

City of Rainier
City Council Goal Setting Work Session
March 18, 2024
5 p.m.
Rainier Senior Center

The meeting was called to order at 5:19 p.m.

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

Council Absent: Robert duPlessis

City Attorney Present: No

City Staff Present: Sarah Blodgett, City Recorder; Gregg Griffith, Police Chief; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Russ Reigel, Public Works Director

Flag Salute

2023 Year in Review—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen gave a review of steps the council took to achieve its goals last year and the ordinances it passed.

Collaborative Projects Status Update--Jorgensen provided an update on several collaborative projects the city is working on with other state and federal agencies, including Fox Creek and Veterans Way.

Review of 2023 Council Goals—Jorgensen went over the council’s goals from 2023.

Public Works Priority Projects—Public Works Director Russ Reigel said that the park bathrooms should be repaired soon. He expects the docks to be fixed by the end of March and is looking at having the county’s work crew help out with landscaping maintenance around the city.

2024 Council and City Committee Goals—Jan Rich said she would like to finish the Senior Center expansion. Jorgensen read into the record the goals submitted by Councilor Robert duPlessis, who was unable to attend. They include DEQ compliance, inflow and infiltration repairs, city hall repairs, completing road projects funded by Small City Allotment (SCA) grants, examining water and wastewater components such as life cycles, spares, lead times and risk, having a full police staff, more traffic patrols and a sixth officer position, finishing the city hall break room, having AEDs available at city hall, new park restrooms, lighting for the riverfront trail, replacing the water fountain and plaque on A Street, pedestrian safety improvements on Veterans Way and getting the city reservoir online. Councilor Scott Cooper said he would like to look into having wi-fi available for all city residents. Library Board Chair Marcia Roberts said that body plans to work on a five-year plan and a mission statement, grants, reviewing and revising its policies, duties and responsibilities, doing a self-evaluation, changing the duties of the chair to include being a community liaison, documenting volunteer hours, organizing the library collection by genre, forming a friends group, increasing partnerships with the senior center, having more speakers, classes and a writers group, examining the most productive use of the space, having more activities for children and men

and book deliveries for the homebound. She noted that there has been a 33 percent increase in patronage since Allen Snider took over as library director. Mayor Jerry Cole said his goals are DEQ compliance, fixing inflow and infiltration issues, finishing the SCA grant project, getting more training for public works staff, reviewing purchasing policies and procedures, the break room for administrative staff, Veterans Way and getting the reservoir online. Councilor Connie Budge wants to formalize the council liaison system and review the charter and agreements for compliance. Cooper listed Veterans Way as a priority, along with reviewing park projects and the availability of public works staff to carry them out. Cole said he would like to see a friends of the park group and a dog park. Budge would like to have a community garden. Councilor Paul Langner said the city should consider having a three cent per gallon gas tax to fund street improvements and paint the obelisk at its entrance blue in honor of Ralph Painter. Councilor Jeremy Howell said he wants to see Veterans Way fixed and look into having a building official and better code enforcement from the county. Councilor Denise Watson said she would like to review the county permitting process. Cole said he wants to see regular bus service between Rainer and Longview.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator