

City of Rainier
Regular City Council Meeting
November 6, 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 Paul Langner

Council Absent: Denise Watson

City Attorney Present: No

City Staff Present: Sarah Blodgett, City Recorder; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Pat McCoy, Interim Public Works Director; Sue Lawrence, Public Works Operations Consultant; Gregg Griffith, Police Chief

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda: Mayor Jerry Cole said that public works wanted to add Fox Street Water Line to the agenda. Councilor Scott Cooper moved to add that item. That motion was seconded by Council President Mike Kreger and adopted unanimously. Councilor Connie Budge said she wanted an update on a series of questions she had. Kreger moved to add Administrator Updates as item 7d under New Business. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.

Mayor's Address: Cole wished everyone a Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the October 2, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financial Statements—Councilor Paul Langner moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.

New Business

- a. Columbia Economic Team Presentation—Executive Director Paul Vogel gave an overview of what CET is and does. CET is focused on business retention, recruitment, economic policy, workforce development, tourism and other areas. It has four employees and four contractors and 11 new businesses that are members. Programs include the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Keep it Local. The SBDC had 12 clients last year and now it has over 50 new ones and is working with more than 100 businesses. Over 60 percent of those are women owned. CET has been working on the NEXT Renewables project. If it goes through, it will have 250 permanent employees. Around 3,000 workers would be involved in its construction, with 1600 coming from outside the area for a three-year period. CET also works with local businesses on permitting and regulatory resolutions. A Rainier business received that assistance.
- b. Resolution 23-11-01—Proclaiming the City of Rainier's Call for Repeal of the Provisions

Enacted Pursuant to Oregon Ballot Measure 110—Kreger said this issue needs to be addressed due to ongoing problems. Councilor Robert duPlessis agreed. Cooper said the measure was one of the worst things to ever happen to Oregon. City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said that Clackamas, Marion, Polk and Douglas counties have all passed similar resolutions, and so has the City of Medford. He said this resolution was the result of a discussion that took place during the most recent city/county dinner, in which Columbia County leaders expressed their concerns about Measure 110's impacts on public health and safety. The idea is to pass those resolutions before the Legislature convenes its short session early next year in hopes that changes can be made through that process. Budge moved to pass the resolution. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.

- c. Resolution 23-11-02—Allowing for the Regulated Use of Alcohol for Events at the Rainier Senior Center—Jorgensen said this resolution was requested by the Senior Center's board of directors. They want to be able to host events like weddings and receptions, but people often want to be able to have champagne at those functions. The resolution would allow for that, as long as it's served by someone who is appropriately licensed. Budge moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- a. Second 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—Langner moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
- b. Second 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—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.

New Business

- d. Fox Street Water Line—Lawrence said public works wanted to fix the water line before paving the street. She's received three bids at \$25,989, \$30,025 and \$36,323 and recommends the low bid. Cooper moved to approve the \$25,989 bid. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- c. Fox Creek Update—Jorgensen said that the City has entered into an agreement for the future purchase a piece of property related to the project.

New Business

- e. Administrator Updates—Budge asked about city hall improvements that are in the works. Jorgensen said staff is awaiting a final report and will update council once it is received. Budge asked about the status of the West Rainier Urban Growth Management Committee. Jorgensen said it will depend on whether the City is awarded the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCDD) Facilities Planning grant that he applied for. The DLCDD regional representative was scheduled to visit the City the following day and he planned to discuss that with her. Budge asked about the status of some fire hydrants she's been concerned about. Public Works Director Pat McCoy said some need to be repaired and public works is focusing on those first, then doing planning for the rest. Budge asked if League of Oregon Cities training could be placed on the agenda for the January or February meetings. Jorgensen said it could. Budge also wants to discuss updating an agreement with the county early next year.

Staff Report—Police Chief Gregg Griffith said the department had a presence at the recent

Harvest Party, which was well received. Interviews were conducted for the vacant officer positions. McCoy said public works has been focusing on maintenance and improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. Lawrence said that a new SCADA system has been installed at that plant. Flows are higher right now due to recent rains. The invoice was received for the aeration cleaning and came in at \$8542. Cole said that changes have been made to the chain of command for public works. Since Lawrence is now a contractor, she reports to McCoy. Jorgensen said that he worked with the city's contract auditing firm, arranged for the city/county dinner that was hosted at the Senior Center, met with the Columbia County Board of Commissioners about using the C.C. Rider building as a visitor center, met with county planning staff about future industrial development opportunities around town and participated in meetings about regional transportation priorities and abandoned and derelict vessels. He also attended an open house at the Senior Center put on by the Port of Columbia County.

Council Reports—Kreger said the new Christmas tree has arrived and donations have been received. Cooper said the Senior Center is looking to cut its expenses. duPlessis said he met with public works.

City Calendar/Announcements

Cole adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator