

**City of Rainier**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**May 1, 2023**  
**6 p.m.**  
**Rainier City Hall**

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

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

**Council Absent:** Scott Cooper and Robert duPlessis

**City Attorney Present:** No

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

**Flag Salute**

**New Business**

- a. Swearing in Councilor Paul Langner—Mayor Jerry Cole administered the oath of office to Councilor Paul Langner. Langner then took his place at the council dais.

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

**Mayor's Address:** Cole congratulated the members of the History Bowl Team winning second place in a national competition and recognized Mark and Vicki Overbay for their 15 years of owning the Cornerstone Café before recently selling the business.

**Visitor Comments:** Washington Way resident Michael Self said the fire hydrant near his home is still out of service and needing to be fixed. There is also speeding on the street and he would like to see more of a police presence on weekends and evenings. Campers on Washington Way are leaving trash and needles all over the place.

**Visitor Comments from Columbia County Sheriff Brian Pixley:** Sheriff Pixley asked the council to support Measure 5-290, which is on the ballot for the May 16 election. The sheriff's office is currently underfunded and understaffed. The passage of this four-year levy will fund seven additional patrol deputies and result in faster response times. It will cost 29 cents per thousand dollars in assessed value, or around \$116 per year for a house valued at \$400,000 and will provide \$1.7 million to \$1.8 million for the department. It will take one to two years to recruit and train the new patrol deputies if the measure passes. Council President Mike Kreger moved for the city to provide a letter of support for Measure 5-290. That motion was seconded by Councilor Denise Watson and adopted unanimously.

**Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Consider Approval of the April 3, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financial Statements—Kreger moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Jeremy Howell and adopted unanimously.

## **New Business**

- b. Appointment to Planning Commission—Councilor Connie Budge moved to appoint Jan Rich to the Planning Commission. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
- c. RFP for Auditing Services—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said that the city’s contract CPA found some inaccuracies in the most recent audit report while working on the upcoming budget. The audit firm that the city currently contracts with had failed to file the last audit in a timely fashion, didn’t file for an extension and did not inform the city. Budge moved for the City to request bids from other auditing firms. That motion was seconded by Councilor Paul Langner and adopted unanimously.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

- a. Discussion with Rainier Drainage Improvement Company—Jorgensen said he and Terry Deaton have been talking about this. The RDIC wants to have a committee formed to discuss a memorandum of understanding, with Langer and Councilor Robert duPlessis on it. Jorgensen said he would also like John Slape on it and has discussed it with him. It would probably also be beneficial to have a representative from the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and he’s spoken with Columbia County Commissioner Margaret Magruder about being on the committee and she has agreed. Budge moved to form the committee as presented. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously. Council agreed by consensus to have a six-month timeline for the committee to do its work.
- b. Second Reading of Ordinance 1089—Prohibiting Camping at Certain Public Properties—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Howell and adopted unanimously.
- c. Second Reading of Ordinance 1090—Amending Portions of Ordinance 910—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Budge and adopted unanimously.
- d. Fox Creek Update—Jorgensen said he had a recent meeting about possible funding opportunities and a site visit is scheduled within the next few weeks.

**Staff Report**—Jorgensen said he’s met with officials from the Oregon Department of Transportation about the city’s transportation priorities. He and Cole finalized the purchase of a 25-acre property and he served as emcee for the Walk Through History event. Along with Kreger and Cole, he went to the state capitol in Salem to lobby members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction to lobby for state funding for city projects.

## **Council Reports**

**City Calendar/Announcements**—The first Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8 at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center, with REDCO’s Budget Committee meeting an hour beforehand at the same location.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

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Mayor Jerry Cole

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W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator