

**City of Rainier
City Council Meeting
December 1, 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, Charleen Ratkie 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 at this time.

Mayor's Address: Mayor Jerry Cole administered the oath of office to Officer Michael Hernandez.

Visitor Comments: City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen read a letter from Columbia 911 Communications District Director Jeremy Hipes into the record. Hipes is expressing his intent to undertake the repair and restoration of the radio communications network currently in need of service.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the November 3, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financial Statements—Council President Mike Kreger moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Scott Cooper. Councilors Cooper, Robert duPlessis, Jeremy Howell, Kreger, Paul Langner, Charleen Ratkie and Denise Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

New Business

- a. Swearing in Officer Michael Hernandez
- b. Public Hearing on Ordinance 1104—Vacating a 306-Foot Alley Lying Within Block 2 Vogel Tract between E Norwood Street and Fisher Street—Cole opened the hearing at 6:07 p.m. Jorgensen said the area involved has not been an alley for quite some time. The vacation process was started in the 1960s but never completed. Cole closed the hearing at 6:09 p.m.
- c. First Reading of Ordinance 1104—Vacating a 306-Foot Alley Lying Within Block 2 Vogel Tract between E Norwood Street and Fisher Street
- d. Proposed Skate Park Design—Jorgensen said the design has been completed. The upgrade to the skate park has an estimated cost of \$620,000. He recommends having a Parks Committee meeting in January to brainstorm ways to raise the funds. Cole said

the City is not obligated to fund the project and that there are grants available. Council agreed by consensus to have Parks Committee meet on January 12.

Unfinished Business

a. Community Room Discussion—Cole said he directed Jorgensen to move the council chambers to its current location in October for a three-month trial period. Those three months are up and he likes the space. Cole proposes walling off the former break room area downstairs for a records area and having the rest of the area used for Columbia Economic Team. Jorgensen said the Rainier Chamber of Commerce could use it as a physical location. The area behind the council dais could be walled off and used for storage. Langner said people have been telling him they like the new council chambers, but the audio quality could be improved. Jorgensen said he could obtain more PA speakers and knows where he wants to put them in the room. duPlessis said he'd like to see an emergency exit added. Council agreed by consensus to have staff move forward with those improvements.

b. Wastewater Plant MAO—Public Works Director Russ Reigel said manholes in town are scheduled to be lined the following week, with flow monitoring set for mid-December.

Reports—Cooper said a recent accessibility presentation at the Senior Center went well. Langner said residents are telling him they're glad to see more speed limit enforcement near Veterans Way. Watson said she attended a Columbia County transit meeting. Ridership is steady. Kreger said that Winterfest is scheduled for the following Sunday. Reigel said the centrifuge at the wastewater plant is running again. The Christmas tree will be put up in the A Street Plaza the next morning. Jorgensen said he and some members of council attended a Government Ethics Commission training on public meeting laws, he renewed his notary commission, made arrangements for the City/County Dinner, assisted in the audit and began advertising vacant positions on the Library Board.

City Calendar/Announcements—Cole said the Christmas ships will be in town December 28. Police Chief Gregg Griffith the department will be doing its donut fundraiser December 13 at 7:30 a.m.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator