

**City of Rainier**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**August 7, 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, Paul Langner and Denise Watson

**Council Absent:** None

**City Attorney Present:** No

**City Staff Present:** Sarah Blodgett, City Recorder; Gregg Griffith, Police Chief; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Sue Lawrence, Public Works Consultant; Pat McCoy, City Forester; Skip Urling, City Planner

**Flag Salute**

**Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:** Councilor Connie Budge moved to add several items to the agenda as updates. That motion was seconded by Councilor Denise Watson and adopted unanimously.

**Mayor's Address:** Cole had no comments at this time.

**Visitor Comments:** Nicole Jordan from the In Harmony movement studio said that business has classes and workshops aimed at fitness and wellness. It had its soft opening last month.

**Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Consider Approval of the June 5, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes—Councilor Paul Langner moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Jeremy Howell and adopted unanimously.

**New Business**

- a. Public Hearing on Ordinance 1091—To Amend the Rainier Municipal Code Chapters 2.15, 17.10, 17.15, 17.20, 18.05, 18.15, 18.20, 18.25, 18.30 and 18.150—City Planner Skip Urling provided his staff report. He described the ordinance as a housekeeping measure. The City has many practices that are out of date and portions of its municipal code that have conflicts and inconsistencies. Many of the proposed changes simplify processes to make them quicker for applicants. Urling suggests leaving the record open so council can consider comments at its next meeting. The current proposed ordinance has some drafting errors that will be corrected prior to its second reading. Langner said planning commission has been working on this ordinance for about a year. Cole said it should streamline several of the city's planning processes. He opened the public hearing at 6:38 p.m. No comments were given. Cole closed the public hearing at 6:39 p.m.
- b. First Reading of Ordinance 1091—To Amend the Rainier Municipal Code

Chapters 2.15, 17.10, 17.15, 17.20, 18.05, 18.15, 18.20, 18.25, 18.30 and 18.150—Langner moved to approve the first reading and continue the public hearing to September 11, leaving the record open for additional comment prior to the second reading and adoption. That motion was seconded by Council President Mike Kreger and adopted unanimously.

- c. KLTV Agreement—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen explained that the most recent contract expired in July 2022, but that KLTV Director Barry Verrill had been very sick for many months afterwards. That made it difficult to update the contract, but both parties have continued carrying out its terms. Council had a previous discussion about going with a different model under which KLTV would receive a portion of the city’s cable franchise fees. Staff determined that approach would have resulted in KLTV receiving significantly less for the service it provides the city. Cole said he’s happy to continue the agreement. Council agreed by consensus to move forward with a two-year contract. Councilor Scott Cooper moved to approve a two-year contract with KLTV. That motion was seconded by Watson and adopted unanimously.
- d. Timber Master Plan Presentation—City Forester Pat McCoy said there are some units in the city’s watershed that can be harvested in the next ten years at current harvest levels. The standard has been around 25 acres per year. The watershed is around 1400 acres, but not all of it can be harvested, so the standard should be closer to 22 acres per year. Ten years from now, there will be around 87 acres in the next harvest class instead of 200. It will be the same scenario ten years after then. He recommends that harvests be done every three years during that time.
- e. Judicial Services Agreement—Kreger moved to approve the agreement. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.
- f. Resolution 23-08-01—Support of DLCD Grant Application—Langner moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
- g. Sewer Master Plan, Phase 1—Public Works Consultant Sue Lawrence said the plan is part of the agreement that the city has with the Department of Environmental Quality. It is in the budget and she’s working with the state on grant and loan programs that could also help fund the work. The plan will look at the city’s collection system and the Rockcrest lift station, identify where problems are occurring to reduce the inflow and infiltration. Councilor Robert duPlessis moved to approve the proposal for the work on the first phase of the sewer master plan. That motion was seconded by Langner and adopted unanimously.
- h. City Website Revamp—Cooper said there are three options that the City can use. Right now, the website doesn’t work very well when accessed via mobile devices. His suggestion is that councilors examine the three options and the matter be discussed at the next meeting.
- i. Updates—Budge asked for an update on the fire hydrants on Washington Way. Lawrence said she didn’t have any new information. Budge asked when the next West Rainier Urban Growth Management Committee was going to be meeting. Jorgensen said he has a week picked out after input from committee members, but not a particular day yet. Budge asked about the status of the proposed senior center expansion. Cooper said they’re waiting to hear back. Budge asked if water testing was being done on the Old Rainier Road water tank. Lawrence said there are monthly tests done at different places in town. Budge asked about the status of state funding requests. Jorgensen said that the City, the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum and the City of Clatskanie all received nothing from the legislature. Budge said that council training is available through the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. She asked about the audit. Jorgensen said there wasn’t enough time to properly do an RFP and award it prior to the pending audit. Budge

said the Audits Division of the Secretary of State’s Office does audits for cities. Jorgensen said he’s never heard of a city doing that. He added that the last time he tried to contact the Audits Division, nobody answered the phone or replied to emails or messages and he had to use back channels to get ahold of anyone there. Budge asked when the next council meeting was going to be held. Cole said September 11.

**Unfinished Business**

- a. Fox Creek Update—There was no update at this time.
- b. Second Reading of Ordinance 1092—To Allow for the Regulation of Vehicles for Hire—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.

**Staff Report**—Lawrence said work is continuing on the SCADA system at the water plant. Cole announced that Lawrence retired from full-time work and has transitioned to a part-time contract position overseeing the wastewater and water plants and special projects. He anticipates having a recommendation on an interim director at the next meeting. Police Chief Gregg Griffith said that his department will have a couple of positions opening soon. Jorgensen said he had applied for a couple of grants, did a radio show with Cole, met with the Department of State Lands about an abandoned and derelict vessel program being developed by that agency, attended two ribbon cutting ceremonies for new businesses in one week, met with the interim Columbia County District Attorney and drafted contracts for the public works department.

**Council Reports**— duPlessis said there was a good turnout for the recent car show at the park. Cooper is going to be teaching computer classes at the senior center. Kreger and Jorgensen toured the veterans memorials in Clatskanie and Columbia City.

**City Calendar/Announcements**

Cole adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

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Mayor Jerry Cole

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W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator