

City of Rainier
Regular City Council Meeting
July 25, 2022
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall

Mayor Jerry Cole called the council meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Council Present: Connie Budge, Robert duPlessis, Jeremy Howell, Mike Kreger and Denise Watson

Council Absent: Scott Cooper and Levi Richardson

City Attorney Present: No

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: Public Works Director Sue Lawrence said she wanted to add the second phase of the Water Master Plan and Infiltration and Inflow smoke testing to the agenda. Council President Mike Kreger moved to add the second phase of the Water Master Plan study to the agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Jeremy Howell and adopted unanimously. Councilor Connie Budge moved to add the Infiltration and Inflow smoke testing to the agenda. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.

Mayor's Address: Cole presented Darlene Lavelle with a plaque honoring her years of service to the city. He said Rainier Days was a success and presented plaques to the police department and city hall staff. Cole said he already presented the public works department with its plaque and displayed the Rainier Days wrestling championship belt that he won during the event.

Visitor Comments: Veronica Edwards said there have been complaints about her dogs being loud. Her family brings them in at night. An officer came to her house today regarding a complaint. Cole referred any questions they may have about any possible nuisance ordinance violations to Police Chief Gregg Griffith.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the June 27, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes— Kreger moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Denise Watson and adopted unanimously.

New Business

- a. Recognition of Darlene Lavelle's Service to the City of Rainier
- b. Hudson Garbage Rate Increase Request—Josh Brown from Hudson Garbage said it's been a challenging year for the company, with multiple increases to its cost structure. Those include higher costs for wages and fuel and supply chain issues. Columbia County increased its tipping fee 8.5 percent as of July 1. The request is for an 8.5 percent increase. Last year, council approved a 2.6 percent increase. Budge moved to

- approve the rate increase request. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
- c. Forestry Contract—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said the current contract expired. The contract was approved by council in the spring of 2021 to replace the retiring forester with Patrick McCoy. There were a couple of changes to the contract. The scope of work now includes the timber master plan that council has directed McCoy to put together. McCoy’s hourly rate also went from \$65 to \$75. Budge moved to approve the contract. That motion was seconded by Watson and adopted unanimously.
 - d. Resolution 22-07-01—Authorizing the Adoption of a Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan—Jorgensen said the creation of the plan was included as a part of the recently adopted collective bargaining agreement with city employees. Kreger moved to adopt the resolution. That motion was seconded by Councilor Jeremy Howell and adopted unanimously.
 - e. Resolution 22-07-02—Authorizing a Loan from the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund—Lawrence explained the particulars of the loan, part of which is forgivable. The funds will go towards the work on the water master plan. That plan can then be used to apply for grants to replace water lines and upgrades to the system. Budge moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
 - f. Award Bid for Contract Library Services—Jorgensen said the city received a proposal from a company owned by Allen Snider, who has been serving as the substitute librarian. The proposed contract was based on input from the library board and agreements between Jackson County and a private company that runs its libraries, and Josephine County and the nonprofit that ran its library system. Snider has provided excellent customer service and is working well with city staff and the library board. Kreger moved to award the bid to Mirrored Lamp LLC. That motion was seconded by Howell and adopted unanimously.
 - g. Library Board Appointment—Cole said that Sharon Erdman has applied for the vacant position and recommends her appointment. Kreger moved to appoint Erdman to the board. That motion was seconded by Watson and adopted unanimously.
 - h. Award Bid for Fir Street Mainline Replacement—Lawrence said there is a water leak along Fir Street. It’s an old steel line with black wrapping and beyond repair. The line has already been repaired multiple times and should just be replaced. She put together an estimate of around \$19,000 for supplies, but public works staff will do the actual installation. Budge moved to approve the bid. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
 - i. Award Bid for Design of Upgrading Existing Public Works Shop Building—Lawrence said the current shop is in disrepair and that presents safety issues. She met with a structural engineer to get an estimate. It came out to around \$19,000. Kreger moved to approve the bid. That motion was seconded by Councilor Robert duPlessis and adopted unanimously.
 - j. Committee Liaisons—Jorgensen said he put together the brief that was included in the council packet. Councilors can serve as liaisons to the committees, departments and city assets that he listed on there. Councilor Levi Richardson serves as chair of the parks committee and can act as its liaison. Budge has been attending library board meetings, so she can be the council liaison for that body. Councilor Scott Cooper is on the senior center’s board of directors and can be its liaison. Council agreed to those liaison assignments by consensus. Kreger will serve as the Planning Commission liaison, Cole will continue to serve as liaison to the city administration and police departments,

duPlessis and Howell will both be public works liaisons and Watson will be liaison to the city watershed. Cooper will also be the IT liaison.

- k. League of Oregon Cities Legislative Priorities—Jorgensen said the LOC has asked cities to identify the top five issues they would like that organization to work on during the 2023 regular legislative session. He recommended full funding and alignment for state land use initiatives, addressing Measure 110 shortcomings, marijuana taxes, transportation safety enhancement and funding for recovery of abandoned recreational vehicles. Council agreed by consensus.
- l. Water Master Plan Second Phase—Lawrence said the scope of work will include a geotech and seismic safety evaluation of the city’s reservoirs and water plant, with an amount not to exceed \$67,000. Budge moved to approve the Water Master Plan second phase. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
- m. Infiltration and Inflow Smoke Testing—Cole said this will help the city with its DEQ compliance issues. Lawrence said the scope of work is being developed and estimates the cost to be around \$58,000. The smoke testing will be done for the other half of the system that wasn’t tested the last time. It will be mostly the east side of town and Dyke Road area. Kreger moved to approve the infiltration and inflow testing not to exceed \$60,000. That motion was seconded by Howell and adopted unanimously.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Award Bid for Security Cameras—Jorgensen said that Cooper had been in touch with the vendor to answer the questions he had. The major question was about retention. Staff and Cooper agreed that 30 days would be sufficient to meet the city’s needs. Going to 60 or 90 day retention would cost a lot more with little benefit to the city. Budge moved to award the bid. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
- b. Second Reading of Ordinance 1082—Pertaining to Flood Damage Prevention in the City of Rainier—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Watson and adopted unanimously, with Budge abstaining.
- c. Second Reading of Ordinance 1083—Regarding the Annexation of Contiguous Properties and Annexation of Properties that are a Danger to Public Health—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Howell and adopted unanimously.
- d. Second Reading of Ordinance 1084—Repealing Ordinance 1055—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by duPlessis and adopted unanimously.
- e. Second Reading of Ordinance 1085—To Amend the Rainier Zoning Code Text: Chapter 18.50.050, Sections C 2(a) and D 2(a)—Quality of Materials—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Watson and adopted unanimously.
- f. Fox Creek Update—There was no update at this time.
- g. Senior and Multigenerational Housing—Cole said it’s time to get a committee formed. Jorgensen put together a memo that was included in the council packet. The committee can be a subcommittee of the planning commission and charged with examining the possible rezoning of some properties to encourage more housing development, including a possible text amendment for the central business district code to allow for more flexibility. The committee can be used as part of the urban growth boundary land swap process to determine which properties could be added to the UGB to facilitate more housing development and make recommendations to the planning commission. Councilors Budge and Howell agreed to serve on the committee. Cole directed

Jorgensen to start advertising the formation of the committee and soliciting community members to participate. Council will appoint members at its September meeting and the subcommittee can have its first meeting later on that month or in October.

8. **Staff Report**—Griffith said the police department is processing ordinance violation complaints. Lawrence said she has been providing data to the consultant who is putting together the park master plan. She’s looking at making improvements to the park restrooms to make them open year-round and with another path leading to them. There have been issues with a sewer lateral on 4th Street, repairs are being made to the boat launch area and site prep work is being done for the new gazebo. Jorgensen attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for Marvelous Mosaic, met with the park consultant and has been acting as library board secretary. He’s been meeting with the senior center about updating the city’s agreement for that facility, did the city’s annual insurance renewal and attended a meeting about the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bridge closure with Cole, Kreger and Lawrence.
 - a. Approve Financial Statements—Kreger moved to approve the financial statements. That motion was seconded by Howell and adopted unanimously.

9. Council Reports

10. **City Calendar/Announcements**—The next council meeting is scheduled for September 12.

Cole adjourned the regular council meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator