

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

Mayor Jerry Cole called the council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Council Present:** Connie Budge, Scott Cooper, Robert duPlessis, Jeremy Howell, and Paul Langner and Denise Watson

**Council Absent:** Mike Kreger

**City Attorney Present:** No

**City Staff Present:** W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Sue Lawrence, Public Works Operations Consultant; Gregg Griffith, Police Chief

**Flag Salute**

**Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:** There were no additions or deletions at this time.

**Mayor’s Address:** Mayor Jerry Cole observed a moment of silence for former Columbia City Mayor Sue Ziglinski, who recently passed away. He also praised Council President Mike Kreger for his successful efforts to bring about Winterfest.

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

**Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Consider Approval of the November 6, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financial Statements—Councilor Scott Cooper moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Denise Watson and adopted unanimously.

**New Business**

- a. Senior Center Update—Cooper said the Senior enter is hosting a Holiday prime rib dinner December 16 at 2 p.m. The center was awarded a \$35,000 grant for its expansion.
- b. Proposed Street Vacation for a Portion of Hickory Street Between View Street and Old Rainier Road—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen explained the petition process and added that council had previously approved this vacation many years ago. Councilor Paul Langner moved to go forward with the proposed street vacation. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Councilor Connie Budge declared ex-parte contact, as she was a member of city council when the vacation was previously approved. The motion was approved unanimously, with Budge abstaining.
- c. Proposed Street Vacation for the 20-Foot Alley Lying Within Block 39, Plat of Unit “C” in West Rainier—Carson Williquette spoke on the behalf of the applicants, Wilcox and Flegel. He said that company owns the Chevron station in Rainier and the old Pacific Pride location in town. Wilcox and Flegel used to lease that property but has since bought It and another adjacent one. The company plans to build a refueling station and improve the landscaping. Jorgensen said it was also planning to make improvements to the traffic flow in and out of there. Wilcox and Flegel intends to invest in the properties. Cooper

moved to go forward with the proposed street vacation. That motion was seconded by Budge and adopted unanimously.

- d. Public Facility Lease Agreement with Columbia River Launch Service—Jorgensen said that becoming a port of call has been a council goal for many years, but he didn't know how to make that happen. But Columbia River Launch Service is a new business that came to town and helped bring a cruise ship here a few weeks ago. He's been talking to its owner, Brett Bybee, about entering into a partnership that can enable them to bring more cruise ships to Rainier. Columbia River Launch Services needs somewhere to stage its tour buses, and Jorgensen put together the agreement for the company to lease the city's marina facility. The lease has been vetted by the city attorney. Bybee said Rainier is a good launch point for ships that are going to Mt. St. Helens. The company will keep it a tidy, clean, usable public area. Councilor Robert duPlessis moved to approve the lease. That motion was seconded by Watson and adopted unanimously.
- e. State Library Report—Budge said the report was approved by the library board and needs council approval before it can be submitted to the state. Langner move to approve the report. That motion was seconded by Councilor Jeremy Howell and adopted unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

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

**Staff Report**—Police Chief Gregg Griffith said that donut day will be December 16. The department is running background checks on two officer candidates. Jorgensen said he participated in the oral boards for those officer candidates, took the City's Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) regional representative on a tour of Rainier, met with DLCD and a consulting firm about the urban growth boundary land swap process, applied for funding for the Debast water line project for the 2024 legislative session and is updating the safety manual.

**Council Reports**—Langner said he attended the most recent Col-Pac meeting. Cooper said that the improvements to the city's website are underway.

**City Calendar/Announcements**—Cole announced that there will be a special council meeting December 20 at 6 p.m.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.