

City of Rainier
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2014
7:00 PM
Rainier City Hall
106 West “B” Street

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Council Present: Mayor Cole, James Bradfield, Scott Cooper, Sloan Nelson, Steve Massey, David Sills and William Vilardi.

Council Absent: None.

City Staff Present: Debra Dudley, City Administrator/Finance Director/Recorder; Police Chief Griffith; Public Works Supervisor Jim Dahlquist and Utility Worker Justin Spencer.

City Attorney Absent: Stephen D. Petersen.

Flag Salute.

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:

Cooper moved, Vilardi 2nd, to add a National Geographic related ship to schedule stops at the Rainier Marina in September, 2014 – **motion passed unanimously**. Dudley added if Council approves the request the Oregon Marine Board would have to agree because of the engineering specifications of the dock. The item was added as the first item after visitor’s comments.

Massey moved, Nelson 2nd, to add timber discussion to the agenda – **motion passed unanimously**. The item was added as New Business, item g.

Mayor’s Address:

Mayor Cole read the names of three (3) fallen service personnel since Council last met and a moment of silence was observed.

Mayor Cole commented on the Seahawks going to the Super Bowl.

Visitor Comments:

Darrel Whipple, 76439 Alston Mayger Road, Rainier, OR 97048 commented on the Port Westward accident involving an oil tank car and the rail plans the Port is putting into effect. Al Guist, 109 West “D” Street, Rainier, OR 97048 reported on the clean up work completed last summer by volunteers of the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Bill Dias, Board President of the Rainier Senior Center, updated the council on repairs at the center resulting from burst pipes, over 10,000 meals were prepared last year, things are going well and they are going to be having their 10th year anniversary once they are back in the center.

Mayor Cole introduced Jim Dahlquist, the City's new Public Works Supervisor and Justin Spencer, a new Utility Worker.

Unfinished Business:

a. Approve January 6, 2014 Regular Council Meeting Minutes: Vilardi moved, Sills 2nd, to approve the minutes as presented – **motion passed unanimously.**

b. Approve January 6, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes: Cooper moved, Massey 2nd, to approve the minutes as presented – **motion passed** with Vilardi abstaining.

Cruise Ship Discussion: Cooper reported he had been contacted regarding small cruise ships, approximately 157', associated with National Geographic scheduling stops at the Rainier marina in September and October, 2014. Cooper stated, in the past, they were able to tie-up and they wanted to know if the dock would be available and could they reserve tie-up space. Cooper suggested council approve the request and instruct Dudley to work with the Marine Board to research options. Mayor Cole stated the Marine Board put a stop to the City allowing cruise ships to tie-up at the dock and he hopes that matter can be worked out with the Marine Board. Dudley stated an engineering report indicated the docks were unsuitable for large vessels but she would get the specifications and see if the National Geographic associated vessels would be approved to use the dock and see what needs to be done to accommodate the cruise ships.

c. "A" Street Update: Dudley emailed the Council identifying the scope of work that will be happening through ODOT who has hired an engineering firm. Dudley stated, based on the Council comments, she emailed the Project Engineer and requested he include the feasibility for an overpass and how storm water run off will be handled because she did not see that in the scope of work. Dudley said it will be addressed when the area is paved.

Mayor Cole moved New Business, item e., Discuss "A" Street Citizen Committee, to the "A" Street Update discussion. Mayor Cole stated currently there is a down town committee with stakeholders that have formed a committee comprised of downtown business and property owners who are working diligently to get their concerns addressed. In response to requests from other citizens, Mayor Cole proposed the City form a citizen advisory committee appointed by the City Council to investigate "A" Street possibilities and emphasized this committee would not have the authority to act on the behalf of the City Council and would be required to follow public meeting regulations. Dudley said the City has been contacted by members of the public inquiring

when the process was going to become a public process. Nelson stated he attended a meeting of the business owners currently working on "A" Street and he distributed information regarding that group's plan that included their purpose, objectives and vision. Nelson said the information, he believes, is a work in progress and he will continue to attend the meetings as a business owner and stakeholder and possibly as a conduit to bring information back to the Council. Nelson stated Council has talked about inviting this group to attend a council meeting and he thinks that's a good idea but he thought a better time might be when things are more hammered down. Mayor Cole added there has been some discussion regarding information sharing with the citizens committee that Council is forming and the downtown committee that has been formed. He thinks it is a good idea that and fees be waived because this is a project that needs to be worked on together. Sills said he is okay with waiving the fees as long as they are working together. Dudley stated, Mayor Cole agreed, they would be requested to fill out the records request but the fee would be waived. Skip Lahti, 29843 Riverview Drive, Rainier, OR 97048 agreed to inform the downtown committee. Lahti questioned the statement made earlier about the public meeting rules and Mayor Cole advised it was for the citizens committee approved by the Council. Lahti asked if that was different than the stakeholders and Mayor Cole stated the stakeholders group is a private citizen group and, from what he understands, it is comprised mostly of business and property owners. Lahti said it sounds like there are a lot of overlapping groups and Mayor Cole stated he hopes that all the groups meld and move forward. Mayor Cole added he feels it is important everybody does a little bit of their own thing, the citizen ideas and the business owner ideas may vary but everyone would be moving in the same direction. Sills stated he would like to see the groups work together as soon as possible. Cooper asked Lahti if the group he was in was willing to start publishing meetings and meeting minutes. Lahti said they haven't decided what form they were going to take and it might be just handing out a document similar to the one Nelson has. Cooper and Vilardi agreed with Sills. Mayor Cole said the citizens have the right to assemble, he does not believe that every group that assembles needs to be backed by the City Council, if the "A" Street group wants to meet to discuss their priorities that is great and at the same time there are other citizens that might not care about the business' issues as much as other issues. Mayor Cole clarified the official Council backed group is the citizen committee and members of the downtown group are welcome to be on the Council approved citizen committee. Dudley clarified the citizen committee is to allow public participation if they so choose. Mayor Cole said a work session is planned for February 3rd.

Stakeholders from the State will be present, the downtown group is invited and there are more groups when you include other agencies. Nelson added he was impressed with the downtown group's passion and ideas. Nelson asked Lahti if he would be able to attend the February 3rd work session and Lahti said he would be there. Mayor Cole reiterated other members of the downtown committee were also encouraged to attend. Mayor Cole advised Dudley to put out the notice for the committee. Dudley added the governmental partners have all been invited and now that she has a list of the downtown committee she will make sure they all receive notification

also. Lahti stated he didn't feel that all groups needed to merge but he encourages all the groups and individuals to talk to one another and share ideas. Lahti said the document from the downtown group, provided by Nelson, includes some high level projects and issues and represents a long term vision.

d. Highway 30/"B" Street Update:

Mayor Cole stated he talked to the State after Council decided to move the project from the carpet store to the Chinese food restaurant and they said they would run some feasibility numbers. Mayor Cole stated if it was not feasible the State would notify the City. Dudley added that one of the biggest issues of moving the project to the Chinese food restaurant area is that there is still some acquisition that needs to happen. Dudley added it might be within budget but we are looking at months out. Dudley referred to the newest proposal that does not include the Chinese food restaurant area and it includes the block by the Interstate Tavern. Nelson moved, Massey 2nd, to rescind the original decision to move the project in front of the Chinese food restaurant – **motion passed**. Nelson moved, Massey 2nd, to accept ODOT's most recent revision for the U.S. 30/"B" Street January 2014 proposal that moves the project between the 1st and 2nd Street block. Nelson stated he hopes there are more trees included and Dudley stated she would check on that. Mayor Cole suggested maintaining a vision of the areas not done as future projects. Nelson added as this portion of the project progresses to try to tie in trees and railroad ties installed to give a sense of future progress. The **motion passed unanimously**. Dudley stated she will notify ODOT to move forward with the approved proposal and the completion goal is the fall of 2014.

e. Street Improvement Update:

Dudley reported there have been a few repairs and once the City is fully staffed more issues will be addressed. Nelson asked if the curb repair on "F" Street was on the list of repairs and Dahlquist said it would be repaired. Dudley stated the problem of water on the road on West "D" and West 3rd Streets was repaired.

f. Senior Center Update:

Dias said everything is going great and more people are attending lunch. Mayor Cole asked if the place the meals are currently being prepared is health department approved and Dias said it is.

g. Approve Bid for Senior Center Repair:

Dudley referenced the \$45000 bid in the packet and said the apparent low bidder is Richards Construction who has started the repair work. Dudley stated one of the changes approved by the insurance adjuster was using epoxy instead of vinyl. Massey moved, Nelson 2nd, to accept the bid. Dudley said there is a \$1,000 deductible. **Motion passed** with Vilardi abstaining since he does work for Richards Construction.

New Business:

a. Approve Resolution 14-01-02, Setting Council Meeting Days and Times: Nelson moved, Massey 2nd, to approve Resolution 14-01-02 – **motion passed unanimously.**

b. Approve Resolution 14-01-03, Setting Council Work Session Days and Times: Cooper moved, Massey 2nd, to approve Resolution 14-01-03 – **motion passed unanimously.**

c. Approve Resolution 14-01-04, Designating the Clatskanie Chief as the Newspaper of Notice: Cooper moved, Vilardi 2nd, to approve Resolution 14-01-04 – **motion passed unanimously.**

d. Appoint Budget Officer: Vilardi moved, Massey 2nd, to appoint Debra Dudley as the Budget Officer – **motion passed unanimously.**

e. Discuss “A” Street Citizen Committee: Mayor Cole stated this was discussed earlier in the meeting during Unfinished Business, item c.

g. Timber Discussion: Massey explained we are attempting to convince the elected representatives at the federal level that Rainier is a small municipality with a watershed that is managed on a sustainable basis with a 50 year cycle. Massey explained he would like to get a waiver to participate in the open market. Massey presented letters to the elected officials to be signed by Mayor Cole, Council President Sloan Nelson and Byron Rickert, CBR Forestry seeking exemptions for small municipalities wanting to sell harvested timber internationally. Massey moved, Nelson 2nd, to submit a letter to elected officials seeking a waiver. Massey said he had not attempted to contact other cities yet, this could be a long process, and once the City receives a reaction regarding the letter his next step will be to approach other municipalities. Nelson suggested mailing the current letter and then follow-up with another letter involving other municipalities. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Staff Reports:

Dahlquist – he will be moving closer to the Rainier area.

Dudley – nothing else that was not covered in the regular meeting.

Chief Griffith – commented on an electronic scanner that was required if the police department wanted to continue fingerprinting for the public as of January 1st. Dudley stated the new machine would cost approximately \$2500 to \$5000 and staff checked records and currently approximately five individuals of the public get fingerprinted a month. Cooper stated he might know of an available electronic scanner and will talk with Chief Griffith about it. Nelson asked for Chief Griffith’s opinion regarding the effect on Rainier regarding the jail situation. Chief

Griffith said the last he heard the Sheriff is planning on closing the jail as of July 1st unless the commissioners decide to go for a levy. Chief Griffith added that if the jail closes the currently incarcerated top ten most wanted inmates will be transported somewhere else. Nelson asked if Rainier would have the option to use the jail across state lines and Chief Griffith said that was not an option. Chief Griffith added that contracting out to other state facilities could be an option. Mayor Cole asked Chief Griffith to research The Dalles situation.

Council Reports:

Massey commented on the power plant accident and, with Council approval, is scheduling a meeting for January 29th, 6:30 PM at Rainier City Hall regarding the oil trains. Massey said it would be a community town hall meeting, not a Council meeting.

Bradfield met with the Friends of Fox Creek representatives and discussed the reservoir rehabilitation.

Mayor Cole announced he was invited to a Columbia County Economic Round Table meeting at the Learning Center in St. Helens with the first hour for the invitees and the second hour will include a discussion on how the public could be more involved in process.

City Calendar/Announcements:

City Council Work Session, Monday, February 3, 6:00 PM will be dedicated to "A" Street.
City Council Regular Meeting, Monday, February 3, 7:00 PM.

Mayor Cole announced there will be no decisions made after Executive Session.

Executive Session: ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Mayor Cole

Attested by: _____
Debra Dudley, City Admin./Fin. Dir./Recorder