

**City of Rainier  
Regular City Council Meeting  
September 13, 2021  
6 p.m.  
Rainier City Hall**

Mayor Jerry Cole called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**Council Present:** Connie Budge, Scott Cooper, Mike Kreger and Jenna Weaver

**Council Absent:** Robert duPlessis and Levi Richardson

**City Attorney Present:** Yes

**City Staff Present:** Sarah Blodgett, City Recorder; Gregg Griffith, Police Chief; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Sue Lawrence, Public Works Director

**Flag Salute**

**Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:** There were no additions or deletions from the agenda.

**Mayor's Address:** Mayor Jerry Cole read the names of the military servicemen and women who were killed in action during the recent fall of Kabul, Afghanistan. They are: U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin Hoover, 31; USMC Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25; USMC Sgt. Nicole Gee, 23; USMC Corporal Hunter Lopez, 22; USMC Corporal Daegan Page, 23; USMC Corporal Humberto Sanchez, 22; USMC Lance Corporal David Espionza, 22; USMC Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz, 20; USMC Lance Corporal Rylee McCollum, 20; USMC Lance Corporal Dylan Merola, 20; USMC Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui, 20; Navy Hospitalman Maxton Soviak, 22 and Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss, 23. A moment of silence was observed for them.

Cole thanked the volunteers who turned out August 21 to remove the deck of the bridge at the park that will be used to span Fox Creek as part of the riverfront trail's third phase. They are: Councilor Connie Budge, Zack Munday, Rick McCollam, Jim and Sue Lawrence, W. Scott Jorgensen, Brian Liga, Bryan McConnell and Melissa, Abijah, Sylvia and Remington Nation.

Cole said that because he works at the fire department, he has been responding to many calls involving people who are positive for COVID, at least five per day. He's been vaccinated and feels fine. His family has been vaccinated and they feel fine. Most of the personnel at the fire department are

vaccinated. The fire department will provide people with vaccines if they want them. Most of the patients he's seeing are unvaccinated, including the ones who are really sick, regardless of their prior health conditions. The ones who are vaccinated who get COVID have only mild symptoms. He recommends the vaccine but respects if people don't want it.

**Visitor Comments:** Kris Altanheim expressed concern with issues he had with the police department.

### **Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

Consider Approval of the August 2, 2021 Regular Council Meeting Minutes- Council President Mike Kreger moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Scott Cooper and adopted unanimously.

## **6. Unfinished Business**

- a. Riverfront Trail Update
- b. Fox Creek Update—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said he spoke with an official from Business Oregon. That agency will be responsible for disbursing the grant funding that was allotted to the city for the feasibility study. Business Oregon is currently adding staff because its budget was increased significantly.
- c. Senior and Multigenerational Housing
- d. D Street Loop Update
- e. Second Reading of Ordinance 1081—Repealing Ordinance No. 974—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.

## **7. New Business**

- a. Park Gazebo Donation—Cole said he discussed the donation with Public Works Director Sue Lawrence. The bid came in slightly higher than the donation. Lawrence said the bid was from the same company that did the other gazebo in the park. Cooper asked if the city would install it. Lawrence said yes. Councilor Jenna Weaver asked what fund the city's contribution would come out of. Lawrence said the special projects capital line item. Cooper moved to cover the cost overage, accept the donation and approve the bid. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Jorgensen said he can put together an agreement enabling the city to accept the donation and can run it by the city attorney. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Proposed Timber Sale—City Forester Patrick McCoy described the proposed sale. Lumber prices are high right now and the area being targeted for this harvest is some of the best timber in the city's watershed. When the market is high, the best practice is to target the best wood to maximize profits. He received a competitive bid from competent local contractors for good prices. The city has historically

harvested around 25 acres per year, which is sustainable. He wants to harvest a bigger unit every other year because it's more efficient and cuts the city's costs. It would result in bigger units being cut less often. Budge asked how many acres the proposed sale entails. McCoy said around 35 acres. There was a discussion about which road logging trucks would use to access the site. Cooper moved to approve the proposed timber sale. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.

- c. Columbia County Economic Team Presentation—Columbia Economic Team Executive Director Paul Vogel provided an overview of the organization's activities since he started in April 2020. They include a rebranding, a new website, annual reports, a regular newsletter and more accountability. CET engages local chambers of commerce and has a strong presence with Regional Solutions and Col-Pac. It works on issues such as workforce development, transportation and housing. The organization's approach to economic development is to grow existing businesses instead of trying to recruit them to relocate from outside the area. Tourism and destination development are other areas of focus. There is currently no small business resource center in the county. He's requesting that the city contribute \$10,000 to \$15,000 over the next four years to help get one started. The City of St. Helens has committed \$50,000 towards it.
- d. Library Board Appointments—Jorgensen said that the most recent version of the board had five members. It included the former school district superintendent, former librarian, Richard Nick, Marcia Roberts and Megan Keplinger. Nick and Roberts indicated they would be willing to continue serving, but Keplinger accepted a new position with the school district and said she would be unable to remain on the board. He advertised for the open board positions and received five applications. Four of the five applicants live outside of city limits and the fifth just moved to Rainier. However, there are no particular residency requirements listed in the portion of the city's municipal code that governs the board. Cole suggested that a subcommittee of councilors interview the applicants. Cooper and Kreger said they would be willing to do so. Budge said the board positions include specific duties that include long-term planning for the library. They all look like good candidates. She wants to give them the opportunity to see what the board has been doing. The librarian has a trustee handbook that should be provided to the applicants once they join the board. Maybe the four-year terms should be shortened. Portions of the code refer to the City Recorder and maybe those should be updated. Cooper moved to appoint the applicants to the board. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
- e. Moorage Agreement Update—Police Chief Gregg Griffith said there have been problems at the marina with abandoned and derelict vessels. Council had previously directed him to look into it. He reviewed Ordinance 213 and said it looks good. The current agreements are

outdated. He contacted the Marine Board about the Clean Marina program and suggested changes to the agreement based on the best management practices spelled out in the program. The agreements can be for six months or a year. Some jurisdictions offer a discounted rate for one-year terms. Cooper said he has relevant past professional experience dealing with these kinds of issues and supports the Clean Marina program. Jorgensen said staff compared the rates to those of other local municipalities and the city's are the lowest. Most of the problems at the marina have been solved by enhanced enforcement by the police department. The recent sinking of a boat was the catalyst for staff and council wanting a change in policy, as that boat had been a problem for months. Budge asked if there was a recommendation on the rates the city should charge. Cooper said he could work with Griffith and Jorgensen on that. Council agreed by consensus to revisit the matter under Unfinished Business at its October meeting.

- f. Award Bids for D Street Improvement Project—Lawrence said she received two bids and recommends the one submitted by AE Specialists for \$203,568.75. Approximately \$150,000 of the project costs will be covered by the Small Cities Allotment (SCA) grant that the city received years ago. The city will lose those funds if they are not used. There's also \$66,000 in the street fund from city's federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation that should cover the stormwater portion of the project. This project is budgeted under transportation capital. Cole said the city didn't qualify for the latest round of SCA funding because the previous funds have not been used. Budge moved to approve the bid submitted by AE Specialists. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.
- g. Sewer Smoke Testing—Lawrence said this was recommended as part of the Infiltration and Inflow study that was conducted. Three bids were received and she recommends the one submitted by SFC Global. Jorgensen said this will help the city achieve compliance with the Department of Environmental Quality. It will determine the spots in the city's systems that have infiltration and inflow issues. Cole said this is something that the city absolutely has to do. Cooper moved to accept the bid made by SFC Global. That motion was seconded by Weaver and adopted unanimously.
- h. Riverfront Trail Phase Three Bid—Kreger moved to accept the bid. That motion was seconded by Weaver and adopted unanimously.
- i. Street Light Replacement—Cole said that an uninsured motorist struck one of the street lights on B Street. Kreger moved to award the bid to Advanced Electrical. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.

**8. Staff Report**—Griffith said that two candidates for the vacant officer position passed both the physical and written portions of the test. The oral board will meet the following Monday to interview them. Jorgensen said that he submitted paperwork to facilitate the installation of a bike hub in

the city park. He worked with staff to prepare for the city's annual audit and met with the city forester and its insurance agent. A League of Oregon Cities (LOC) small cities meeting was held in the council chambers and was attended by local government officials from several surrounding jurisdictions and Senator Betsy Johnson. He made arrangements and reservations for the LOC Conference in Bend, but it ended up being cancelled. Jorgensen has been following up on the issues that were brought up during the last REDCO meeting and should be able to report back to that board at an October meeting. He attended the August Chamber of Commerce meeting and submitted paperwork for the ARPA funds. They have been received. He finalized the city's lease agreement with the Department of State Lands for the use of the park property and participated in the volunteer bridge deck removal and the interview panel for the Scappoose city manager position.

- 9. Council Reports**—Cooper said an ice cream social was scheduled for the Senior Center the following afternoon.
- 10. City Calendar/Announcements**—The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 4. Kreger asked if there will be a REDCO meeting prior to that meeting. Jorgensen said there will be, but he's still not sure if it's going to start at 5 or 5:30 p.m.
- 11. Executive Session**—*The Rainier City Council will hold an executive session under ORS 192.660 (2)(b) to consider dismissal or discipline of, or to hear charges or complaints against an officer, employee, staff member or agent, if the individual does not request an open meeting.*

The council entered into executive session at 8:22 p.m. The executive session was adjourned at 8:42 p.m. and the council entered back into regular session.

## **12. New Business**

- j. City Budget Officer Contract—Cooper moved to eliminate the position. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously, with Cooper abstaining.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

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Mayor Jerry Cole

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W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator