

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

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

Council Present: Scott Cooper, Robert duPlessis, Jeremy Howell (via Zoom), Mike Kreger, Paul Langner and Denise Watson

Council Absent: None

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: There were no additions or deletions from the agenda.

Mayor's Address: Cole read proclamations into the record in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Visitor Comments: Lyle Roberts said he caught people trying to hunt in the City's watershed the previous weekend. Rebecca and Randy Zuber thanked the City for the tree planting that took place earlier in the day in honor of their daughter Sarah. They would like to have a bench placed in that area. Cole, Council President Mike Kreger and Councilors Paul Langner and Robert duPlessis all said they would help pay for the bench. Nathan Rogers said he has two acres on Old Rainier Road and needs burn piles to maintain his property. He's concerned that the restrictions in Ordinance 1102 will make that more challenging. Dustin Salsbury said he has 14 acres in city limits and wants to know more about the proposed changes. Matt Smith lives on Fernhill Road and is also concerned about the proposed ordinance.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the September 8, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes—Councilor Scott Cooper moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Langer. Councilors Cooper, DuPlessis, Jeremy Howell, Kreger, Langner and Denise Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

New Business

- a. Appointment to Council Position #4—The Council interviewed applicants Charlene Ratke and Todd Nelson. Cooper moved to flip a coin to decide the appointment. That motion was seconded by Langner. Cooper voted in favor. Councilors Howell, Kreger, Watson and Langer were opposed. Cooper moved to appoint Ratke to the position. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors duPlessis, Langner, Watson, Cooper and Howell voted in favor. Kreger was opposed.
- b. Public Works Priority Projects for 2026-27—Public Works Director Russ Reigel said

there are water valves that need to be replaced. The first two sections of sewer lines have been fixed and there are two more that need to be done. Flow monitoring will be done this winter. For paving projects, he recommends portions of C and Mill streets. Cole said paving projects should be prioritized based on traffic and street conditions. Everyone on the east side of the City uses that portion of C Street, and it's been bad for a while. It was patched a few years ago but is worse now.

- c. Award Contract for Flow Monitoring—Langner moved to approve the contract. That motion was seconded by Cooper. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- d. Resolution 25-10-01—Appointing the City Budget Committee as the REDCO Budget Committee—Kreger moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Watson. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

Unfinished Business

- a. Second Reading of Ordinance 1102—Regulating Open Burning Within the City of Rainier, Oregon, Establishing Seasonal Restrictions, Providing for Enforcement, and Declaring an Effective Date—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Watson. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Kreger moved to allow citizens to burn from the time burning opens through the month of November 2025. That motion was seconded by Watson. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- b. Second Reading of Ordinance 1103—Permitting and Regulating the Use of Utility Vehicles (UTVs) and Golf Carts on City Streets—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Langner. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- c. Wastewater Plant MAO—Jorgensen said that the Department of Environmental Quality has approved a fourth amendment to the MAO. The amendment gives the City two years to repair its collections system and verify the results through flow monitoring.

Reports—Reigel said Wastewater Plant Operator Brian Liga successfully obtained his Wastewater Treatment Level I certification and plans to apply for the Level II test. The Small City Allotment Grant reimbursement request has been submitted to the Oregon Department of Transportation. The next round of sewer line rehabilitation is estimated to cost \$140,000. Kreger moved to approve the expenditure. That motion was seconded by Watson. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Cooper said he was stepping down as Senior Center liaison. Kreger said he attended the recent League of Oregon Cities conference in Portland. Jorgensen said he, Cole and members of council attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new pickleball courts at the park. He and Watson attended the Community Resource Fair at the C.C. Rider Building.

City Calendar/Announcements

Cole adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator