

**City of Rainier  
City Council Meeting  
June 3, 2024  
6 p.m.  
Rainier City Hall**

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

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

**Council Absent:** Connie Budge

**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**

**Mayor's Address:** Mayor Jerry Cole congratulated the Rainier High School graduating class of 2024 and said that the senior parade was scheduled for the following Friday.

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

**Visitor Comments:** Ronda Roche said she doesn't want property owners to be responsible for their lateral lines. Ron Roche said it cost \$30,000 to fix his lateral line and is asking the City to reimburse him for half of that. Janet Sedgley said she wants to do a Golden Rule Project event to bring people to the City. Cole said setting it up would be similar to a park use request. Jan Rich said things are going well at the senior center. Volunteer hours have increased, and the Eagles lodge donated \$6850 for the Meals on Wheels home delivery service. The center needs to raise \$5,000 to replace its chairs and is about halfway towards meeting that goal.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Consider Approval of the May 6, 2024 Council Work Session and 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. Hudson Garbage Rate Request—Hudson District Manager Josh Brown said that disposal costs at the county have increased. The fuel market remains unstable and the company has experienced wage pressure. Cooper asked if discounts were available for seniors and residents on fixed incomes. Brown said many cities ask about that. He's open to discussing it. Councilor Robert duPlessis said that Hudson's rates have gone up around 50 percent over the last 12 years. Kreger moved to approve the proposed rate increase. That motion was seconded by Cooper. There was a discussion about waiting to approve the proposed increase until after a program can be developed for seniors and

- residents on fixed incomes. Kreger withdrew his motion. Council agreed by consensus to table the item until its next meeting.
- b. Timber Fund Loan Terms—Cole said council has agreed to take a zero percent interest loan from the Timber Fund to pay for the restoration of the windows at City Hall. He asked council for suggestions on a payoff schedule and suggested \$20,000 per year for six years. Councilor Paul Langner moved to repay the loan at \$1,000 per month until it is paid off, starting in July 2025. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
  - c. Award RFP for Auditor Services—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said that Singer Lewak was recommended by Columbia River Fire and Rescue. Cole said the firm is doing good work with the district and he’s been impressed at its due diligence. Langner said he would like to see a figure of what the audit costs would be. Cole suggested having a “not to exceed.” Jorgensen said he can reach out and obtain that information. Council agreed by consensus to table the item until the next meeting.
  - d. Award Contract for Water System DRC Consulting—Langner moved to award the contract. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
  - e. Award Bid for Fox Street Paving Project—Public Works Director Russ Reigel said he had not yet received the bid. Council agreed by consensus to table the matter to the next meeting.
  - f. First Reading of Ordinance 1099—Amending Chapters 13.05 and 13.15 of the Rainier Municipal Code
  - g. Resolution 24-06-01—Increasing Rate for Septage Receiving Services—Langner moved to approve the resolution, with the amendment that the fee be increased to 25 cents as of July 2025. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

- a. Second Reading of Ordinance 1098—Amending Ordinance 917 and Chapter 10.30.010 of Rainier Municipal Code—duPlessis moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Langner and adopted unanimously.
- b. Fox Creek Update—Jorgensen said he’s been meeting with Oregon Solutions about taking over management of the project. He’s compiled a list of stakeholders and shared that with representatives from Oregon Solutions.
- c. Wastewater Plant MAO—Reigel said he’s meeting with the city’s engineering firm about the MAO. Jorgensen said the City’s new operator has started and is doing a great job.
- d. Senior Center Update—Reigel said that drawings have been provided to an architect to meet the county’s permitting requirements.
- e. Executive Compensation—Langner said the current compensation is on par with similarly sized cities. What he and Cooper have come up with is a system of incentives for grant applications and rewards and new business investment. They recommend a base pay of \$105,000 per year along with the incentive program. Cole asked how it should be implemented. Jorgensen said his contract with the City is up for renewal in September and that can be included as part of the evaluation process.

**Staff Report**—Police Chief Gregg Griffith said that Officer Mark Nielsen is scheduled to graduate from the police academy June 21. Reigel said the park bathrooms are done and work should begin on replacing the roof at City Hall in late June. Frames for the windows at City Hall are going to be worked on the following week and should be done within a month. Jorgensen said he and Reigel met with DEQ, helped set up for the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum’s groundbreaking ceremony, met with Oregon Solutions, attended the Columbia Economic Team meeting and has been working on the budget.

**Council Reports**—Cooper said the Senior Center is working on its chair drive. duPlessis said he’s been impressed at the work being done on the City Hall building.

**City Calendar/Announcements**—Cole said that the kickoff for the summer concerts in the park series was scheduled for the following Wednesday. It was decided by consensus that Council will hold its next meeting June 17 at 5:30 p.m., prior to the Budget Committee meeting. Council will also meet July 15.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

---

Mayor Jerry Cole

---

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator