacted her to request a place to store the fixtures.

**City Calendar/Announcements:**

Regular City Council Meeting is May 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 7pm

Rainier Days is July 6,7,8<sup>th</sup> 2018

Mayor Cole adjourned Regular meeting City Council Meeting at 9:10pm

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Mayor Cole

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Debra Dudley, City Administrator /Finance  
Director/Recorder