

**City of Rainier
City Council Meeting
December 2, 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, Jeremy Howell, Mike Kreger and Paul Langner

Council Absent: Denise Watson

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

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda: Councilor Connie Budge moved to add payrolls and paydays to the agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Paul Langner. Councilors Budge, Scott Cooper, Robert duPlessis, Jeremy Howell, Langner and Council President Mike Kreger voted in favor.

Mayor's Address: Mayor Jerry Cole wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He thanked the organizers of the Winterfest parade and said the tree lighting ceremony went well.

Visitor Comments: Kathy Meier expressed concern about slick leaves around West 8th Street by Maple Drive, garages and buildings on the east side of town that are falling down, homelessness, a tiny home being built near the water plant and the water and sewer costs. Nathan Hinton of the 11th Hour Project said his nonprofit organization helps people who are in need, including the homeless, veterans, and low-income residents. The organization provides resources that people can't get through government organization and its services are free to those who qualify. Their services include gutter cleaning, moving and wheelchair ramps and the organization partners with other local nonprofits like the senior center and HOPE.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the November 4, 2024 Regular Council Meeting and November 18, 2024 Council Work Session Minutes and Monthly Financial Statements—Cooper moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Langner and Kreger voted in favor.

Budge moved to add a vote to confirm council consensus from the November 18 work session to the agenda. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Langner and Kreger voted in favor.

New Business

- a. Parks Committee Recommendations—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said there is around \$100,000 remaining in the park improvement fund. There are some improvements that have been discussed, including bark chips at the playground and fixes to the sprinkler system. Those will cost around \$10,000 each. Skate park advocates plan to put together a scope of work for 3D renderings, concept development and preliminary cost estimates for upgrades to those facilities. That would cost around \$20,000 but could also go in the next budget. Public Works Director Russ Reigel has discovered that the City doesn't own all of the property under the C Street bridge where a dog park is being considered. That may require some surveying work. Langner has been talking with officials at the railroad and the Oregon Department of Transportation about expanding the available parking between the tracks and the park. That may also require some surveying work.
- b. Payroll and Paydays—Budge asked about the most recent payroll process. Jorgensen explained that the finance clerk position is currently vacant and being advertised. He hired a temp to do payroll and there was a glitch but staff was paid only one day late. Staff has identified potential candidates for the position and will be doing interviews the following week.
- c. Confirmation of Council Consensus—Budge moved to validate the council's consensus at its November 18 work session. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Howell and Kreger voted in favor. Langner abstained.

Unfinished Business

- a. Fox Creek Update—Jorgensen said he solicited bids from multiple surveying companies in the region. One came in at \$20,000 and the bid included in the packet was for \$12,500. Kreger moved to approve the bid. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger and Langner voted in favor. Budge moved to approve the Fox Creek Funding Collaborative scope of work, not to exceed \$15,000. That motion was seconded by duPlessis. Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger and Langner voted in favor.
- b. Wastewater Plant MAO—Jorgensen said he and Reigel have been meeting with the city's engineering firm and representatives of the Department of Environmental Quality to modify the terms of the agreement.
- c. Senior Center Expansion—Reigel said the project is in the permitting process. The contractor will be starting the work December 16. The doors have been ordered and will arrive the second week of January.
- d. Second Reading of Ordinance 1099—Amending Chapters 13.05 and 13.15 of the Rainier Municipal Code—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger and Langner voted in favor. Budge abstained.
- e. Liaison Roles and Definitions—Budge moved to approve the definition that was submitted by Councilor Denise Watson but subsequently withdrew the motion. This matter was tabled to the next meeting.

Staff Reports—Reigel said he attended a county weather briefing for emergency preparedness. Grant funding is available for backup generators and he plans to apply. Jorgensen said he hosted a school field trip and a small cities meeting at city hall, performed election duties, did interviews for a public works position, met with the City's state senator

and representative-elect and attended an Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) training in St. Helens.

Council Reports—Langner said he attended that same training. Budge suggested that council have a work session about the obligations that elected officials have under public meeting and records laws. Cole agreed. Howell said he has noticed more police patrols in his neighborhood. duPlessis praised the public works department’s proactive approach to maintenance and promoted the Scouting for Food event scheduled for the following Saturday. Kreger thanked the volunteers who helped with Winterfest.

City Calendar/Announcements—Cole said the Christmas ships are coming to town December 28 at 6 p.m. Jorgensen said that City Day at the Capitol is scheduled for January 28 and asked if any councilors would like to attend. Kreger, Cole and Langner all said they would.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator