

**City of Rainier
City Council Meeting
June 30, 2025
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall**

Mayor Jerry Cole called the council meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Council Present: Connie Budge, Scott Cooper, Robert duPlessis, Mike Kreger, and Denise Watson

Council Absent: Jeremy Howell and Paul Langner

City Attorney Present: No

City Staff Present: Sarah Blodgett, City Recorder; Pete Manning, Police Sergeant; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Russ Reigel, Public Works Director

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda: Councilor Denise Watson moved to add a discussion about ORS 192.660 to the agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Scott Cooper. Councilors Connie Budge, Cooper, Robert duPlessis, Mike Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

Mayor's Address: Mayor Jerry Cole wished everyone a happy Fourth of July holiday and said Rainier Days is scheduled for July 11 through 13.

Visitor Comments: Dan Graham discussed concerns he had about traffic patterns around East 2nd Street. Candis Forrest said she was concerned about the impacts that proposed utility rate increases will have on citizens. Jennifer Figueroa from the *Wahkiakum County Eagle* said that publication plans to start covering council meetings.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the June 2, 2025 Regular Council Meeting and June 2, 2025 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes—Budge moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

6. New Business

- a. 2025-26 Fiscal Year Budget Hearing—Cole opened the hearing at 6:27 p.m. No testimony was given. Cole closed the hearing at 6:28 p.m.
- b. Resolution 26-06-01—Adoption of the 2025-26 Fiscal Year Budget—Kreger moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Budge abstained.
- c. Resolution 26-06-02—Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues for the Fiscal Year 2025-26—Cooper moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

- d. Resolution 26-06-03—Transferring Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024-25—Kreger moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by duPlessis. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- e. Resolution 26-06-04—Designating the *Wahkiakum County Eagle* as the City's Official Newspaper of Notice—Cooper moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Budge. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- f. Resolution 26-06-05—Adopting Residential Sewer Rates—Cooper moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Cooper withdrew that motion. Cooper moved to approve the resolution, with the removal of the section stating that the base rate shall be adjusted at the beginning of each fiscal year, July 1 by the CPI index all urban consumers, West Region, Pacific Division, as found at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That motion was seconded by Watson. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- g. Resolution 26-06-06—Adopting Commercial Sewer Rates—Budge moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Budge withdrew her motion. Cooper moved to approve the resolution, with the removal of the section stating that the base rate shall be adjusted at the beginning of each fiscal year, July 1 by the CPI index all urban consumers, West Region, Pacific Division, as found at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That motion was seconded by Budge. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- h. Resolution 26-06-07—Adopting Residential Sewer Rates for Users Outside of Rainier City—Cooper moved to approve the resolution, with the removal of the section stating that the base rate shall be adjusted at the beginning of each fiscal year, July 1 by the CPI index all urban consumers, West Region, Pacific Division, as found at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- i. Resolution 26-06-08—Adopting Residential Water Rates—Kreger moved to approve the resolution, with the removal of the section stating that the base rate shall be adjusted at the beginning of each fiscal year, July 1 by the CPI index all urban consumers, West Region, Pacific Division, as found at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That motion was seconded by Budge. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- j. Resolution 26-06-09—Adopting Residential Water Rates for Users Outside of Rainier City—Kreger moved to approve the resolution, with the removal of the section stating that the base rate shall be adjusted at the beginning of each fiscal year, July 1 by the CPI index all urban consumers, West Region, Pacific Division, as found at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That motion was seconded by Watson. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- k. Resolution 26-06-10—Adopting a Stormwater Management Fee—Kreger moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Budge. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- l. Approve Finance Director Contract—Budge moved to approve the contract. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- m. Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 58—Kreger moved to approve the agreement. That motion was seconded by Watson. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- n. Approve Contract with Delta Operations—Budge moved to approve the contract. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and

Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

o. Award Bids for Public Works Projects—Public Works Director Russ Reigel said he had bids to paint the senior center. He recommends the \$19,790 bid from Five Star Homes. Cooper moved to approve the bid. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Reigel said he received a quote of \$98,824 for the parts needed to do a rebuild of filters at the water treatment plant and recommends it. Budge moved to approve the purchase. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Reigel said he received two bids for the asphalt work for the Richards Drive project. He recommends the \$19,800 bid from Mike George Paving. Budge moved to approve the bid. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Reigel said he recommends a bid for \$75,000 for the East E Street water line work. Kreger moved to approve the bid. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Reigel said he recommends the \$125,000 bid from Mike George Paving for the East E Street paving work. Budge moved to approve the bid. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously. Reigel said the Supplemental Environmental Project for C Street will cost \$135,000 and is in the budget. Kreger moved to approve the project. That motion was seconded by Watson. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Reigel said he received a bid for \$80,000 to rehabilitate 1,000 feet of sewer line on the west side of town. Budge moved to approve the bid. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Reigel said he has a bid of \$18,000 to do sewer line pipe bursting from Fernhill to Highway 30. Kreger moved to approve the bid. That motion was seconded by duPlessis. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Reigel said he has a bid for \$64,000 for repairs to the centrifuge at the wastewater plant. Cooper moved to approve the bid. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Reigel said engineering work for Phase 1A of the wastewater plant upgrades will cost \$29,445. Kreger moved to approve the project. That motion was seconded by duPlessis. Councilors Budge, Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

p. Planning Commission Recommendations—Jorgensen said the City's 1983 comprehensive plan includes language about future growth occurring near the school property. The residents in that area were opposed to it back then and still are. The Planning Commission recommends amending the comprehensive plan to eliminate or change that language based on input from those residents. He's been looking into swapping out land near the school for around 50 acres towards Lindberg and has been reaching out to residents of that area.

q. ORS 192.660—Watson said she's concerned about the inability of residents to comment remotely live during meetings. Jorgensen said he spoke with KLTV about adding that component to the meeting broadcasts. It may also involve coordinating with the City's IT provider. He said he can probably get that set up by the September meeting.

Reports

City Calendar/Announcements—Cole said the next council meeting is scheduled for August 4.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator