

**City of Rainier
City Council Meeting
January 8, 2024
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall**

Mayor Jerry Cole called the council meeting to order at 6:02 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: W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Sarah Blodgett, City Recorder; Pat McCoy, Interim Public Works Director; Gregg Griffith, Police Chief

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda: Mayor Jerry Cole said that the police department was not yet ready to discuss its camera system replacement. That item will be deleted from the agenda and presented at the February meeting instead.

Mayor's Address: Cole wished everyone a Happy New Year. He asked for a moment of silence to honor the anniversary of Police Chief Ralph Painter's passing, which was January 5.

Visitor Comments: Michael Self thanked public works for replacing the fire hydrant in front of his house. He said that he's seeing speeding on Washington way and loud music at night. Councilor Connie Budge mentioned that mailboxes in the neighborhood were recently raided. Jan Rich said that the senior center is doing well. It had 13 rentals in the last year and served over 15,000 meals. The patio is now enclosed as part of the expansion that's underway. Rich requested that public works paint the building.

Mayor's Address: Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the December 4, 2023 and December 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes—Council President Mike Kreger moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Scott Cooper and adopted unanimously.

New Business

- a. Council Training Opportunities—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said he included materials in the meeting packet from the League of Oregon Cities and Oregon Government Ethics Commission about trainings that are available. He told councilor that he could send a link to anyone who was interested.
- b. Website Presentation—Cooper said that the updated website will work on phones, tables and desktops. The project is nearly completed, there's just some more data that needs to be imported. Cole suggested the City of St. Helens website as an example of the pages he wants to see for the police and public works departments.
- c. Water Master Plan Presentation—City Engineer Preston Van Meter said that the

previous water master plan was from 1995. It's recommended that they be updated every ten years. Recommended system improvements include upsizing some lines to six or eight inches for better fire flow and adding redundancy. The updated plan also calls for greater storage capacity at Neer City and Townsend. It's suggested that Fox Creek be used as a backup water supply in a major seismic event. There will be a lot of federal money available for infrastructure projects over the next ten years, so there is an opportunity to have these improvements funded. Overall, the system is reliable. Councilor Connie Budge asked about the city's infrastructure and how well it would serve the city if its urban growth boundary (UGB) is changed. Jorgensen said he just spoke with the Department of Land Conservation and the consultants that will be working on the UGB project. Much of that work will involve consulting with Van Meter on infrastructure capacity and availability.

d. Police Department Camera System Replacement

Unfinished Business

- a. Fox Creek Update—Jorgensen said that a survey is scheduled for January 17 for the property the City is working to acquire for the project. Once the survey is done, the City can get an appraisal done while starting the portioning process. Anything the City spends on acquiring the property can be counted as a match for grants and demonstrates seriousness about getting it done. He had a meeting that morning with a consultant who works to find federal funding for these kinds of projects all over the country. Once the City acquires the property, Jorgensen and the consultant can approach the Oregon Department of Transportation with specific federal grant programs that can be used to fund the project.

Staff Report—Public Works Director Pat McCoy said that the demolition work at city hall has concluded. Public works has also been working on deferred maintenance at the wastewater treatment plant. Police Chief Gregg Griffith said that the City's new officer is scheduled to start the following day. Jorgensen said this officer should be a great fit for the community. Jorgensen said he helped public works staff with putting up the Christmas tree in the A Street Plaza for the Winterfest event. He praised Kreger for his efforts to establish that event. Kreger said that Winterfest now has a website. Next year's event will include a parade and a possible bazaar. Jorgensen also met with Councilor Robert duPlessis and attended the Columbia County Cultural Coalition meeting, where the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum's request for help with an archiving project was fully funded. He also went to a Northwest Area Commission on Transportation meeting and continued to advocate for Highway 30 safety improvements.

Council Reports—duPlessis said that when he came to city hall, he looked at the potential break room to get ideas on how to make it happen. Budge said that she would like to see handicapped parking closer to the Cornerstone Café. Cole said public works has been looking into it. McCoy said there are all kinds of rules and regulations around handicapped parking but one spot can probably be added. Cooper promoted the upcoming movie night at the senior center. Kreger thanked public works for its support of the Winterfest event.

City Calendar/Announcements

Cole adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator