

**City of Rainier
City Council Meeting
August 4, 2025
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, Jeremy Howell, Mike Kreger, Paul Langner and Denise Watson

Council Absent: Robert duPlessis

City Attorney Present: No

City Staff Present: Gregg Griffith, Police Chief; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Russ Reigel, Public Works Director

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda: Councilor Connie Budge suggested that the community room discussion be tabled to the September meeting. Mayor Jerry Cole suggested that the first reading of Ordinance 1102 be tabled to the September meeting. Council President Mike Kreger moved to table the first reading of Ordinance 1102 to the September meeting. That motion was seconded by Councilor Scott Cooper. Councilors Budge, Cooper, Jeremy Howell, Kreger, Paul Langner and Denise Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

Mayor's Address: Mayor Jerry Cole said he recently visited Washington D.C. and met with members of Oregon's federal delegation. He then presented Rainier Day plaques to the city's individual departments.

Visitor Comments: Margaret Cemulini asked about the status of the City's agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Gypsum lawsuit settlement.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the June 30, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes—Kreger moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Councilors Budge, Cooper, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

New Business

- a. First Reading of Ordinance 1102—Prohibiting Outdoor Burning; Providing for Exemptions; Establishing Penalties—this matter was tabled to the September meeting.
- b. Resolution 25-08-01—Setting Sewer Rates for Rightline, Inc., a Business Located Outside the City Limits of Rainier—Budge moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

- c. Resolution 25-08-02—Setting U.S. Gypsum Water Rates—Kreger moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Langner. Councilors Budge, Cooper, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- d. Resolution 25-08-03—Setting U.S. Gypsum Sewer Rates—Budge moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Budge, Cooper, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

Unfinished Business

- a. Community Room Discussion—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said he received an inquiry about renting the community room. The City should have a policy in place before renting the room out to anyone. The senior center has a policy, and he included that in the meeting packet. Cole said there should be a fee charged for any for-profit entity. The fee can be waived for an event that's for the community good. Budge asked about liability issues. Jorgensen said he can check with the City's insurance agent. Cooper suggested having a work session to evaluate which room to use for the council chambers. The upstairs area would probably be better for technology. Jorgensen said it would be easier for administrative staff to monitor the community room if it's in the current council chambers. The closest city employee to the upstairs room is the librarian, who is a contract employee, and monitoring a community room is not in his contract, duties or responsibilities. Council agreed by consensus to hold a separate work session on the matter at a future date.
- b. Wastewater Plant MAO—Jorgensen said he and Reigel requested an additional amendment to the City's agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). That agency sent over a draft revision. Reigel said it pushes some of the deadlines for wastewater plant improvements out for two years to allow for collection system repairs and flow monitoring to verify the results. Repairs are being done on 1,000 feet of sewer line on 4th Street and a camera is being run on another line. Council agreed by consensus to authorize staff to pursue the amended MAO with DEQ staff.

Reports

Reigel said that Nick North has signed up to take a utility locate class. A fire hydrant has been installed on Hickory Street and a water tap was installed on East E Street. Jorgensen said he's been promoting the new bus line to Longview, reaching out to property owners in the Lindberg area and obtaining the proper equipment to upgrade the council meeting broadcasts. Howell and Budge both thanked the public works department for the fire hydrant in their neighborhood.

City Calendar/Announcements—Cooper said the senior center's live auction is scheduled for October 11. Cole said the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum's grand opening is scheduled for August 9.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator