City of Rainier
City Council Meeting
October 5, 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, Jeremy Howell, Mike Kreger, Paul Langner, and Charleen Ratkie

Council Absent: Robert duPlessis and Denise Watson

City Attorney Present: No

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

Flag Salute

Mayor's Address—Mayor Jerry Cole observed a moment of silence for former mayor Fred Forrest, who recently passed away.

Visitor Comments—Rainier School District Superintendent Chad Holloway said that the long-range facilities plan committee has had three meetings. The district has been providing tours of its facilities to interested parties. Tours are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on October 23, February 9 and March 16. Jeff Hamlik said he has some concerns with his property on West B Street.

Approval of the Agenda—Councilor Charleen Ratkie moved to approve the agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Paul Langner. Councilors Scott Cooper, Jeremy Howell, Mike Kreger, Langner and Ratkie all voted in favor. None were opposed.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda
Consider Approval of the September 14, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financial Statements—Kreger moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Howell. Cooper, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Ratkie all voted in favor. None were opposed.

New Business

a. Quarterly Financial Review—City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said that Finance Director Elisha Shulda had a family emergency and couldn't be at the meeting. He said that property tax collections will be received in November. The state will be reimbursing the City for over $200,000 in collection system improvements, which will go towards the Sewer Capital Fund and become part of the balance forward. Similarly, the work was recently completed for Richards Road. Once invoices are sent to the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, that reimbursement will go to the Transportation Capital Fund and become part of the balance forward. There has only been one billing cycle since the sewer rate increases took effect, so it's too early to tell how the Sewer Fund is trending. Cole said he'd like to revisit this matter at the next meeting. Council agreed by consensus.

b. Planning Commission Appointment—Kreger moved to appoint Alan Hulsopple to the Planning Commission. That motion was seconded by Langner. Cooper, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Ratkie all voted in favor. None were opposed.

c. Resolution 26-10-01—Establishing a Merchant Service Fee—Ratkie moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Langner. Cooper, Howell, Kreger, Langner and Ratkie all voted in favor. None were opposed.

Unfinished Business

a. Wastewater Plant MAO

b. Veterans Way Safety Improvements—Council agreed by consensus to direct Jorgensen to reach out to the Oregon Department of Transportation to arrange a site visit to discuss a potential lane reduction and re-striping of Highway 30 along the western entrance to town.

c. Emergency Preparedness—Jorgensen said that he, Cooper and Watson met with More Power Technology Group (MPTG) to go over potential threats to the City's information technology systems. MPTG has put together some quotes for the work to address those issues, but they were sent after the meeting packets already went out. Having those quotes will enable council to budget accordingly. Cole said he wants to verify the City's insurance coverage for cyber attacks and threats. Jorgensen said he had a very productive discussion with an official from the Oregon Water Resources Department about emergency water supplies.

Reports

City Calendar/Announcements—The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3.

Cole adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

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Mayor Jerry Cole W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator