

**City of Rainier
City Council Meeting
August 3, 2026
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall**

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

Council Present: Mayor Jerry Cole, 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: W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Russ Reigel, Public Works Director; Elisha Shulda, Finance Director

Flag Salute

Mayor's Address—Mayor Jerry Cole presented plaques to city staff for their help with Rainier Days.

Visitor Comments—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen read remarks into the record from Aldercrest subdivision resident Gary Landers. He's requesting streetlights and maintenance in his neighborhood. Rainier School District Superintendent Chad Holloway gave a presentation on the bond that might be appearing on the May 2027 ballot. It does not include new buildings, but improved entrances and better separation between middle and high school students. The portables on the campus were supposed to be temporary but are now beyond their useful lives and are being shut down. The roofs are aging and in poor shape, and so are the windows, doors, mechanical, heating, cooling and ventilation systems. A long-term facilities committee has already met twice and will again September 9.

Approval of the Agenda—Councilor Paul Langner moved to add Resolution 26-08-01 to the agenda. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Councilors Scott Cooper, Robert duPlessis, Kreger, Jeremy Howell, Langner, Charleen Ratkie and Denise Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Langer moved to add Inclusive Spreadsheet of Fees and Charges to the agenda. That motion was seconded by duPlessis. Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Howell, Langner, Ratkie and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the July 6, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financial Statements—Kreger moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Watson. Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Howell, Langner, Ratkie and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

New Business

a. Rainier Oregon Historical Museum Request—Cole said that the request is for the use of a piece of the city-owned lot adjacent to the museum so a steam donkey can be put on

permanent display. Duane Bernard from the ROHM said that location is visible from the Senior Center. The 99-year lease would be for the northwest corner of the city lot in a 25 foot by 25 foot area. Cole said met on site with Bernard, Kreger and Public Works Director Russ Reigel. Bernard said he hopes to have the steam donkey in place some time in September. Kreger moved to direct staff to work with the city attorney to draft the 99-year lease, and authorized Cole to sign it. That motion was seconded by Langner. Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Howell, Langner, Ratkie and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

b. Rainier School District Superintendent Chad Holloway Presentation

c. Rainier School District Intergovernmental Agreement—Langner said he was recusing himself, as he is a member of the Rainier School District Board of Education. Cole said he favors removing the section stating that the City will take over the maintenance and repair of the line. Council agreed by consensus. Kreger moved to approve the IGA as amended. That motion was seconded by Watson. Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Howell, Ratkie and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed. Langner abstained.

d. Banking Transition Update—Finance Director Elisha Shulda said the paperwork for the account signers has been completed and the new account is open. She still has to set up the online account number and hopes to have that done for the next round of accounts payable. The rest of the process should move quickly. There are still outstanding checks from the current bank, but those will process and no more are being issued from that account. The credit card terminal from the current bank has stopped working, but staff is setting up a new one with the new bank. Cole said he wanted to make sure that any charges from the credit card company get passed on accordingly.

e. Comcast Franchise Agreement—Jorgensen said that the proposed agreement has been reviewed by the city attorney. It mostly maintains the status quo. The biggest difference is that it allows for Public, Education and Government fees to go to KLTv for the purpose of providing public access to residents. Langner moved to approve the agreement. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Howell, Langner, Ratkie and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

f. Approval of an Agreement with NW Watersheds for Backwater Evaluation—Reigel said that backwash goes from the water plant to the sewer plant. The purpose of this proposed agreement is to figure out how much water it is, provide three options for diverting it and helping the City with its permitting through the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Funding for this would come out of the water capital fund. Langner moved to approve the agreement. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Howell, Langner, Ratkie and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

g. Approval of a Bid for Senior Center Roof Repairs—Reigel said he recommends the bid by Safe Cover. They were contracted to replace the roof at the Eagles Lodge and got the job done quickly. Langer moved to approve the bid by Safe Cover. That motion was seconded by Ratkie. Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Howell, Langner, Ratkie and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

h. Resolution 26-08-01—Kreger moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Ratkie. Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Howell, Langner, Ratkie and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

i. Inclusive Spreadsheet of Fees and Charges—Langner moved to direct staff to prepare an inclusive spreadsheet with all of the City's fees and charges. That motion was seconded by Kreger. Cooper, duPlessis, Kreger, Howell, Langner, Ratkie and Watson all voted in favor. None were opposed.

Unfinished Business

- a. Wastewater Plant MAO—Reigel said there is a September 25 deadline to submit a report to DEQ for the next round of collections system repairs. The next round of smoke testing will be taking place mid-August, and will be for the east side of town and the Debast area.
- b. Emergency Operations Plan Review—Council agreed by consensus to table this matter to the next meeting.
- c. E-Bike Discussion—Council agreed by consensus to table this matter to the next meeting.

Reports—Shulda said that the auditors are coming the last week of August. Jorgensen said he and Reigel had a meeting about funding options for a screw press at the wastewater plant. He also attended a farewell luncheon for retired Clatskanie Administrator Greg Hinkleman. He, Reigel, Langner and Cooper attended a meeting about funding sources for backup water supplies. Jorgensen, Reigel and Cole met with a field representative for Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici. He and Cole conducted oral boards for a police officer candidate, and he and Watson represented the City at the recent Community Resource Fair at the C.C. Rider building. He's also been conducting elections official duties.

City Calendar/Announcements—Jorgensen said the deadline to file for council positions 1, 3, 4 and 5 and the mayor's position is August 18 for incumbents and August 25 for all other candidates. The next Rainier Chamber of Commerce meeting is August 13 at noon, with a ribbon cutting ceremony for Columbia River Treasures to take place right after.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator