

**City of Rainier
City Council Work Session
November 18, 2024
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall**

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

Council Present: Connie Budge, Scott Cooper, Robert duPlessis and Paul Langner

Council Absent: Jeremy Howell, Mike Kreger and Denise Watson

City Attorney Present: No

City Staff Present: W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Skip Urling, City Planner

Flag Salute

Visitor Comments: Roxy and John Caraway and Eric Egge from the Goble Water Association expressed concerns about a proposed nighttime asphalt plant operation in Goble. The firm is applying for a major variance for its permit to allow it to operate 24/7 during the summer. Specific concerns include the presence of large trucks relating to the operation and its location in proximity to the local aquifer. Cole suggested that they present the county with a petition of neighbors opposed to the project.

New Business

- a. Presentation by City Planner Skip Urling on National Flood Insurance Program Endangered Species Act Integration—Urling said that the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife issued a biological opinion regarding development in flood plains. An Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for 2026. Flood plains provide habitat and space for flood waters. The creation of hard, impervious surfaces impacts them. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has three options for cities to choose from. One is to prohibit development in flood plains. The second is to adopt a model ordinance and the third is to do the permitting on a case-by-case basis. The City is required to respond to FEMA by December 1 and must have an ordinance in effect by July 2025. There is only one property in Rainier’s flood plain that is being considered for development at this point. Councilor Paul Langner expressed reservations about the model ordinance approach. Cole said it may be advantageous to take a similar approach to the county and other cities in it. Langner said he would prefer the case-by-case approach. Councilor Scott Cooper agreed and said the City should coordinate with neighboring communities. Councilors agreed by consensus to take the case-by-case approach.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator