

**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: 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 Denise Watson said she wanted to add the City's contract with the City Attorney to the next meeting agenda. She wanted to add council stipends to this meeting agenda and moved to do so. That motion was seconded by Council President Mike Kreger. Councilors Scott Cooper, Jeremy Howell, Kreger, Paul Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

Mayor's Address: Mayor Jerry Cole recognized City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen's five years of service to the City. Cole announced that Councilor Connie Budge resigned her position. A plaque honoring her service to the City will be placed in City Hall. Cole read remarks about the recent assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk and reiterated that political violence is unacceptable.

Visitor Comments: Kathy Kallunki invited council and the public to the September 17 ribbon cutting for the new pickleball court at the park. Marcia Roberts said she's been working with Columbia County Public Health on a couple of initiatives. One is to provide warming kits for the Senior Center. The other is for public health to offer training and Narcan to the City librarian and library board members. They are all willing to receive the training. Council agreed by consensus. Angela Carlson from Columbia County Habitat for Humanity informed council of that organization's IDA program, which is intended to assist seniors with home repairs.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the August 4, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financial Statements—Langner moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Cooper, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor.

New Business

a. Public Works Projects Update—Public Works Director Russ Reigel said that the pipe

bursting on Fern Hill is done. The E Street water line has been replaced with a new fire hydrant added and the paving is done. The Supplemental Environmental Project on C Street started the previous week and should be done by the end of September. A fire hydrant was installed on Hickory Street. The D Street sewer work should be finished mid-October. Camera work is being done in basins two and three. The centrifuge at the wastewater plant should be replaced in mid-November. The break room at City Hall is almost done and the Richards Road project should be completed by the end of the month.

b. Standard Cement Materials Presentation on Wastewater System Manhole

Rehabilitation—Tim Godbey from Standard Cement Materials said he met with Reigel and looked at manholes throughout the City. Standard Cement Materials has been rehabilitating manholes for 55 years. Between 30 and 45 percent of the infiltration into sewer systems is from manholes. Inspection is included in the work, and the company has a warranty of up to 10 years for its products. Reigel said there are 15 manholes that need to be rehabilitated.

c. First Reading of Ordinance 1102—Regulating Open Burning Within the City of Rainier, Oregon, Establishing Seasonal Restrictions, Providing for Enforcement, and Declaring an Effective Date—Jorgensen read a statement into the record from citizens concerned about open burning. He said the ordinance currently in place grants

enforcement authority to the Rainier Rural Fire District, which no longer exists. Cole said the ordinance is similar to the ones in the cities of St. Helens and Columbia City.

d. First Reading of Ordinance 1103—Permitting and Regulating the Use of Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) and Golf Carts on City Streets—Jorgensen said he, Cole and Langner made some changes to the original version of the ordinance and went over those.

e. Resolution 25-09-01—Establishing a Fee Schedule for Certain Police Department Services—Kreger moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Councilors Cooper, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor.

f. Resolution 25-09-02—Establishing Criteria to Adjust Excessive Water Bills Due to Leaks—Kreger moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Howell. Councilors Cooper, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor.

g. Library Board Appointments—Howell moved to appoint Sue Lowery, Kayla Hendrickson and Sharon Erdman to the Library Board. That motion was seconded by Langner. Councilors Cooper, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. There was a discussion about the Library Board liaison position. Cole said Library Board Chair Marcia Roberts attends council meetings regularly. So does Jorgensen. Council agreed by consensus to leave the liaison position unfilled.

h. Oregon Government Ethics Commission Training—Jorgensen said a training has been scheduled at City Hall for October 27. Councilors Cooper, Kreger, Howell and Langner said they would attend. Cole said that officials from the City of Clatskanie, the school board and other local governing bodies should also be invited.

i. Council Stipends—Watson asked Jorgensen to research the amount that councilors are paid per meeting.

Unfinished Business

a. Community Room Discussion—Cole said he directed Jorgensen to move the contents of the council chambers upstairs for a trial run for the rest of the year. Staff moved the tables and Cole and Jorgensen moved the chairs. Cole said part of the former council chambers could be walled off and become a records storage room.

b. Wastewater Plant MAO—Reigel said he and Jorgensen have been working with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on another amendment to the MAO. It's not

yet finalized, as DEQ asked for more details on the plans to fix the collections system over the next two years and reevaluate the water flows.

Reports—Police Chief Gregg Griffith said the latest police officer candidate passed his background check. His psychological and medical evaluations should be done by the next council meeting. Reigel suggested a council work session to discuss the next round of public works projects. Cole said that could be included as part of the next council meeting. Kreger said he is registered to attend the upcoming League of Oregon Cities Conference.

City Calendar/Announcements

Cole adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator