

**City of Rainier
City Council Meeting
June 2, 2025
7 p.m.
Rainier City Hall**

Mayor Jerry Cole called the council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Council Absent: Connie Budge and Jeremy Howell

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: There were no additions or deletions from the agenda at this time.

Mayor's Address: Mayor Jerry Cole congratulated the Rainier High School graduating class.

Visitor Comments: Roberta Dewey said that the week of May 18-24 is National Public Works Week. She would like to see the City recognize it next year.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the May 5, 2025 Regular Council and May 19, 2025 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes—Councilor Scott Cooper moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Paul Langner. Councilors Cooper, Robert duPlessis, Mike Kreger, Langner and Denise Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

6. New Business

- a. Forestry Contract Renewal—Watson moved to renew the contract. That motion was seconded by Langner. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- b. Library Services Contract Renewal—Kreger moved to renew the contract. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- c. Plaza Parking Meters—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said that REDCO owns a piece of property in the plaza. Under state statute, if council passed an ordinance dissolving REDCO, all of its property reverts to the City. Cooper said the City needs to look at additional revenue sources that other cities use that aren't taxes or utility fees. Parking meters are common and should be considered. Cole said he received many comments over the previous weekend in opposition to parking meters. He feels there are better ways to raise revenue. duPlessis said he's against parking meters in the plaza. There

would be costs to maintain parking meters and enforce regulations. Watson said she is also opposed to parking meters at the plaza.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Second Reading of Ordinance 1101—Approving of the Vacation of Certain Described Property to the City of Rainier, Columbia County, Oregon—Cooper moved to adopt Ordinance 1101. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.
- b. Community Room Discussion—Jorgensen said the dais at the John Gumm Building used by the Columbia County Commissioners was purchased through the Department of Corrections. A similar dais could be purchased for \$17,000. Others cost around \$30,000 elsewhere. Kreger moved to purchase a curved dais. That motion was seconded by Langner. Cooper said the City is trying to save money and council doesn't need a dais. Watson agreed. Kreger voted in favor of the motion. duPlessis, Cooper, Watson and Langner were opposed. Cooper moved to table the discussion until the September 8 meeting. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- c. Maple Drive Request—Cole read a letter from Susie Hancock into the record. Jorgensen said that Police Chief Gregg Griffith verified that Maple Drive has been a public street for decades. Hancock has been informed that she can apply for a lot line adjustment but would have to pay for the surveying work to get that done. Kreger said that the City never authorized changes to the right of way that it owns there. Council agreed by consensus to remove this item from future meeting agendas.

Unfinished Business

- b. Wastewater Plant MAO—Jorgensen said he and Public Works Director Russ Reigel met with officials from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The City will put together a plan about addressing its inflow and infiltration issues and submit it to DEQ by the end of June. The hope is that improvements to the collections system will sufficiently address the inflow and infiltration so the City won't have to increase capacity at its wastewater plant.

Staff Report—Reigel said the public works staff has been working on the park and fixing its sprinkler system. Jorgensen said he attended the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, participated in oral boards for police officer candidates, completed labor negotiations and spent much time working on the budget. He also testified before the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction. He read into the record an email he received praising Officer Mark Nielsen and also praised the efforts of Water Plant Operator Nyk Ladage, who has been running the Public Works Facebook page.

Council Reports—Watson said she recently attended a county transit board meeting. Cooper said the senior center has its first commercial kitchen customer. duPlessis and Kreger both praised the efforts of the public works department. Cole said he was awarded a scholarship from the Oregon Mayors Association to attend its upcoming conference.

City Calendar/Announcements

Cole adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator