

**City of Rainier
City Council Meeting
July 15, 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, Paul Langner and Denise Watson

Council Absent: Jeremy Howell and Mike Kreger

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: Rainier School District Superintendent Chad Holloway introduced himself to council. Mayor Cole presented Troy Caldwell with a plaque honoring his nine years of service to the Rainier Police Department. Cole swore in Officer Mitch Matthews. He presented City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen and Public Works Director Russ Reigel with plaques thanking the City and its public works department for helping out with Rainier Days. Cole then thanked all of the volunteers and sponsors who made Rainier Days a big success.

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

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

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the June 17, 2024 Regular Council Meeting and June 17, 2024 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financial Statements—Councilor Scott Cooper moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Paul Langner and adopted unanimously.

New Business

- a. Swearing in of Officer Mitch Matthews
- b. Request for Pickleball Courts at the City Park—Kathy Clunky said that the City allowed the local pickleball group to paint lines on the tennis courts in the park and put in a lock box a few years ago. The sport has continued growing in popularity since then. The group is now requesting to convert the tennis courts into pickleball courts. Eight pickleball courts can fit in that area. The cost would be around \$6,000 per court, for a total of around \$53,000. The group is willing to fundraise and is asking that the courts be named after any potential major donors to the project. There was a discussion about phasing the project in by doing half of it at a time. Cooper moved to allow four pickleball courts in the first phase and the other four in a second phase. That motion was seconded by Councilor Robert duPlessis and adopted unanimously.

- c. Wastewater Master Plan Presentation—Yarrow Murphy from Leeway Engineering and Preston Van Meter from West Yost gave a lengthy presentation about the plan, which includes improvements to the City’s collections system and wastewater treatment plant.
- d. Resolution 24-07-01—Authorizing Interfund Loan Not to Exceed \$150,000 from the General Fund to the Sewer Fund for Operations—Langner moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.
- e. Resolution 24-07-02—Transferring Appropriations for the 2023-25 Biennium—Langner moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Councilor Denise Watson and adopted unanimously.
- f. Resolution 24-07-03—Approving the Rainier Senior Center’s Name Change to the Rainier River Front Center—Councilor Connie Budge moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.
- g. League of Oregon Cities Legislative Priorities—Jorgensen said that in advance of the 2025 legislative session, the League of Oregon Cities sent a list of priorities to cities and is asking them to choose their top five. He recommends infrastructure funding, employment lands readiness and availability, marijuana tax, transportation package and operator-in-training apprenticeships. Budge moved to approve that list of priorities. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- a. Fox Creek Update—Jorgensen said that Oregon Solutions is conducting stakeholder interviews. He’s still waiting on an appraisal of the vacant lot property. The surveyor needs to do some more work in order for the partitioning process to move forward.
- b. Wastewater Plant MOU
- c. Senior Center Expansion—Reigel said an architect is finalizing the letter that will be sent to the county to obtain the proper permitting for the project.

Staff Report—Reigel said that the last needed parts for the centrifuge repairs have arrived and a tech will be in the following week to do the repairs. Work has started on the Fox Creek water line and the paving for that is scheduled for early August. Jorgensen said he spent much time working on the supplemental budget. He also made multiple radio show appearances to promote the summer concert series and Rainier Days.

Council Reports

City Calendar/Announcements

Cole adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

