

City of Rainier
Regular City Council Meeting
October 2, 2023
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall

Mayor Jerry Cole called the council meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Council Present: Scott Cooper, Jeremy Howell, Mike Kreger, Paul Langner and Denise Watson

Council Absent: Connie Budge and Robert duPlessis

City Attorney Present: No

City Staff Present: Sarah Blodgett, City Recorder; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Pat McCoy, Interim Public Works Director; Skip Urling, City Planner

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda: City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said that Paul Vogel from Columbia Economic Team asked that their presentation be given at the November council meeting instead.

Mayor's Address:

Visitor Comments: There were no visitors comments at this time.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the September 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes—Councilor Scott Cooper moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Council President Mike Kreger and adopted unanimously.

New Business

- a. Columbia Economic Team Presentation
- b. Public Hearing on Ordinance 1093-Adding a New Chapter to Title 17 of the Rainier Municipal Code Establishing Rules and Regulations for Planned Unit Developments as an Alternative Method of Subdividing or Developing Property for Residential Use—City Planner Skip Urling gave his staff report. Planning Commission has been working on code amendments to simplify processes and make them easier for developers. A Planned Unit Development (PUD) gives developers options, especially if a property has slopes or wetlands. It allows for more of a cluster of housing in exchange for open space or other amenities. Mayor Jerry Cole opened the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. No public testimony was given. Cole closed the hearing at 6:12 p.m.
- c. First Reading of Ordinance 1093-Adding a New Chapter to Title 17 of the Rainier Municipal Code Establishing Rules and Regulations for Planned Unit Developments as an Alternative Method of Subdividing or Developing Property for Residential Use
- d. Public Hearing on Columbia River Launch Services Proposed Rezone—Urling gave his

staff report. The property was originally zoned waterfront commercial, but the previous owner had it changed to central business district. Planning Commission recommended changing it back to waterfront commercial. The request meets all of the applicable criteria. Cole opened the hearing at 6:15 p.m. Owner Brett Bybee spoke in favor of the proposal. He said the business started in 2016. He said it works up and down the Columbia River and wanted a home base on the river. City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said that Shaver provided a letter in support that was included in the record. Cole closed the hearing at 6:17 p.m.

- e. First Reading of Ordinance 1094-Amending the City of Rainier Zoning Map Changing the Zoning Designation of Tax Lot 7216-DA-00301, a 0.303 Acre Parcel, from Central Business District to Waterfront Commercial

Unfinished Business

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

Staff Report—Interim Public Works Director Pat McCoy praised his staff and said the work well together. He’s working on lower cost alternatives for repairs to Richards Road and fire hydrant issues. City Recorder Sarah Blodgett said the audit went well last week. Jorgensen read an email that Officer Troy Caldwell sent to Reserve Officer Michael Taggart. Taggart responded to an animal bite complaint and the owner couldn’t be in possession of animals due to multiple counts of animal abuse. The owner fled the state during the investigation. A warrant was issued and the suspect was later arrested in California. Jorgensen said he’s been spending a lot of time collaborating with local officials on regional transportation priorities. The emphasis is on Highway 30 safety improvements due to all the recent fatalities. The City’s longtime priorities of Veterans Way and Mill Street would fall under those improvements. He applied for a grant through the Department of Land Conservation and Development for a public facilities plan for the industrial area located in West Rainier and obtained letters of support from the county, Columbia Economic Team and the Port of Columbia County. Along with Cole, he participated in the oral boards for a police officer candidate. An offer has been extended to the candidate, who is a lateral from out of state, and accepted. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held September 19 for the new realtor office on B Street. He attended.

Council Reports—Councilor Jeremy Howell praised Police Chief Gregg Griffith and Sergeant Pete Manning for their recent efforts. Cole thanked the Oregon State Police and Columbia County Sheriff’s Office for helping with coverage during this stint of short staffing. Cooper said the senior center submitted its grant application for a potential expansion. He requested that an agenda item be added to the next meeting for a policy on allowing wine and beer at events at the senior center and mentioned that the center is looking for a new director. Kreger said the tree lighting will be happening at the A Street Plaza because the event has outgrown city hall. A nonprofit has been established to raise funds for the tree and an EIN has been issued. Pledges are in place to fund the tree. It will be 20 feet tall, including the topper.

City Calendar/Announcements—Jorgensen said that the city/county dinner is scheduled for October 10 at the senior center. Trunk or treats events are scheduled for the Plaza October 28 and 29.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator