

**City of Rainier**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**May 16, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Rainier City Hall**  
**106 West "B" Street**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Jerry Cole at 7:00 p.m.

**Council Present:** Mayor Jerry Cole, Mike Avent, David Langford, Phil Butcher, Scott Cooper, Russ Moon and Bill Viladri

**Council Absent:** Sloan Nelson

**City Staff Present:** Lars Gare, Gregg Griffith, Bobby Jo Harding, Patti Stanley, Darrel Lockard and Debbie Dudley

**City Attorney Present:**

**Visitors Present:** Robert Duplessis, Christy Cole, Charissa Griffith, Debbie Hazen, Clatskanie Chief and Cheryl Borgaard, Longview Dailey News

**Flag Salute**

Presentation to the Painter Family by the City of Rainier.  
Presentation to the Rainier Police Department by the Patriot Riders.

The first recipient of the Chief Ralph Painter Annual Memorial Award was presented to Amy Painter on behalf of Chief Ralph Painter. This award is present to individuals recognizing outstanding service to the City of Rainier.

**Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:**

Add appointment of Nancy Norman to the Library Board.  
Delete item 6-b, 2011/2012 budget discussion.

**Mayor's Address:**

A moment of silence was observed for our fallen soldiers.

**Visitor Comments:**

Robert Duplessis inquired about the status on the "C" Street slippage.  
A report will be provided in old business.

**Motion** by Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Langford to approve the May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

**Passed Unanimously**

**"C" Street Slippage Discussion Summary:**

Gare; the engineer provided a list of contractors that may qualify for the job and will create a simple ad for us. The City has the project drawings available for contractors now, have talked with 2 potential contractors. The City will not be providing the engineer's estimate to contractors. The closing date for the project quotes will be June 10, and we hope to be able to take action at the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Rightline, Inc. Sewer Rate Issue Discussion:**

Lockard handed out information to the Council about the rate proposal for Rightline as well as historical data. Lockard; talked with Rightline last week about the meeting this week. The owner was unable to attend and has not seen the rate proposal. His main concern is, is the proposal fair and equitable and consistent with other rate payers. Cole; “in all fairness, I would like him to see this sheet before there’s any vote on it”. Avent; “I concur”. Cole; “try to meet up with him this week and show him the information”. Item will be continued as an “old business item”.

**City Website Discussion Summary:**

Councilor Cooper had provided a list of government websites for Council review. Asked if there were any preferences on web design or format from the other websites. Discussed including forms, applications, minutes and Municipal Code on the City’s website. The City has the ability to provide online statements and bill pay for a minimal cost. Additional information will be provided; the general consensus was that this would provide benefit to the City and its utility customers.

**Motion** by Moon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Langford to approve the Police Chief Employment Agreement with Gregg Griffith. Discussion Summary; The most recent copy of the agreement was handed out to the Council, Cole; Exhibit A was added to show salary range, fitness incentive changed to reflect Police Union Contract amount, contract includes language that states conferences or seminars are subject to budget constraints, Cooper;... “With City employees in general, when the City is shrinking and incomes are decreasing how do we deal with that, ...my only concern, we seem to be growing salaries and benefits at a steady rate over time, ...the City is shrinking at a steady rate over time, at what point in time are we going to come to a point that those two don’t match anymore ...I think we’ve gotten to that point, that would be my only concern”, Vilardi; issue with one additional week of vacation above what the Personnel Policy offers, based on budget and reduction discussions, why are we increasing vacation accrual? Moon; he’s the Chief of Police, Cole; extra vacation compensates loss of overtime... “negotiations are about trying to come to a common ground...if it means giving him an extra week, I think Gregg Griffith is worth it”, Avent; “had some of the same concerns, met with Steve (City Attorney) this morning, one thing that Gregg has done, is if we change contracts around he has put his contract so it will reflect any negotiations that we’ll have in the future, so if something should change with the other members of the staff that will change with the contract that’s why he had that in there, it’s got some flexibility ... discussed salary, Vilardi; how does the Cobra work, Cole; “the COBRA is pretty common across the board, if somebody leaves...Cobra health insurance benefits may still be available per applicable laws, with Gregg paying the full amount, so if you retire from somewhere you can still qualify for our insurance so long as you pay for it”, Langford; thanks for your patience, did a great job, call for the question.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Motion** by Moon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Langford to approve the appointment of Nancy Norman to the Library Board.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Staff Reports:**

Lockard – Working on keeping up with everything.

Dudley – Staff report was covered in the Budget Meeting of May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Gare – Attended the FBI Fallen Officer ceremony with Mayor Cole, where Cole was the key note speaker, acknowledged and thanked Bobby Jo Harding for her work on designing the City’s display case paying tribute to our nations Armed Services.

**Council Reports:**

Langford – The contract committee had a miss-communication regarding a meeting, suggested revisiting the chairperson appointment.

Butcher – The Ford Family Leadership banner project is moving ahead. The banners will cost about \$180 each; have received commitments from businesses and individuals, including Senator Johnson and State Representative Witt.

Cooper – Asked staff to check on the Fox Creek area where he has observed grass clippings being dumped.

Avent – The REDCO Budget Committee approved the 2011/2012 budget. The REDCO Board will be meeting to discuss legal issues.

Moon - Thanked the Mayor for a great meeting and congratulated him for the successful contract negotiation.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Jerry Cole, Mayor

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Dudley, Recorder