

**City of Rainier
Work Session Minutes
March 21, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Rainier City Hall
106 West "B" Street**

Meeting called to order by President Butcher at 6:00 p.m.

Council Present: Sloan Nelson, Bill Vilardi, Scott Cooper, Phil Butcher, David Langford and Russ Moon

Absent: Mayor Jerry Cole and Mike Avent

City Staff: Lars Gare, Gregg Griffith, Darrel Lockard, Patti Stanley and Debbie Dudley

Visitors: Debbie Hazen, Clatskanie Chief and Cheryll Borgaard, Longview Daily News

Budget Strategy Discussion Summary:

Councilor Moon distributed budget and Timber Fund information. Discussed revenue and expenses in the Timber Fund, the property tax paid is reimbursed by the tower lessee.

Councilor Langford and Public Works Director Lockard distributed Sewer Fund rate proposals; residential rates, USG rates and School District rates. Also discussed a CPI rate increase of 4% in the Water Fund.

Discussion summary; Not in favor of entering into a contract with the School district, stay with the \$10.31 consumption rate, cap total charge at \$3,000 per month, allow for 3 years, CPI increases will be added, allows District to fix leak problems. USG base rate will increase to \$3,000 plus consumption, their property tax appeal reduced the amount the City receives in taxes. The proposed residential base rate would increase to \$42.35 and consumption to \$3.00, with EDU's increasing to 85%. Concern expressed about balancing the Sewer Fund's deficient on raising rates without any cost reduction. Currently the City is not eligible for Rural Development grants because the rates are too low, requested information on grant requirements for rates. Requested the City check with the Columbia County Solid Waste Coordinator on sites and transporting for cost savings on bio-solids at the sewer plant.

Police Department Budget Discussion Summary;

Chief Griffith distributed budget and activity information, discussed potential expenses and revenue, each officer performed an average of 979 activities last year, issued 338 tickets last year, office contact averages 30 per day, working on grants for traffic safety, truck inspection and vests, overtime will increase due to on-call time, using face book as a tool and a informational site.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Phil Butcher, President

Attested: _____
Debra Dudley, Recorder