

**City of Rainier
City Council Meeting
November 3, 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, Mike Kreger, Paul Langner and Charleen Ratkie

Council Absent: Denise Watson

City Attorney Present: No

City Staff Present: Gregg Griffith, Police Chief; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda: Councilor Scott Cooper said he wanted to add a discussion about a proposed rule limiting incumbent candidacies and moved accordingly. That motion was seconded by Council President Mike Kreger. Councilors Cooper, Robert duPlessis, Jeremy Howell, Kreger, Paul Langner and Charleen Ratkie all voted in favor. None were opposed.

Mayor's Address: Mayor Jerry Cole wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Visitor Comments: City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen read a statement into the record from the Rainier and Clatskanie chambers of commerce promoting a holiday campaign to support the local Salvation Army voucher program. Jan Rich said that due to the federal government shutdown, there was an order to close the senior center to congregate seating. The center is continuing with home deliveries and its board of directors voted to keep the center open. The recent auction raised almost \$11,000. Rachel Barry from the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council said that a cleanup event with Friends of Fox Creek was scheduled for the following Saturday.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the October 6, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financial Statements—Kreger moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Langner. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Ratkie all voted in favor. None were opposed.

New Business

- a. Petition for Vacating a 306-Foot Alley Lying Within Block 2 Vogel Tract between E Norwood Street and Fisher Street—Jorgensen said that the City received the petition. He ran it by the City Attorney, who said it was fine. If council agrees, Jorgensen said he can schedule the public hearing for the next meeting. Kreger moved to direct staff to schedule the hearing. That motion was seconded by duPlessis. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Ratkie all voted in favor. None were opposed.

- b. Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 58—Cooper moved to approve the agreement. That motion was seconded by Langner. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Ratkie all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- c. Award Bid for Manhole Rehabilitation Work—Langner moved to approve the bid. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Cooper, duPlessis, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Ratkie all voted in favor. None were opposed.
- d. Parking Ordinance Discussion—Cole asked Police Chief Gregg Griffith how many parking violations there were in the City in the last 30 days. Griffith said 92. Cole asked Griffith if there's anything about the existing ordinance that he would change. Griffith said vehicles are rarely ever towed, because the owners move them once they're tagged. He said the ordinances currently in place are working well. The consensus of council was to leave the ordinances as they are.
- e. Incumbent Candidacies—Cooper said that when he ran for council years ago, the candidate he wanted to displace ended up running for another position. Cole went over the process for filing for local office, with the administrator as the elections official. A candidate who files for one position would have to start all over again if trying to file for another. Anything that alters that process would have to require a charter change, which is a very involved process.

Unfinished Business

- a. Wastewater Plant MAO—Jorgensen said that the Department of Environmental Quality has signed the latest amendment to the agreement. Public works is making all of the repairs that the City agreed to do, and that will include rehabilitating the manholes that are leaking.

Reports—Cole read Public Works Director Russ Reigel's written report into the record. Jorgensen said he, Kreger and Cooper recently visited with local students and the City Hall hosted a class of students on a field trip. duPlessis said he was pleased to see public works respond to a leak at a neighbor's house on a Sunday evening. Cooper said there's an event November 14 at the senior center about technological accessibility. Langner said he attended the recent Oregon Government Ethics Commission training at City Hall.

City Calendar/Announcements

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

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator