

City of Rainier
City Council Goal Setting Work Session
March 17, 2025
6 p.m.
Rainier Riverfront Center

Mayor Jerry Cole called the council goal setting work session to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Council Absent: Connie Budge and Paul Langner

City Attorney Present: No

City Staff Present: Gregg Griffith, Police Chief; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

Review of 2024 Council Goals

City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen went over council's 2024 goals. The Riverfront Center expansion, city hall repairs, park restroom and Fox Street projects have all been completed. Public works staff is getting more training. Procurement policies and a council liaison system have both been formally adopted by council. The police department is now doing more traffic control due to increased staffing. The water fountain on A Street was recently replaced. Council is moving forward with considering a gas tax for street improvements and a survey has been sent out to residents to determine interest in a possible bus service between Rainier and Longview.

2025 Council and City Committee Goals

Jorgensen read a list of goals that was submitted by Councilor Connie Budge, who could not be in attendance. Her goals are to move forward with vacant road and property vacations, begin plans for the community room, review all contracts, franchises and agreements for updating, confirm the *Daily News* as a newspaper of record, research improving ways the public can get information about public meetings, put a link on the website for elected public officials from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission presentations, put a link on the website to the Attorney General's Public Record and Public Meeting Manual, put a link on the website to ORS 457 and put the personnel policies on the website. Cole said his top goal remains being in compliance with the Department of Environmental Quality. His other top goals are safety improvements on Veterans Way and on the merging lane for the Lewis and Clark Bridge. Councilor Jeremy Howell said he wants to see better building code enforcement with the county. Planning Commission Chair Erin O'Connell distributed county permitting summaries for those in attendance. Cole said he still wants to see the city reservoir online. It was suggested that County Emergency Manager Corey Padron could help find grant funding for that project. It was also suggested that the email addresses for the county building department could be added to the city's website. Councilor Robert duPlessis said he would like to see the City work with the school district to explore funding options for a sixth police officer, links on the city's website for watching council meetings and public works project management software.

Councilor Scott Cooper said he would like to see the city explore digital utilities. Councilor Denise Watson said she would like to see something done with the CC Rider property. Council President Mike Kreger said he would like to see entrance signs along Highway 30. duPlessis said he would like to see better disc golf baskets at the park, lighting for the Riverfront Trail and street sweeping days added to the website. Library Board Chair Marcia Roberts said that body is working on a newsletter that's coming out soon, has started a library card outreach program and has done collaborations with the Riverfront Center. Its current goals include training from the state librarian, tracking board activities, organizing events at the community room, a Halloween murder mystery, electronic card catalog and community social media projects. O'Connell said she would like to see training for planning commissioners. Parks Committee member Kristi Cole said she would still like to see a dog park. Shane Bell said he would like to see improvements made to the skate park.

Mayor Cole adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator