

City of Rainier
Regular City Council Meeting
April 4, 2023
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall

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

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

Council Absent: None

City Attorney Present: No

City Staff Present: Sarah Blodgett, City Recorder; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda: Cole said that the representatives from the Rainier Drainage Improvement Company were unable to attend this meeting, so he wanted that agenda item to be tabled. Council agreed by consensus.

Mayor's Address: Cole read a proclamation into the record in support of HOPE. He and Rainier High School Teacher Andrew Demko presented awards to several students and adult volunteers.

Visitor Comments: Al Guist said that his wife Kris tripped on a sidewalk and was injured. City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said he can contact the property owner, who is responsible. He can also put together and distribute a writeup informing residents that they are responsible for the sidewalks adjacent to their properties and have the public works department do an inventory to see which ones are in need of repair. Council agreed by consensus. Jodi Roth said she wants to get a group of people together to do a litter cleanup around town. Cole said the city has done those kinds of cleanups before and can provide trash bags for those efforts.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the March 6, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2023 Council Goal Setting Workshop Minutes and Monthly Financial Statements—Council President Mike Kreger moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Scott Cooper and adopted unanimously.

New Business

- a. Senior Center Update—Jan Rich said that there have been more building rentals and that the center served 3,000 meals in the first quarter of the year.
- b. Columbia County Housing Implementation Plan Presentation—Cascadia Partners urban planner Jamin Kimmell said the report is being finalized after nearly a year of work. There is an anticipated need for 100-235 housing units on a long-term basis. He went over the

strategies that can be used to help with more housing development. The cities in Columbia County are being asked to adopt the plan by resolution. However, consensus among council is that the city is not ready to adopt it. Jorgensen said that the Housing Committee and Planning Commission were fine with some of the recommendations, but not all of them.

- c. Discussion with the Rainier Drainage Improvement Company
- d. Resolution 22-04-01—Establishing that the City Will Prepare a Two-Year Budget for the 2023-25 Biennium—Kreger moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.
- e. Letter of Engagement with Summer Sears, CPA—Cooper moved to approve the letter of engagement. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
- f. Approve Budget Calendar—Councilor Connie Budge moved to approve the budget calendar. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
- g. Budget Committee Appointments—Jorgensen said there were three vacancies and three applicants. Kreger moved to appoint all three applicants to the budget committee. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously. Kreger moved to appoint Leslie Rist to the REDCO budget committee. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.
- h. City Council Appointment—Kreger moved to appoint Paul Langer to the vacant council position. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.
- i. First Reading of Ordinance 1089—Prohibiting Camping at Certain Public Properties
- j. First Reading of Ordinance 1090—Amending Portions of Ordinance 910
- k. Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 58-Rainier Police—Cooper moved to approve the agreement. That motion was seconded by Budge and adopted unanimously.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Fox Creek Update—There was no update at this time.

Staff Report—Jorgensen said he met with representatives of Youth Era, touched bases with members of the budget committee and worked with Demko to organize the April 15 Walk Through History event. He spoke with Ree Armitage from U.S. Senator Ron Wyden’s office about getting a letter of support for grant funding for the Fox Creek project and toured the Dibblee property with Mayor Cole and Public Works Director Sue Lawrence. The city now officially owns the property. He submitted the city’s request for state funding for water line and sewer line rehabilitation projects and toured downtown businesses that are set to open soon with Councilor Robert duPlessis. Jorgensen attended Col-Pac, NWACT, Columbia Economic Team, Rainier Chamber of Commerce board, Columbia County Housing Implementation Plan and library board meetings. He distributed information about the city’s funding requests to the members of the legislature’s Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction, finalized the budget calendar, met with Regional Solutions with Lawrence and worked with an attorney from CIS to put together Ordinance 1089.

Council Reports—Councilor Denise Watson announced that she has been appointed to the CC Rider board of directors. Kreger said he and Jorgensen went to Tillamook to meet with officials there about a veterans memorial and that he attended the annual city/county meeting.

City Calendar/Announcements

Cole adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator