

**City of Rainier
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Rainier City Hall
106 West "B" Street**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Jerry Cole at 7:00 p.m.

Council Present: Mayor Jerry Cole, Sloan Nelson, David Langford, Phil Butcher, Mike Avent, Scott Cooper, Russ Moon and Bill Viladri

Council Absent:

City Staff Present: Lars Gare, Gregg Griffith, Darrel Lockard and Debbie Dudley

City Attorney Present:

Visitors Present: Michael Carter, Lil Guisinger, Rod Harding, Amanda Younger, Willie Thayer, Kathleen Miller, Melanie Harrison, Anthony Swartz, Jeff McCracken, Dawn (from Beaver Homes Grange), Debbie Hazen, Clatskanie Chief and Cheryl Borgaard, Longview Daily News

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:

Motion by Langford, 2nd by Butcher to add health insurance discussion for the Painter family to the agenda.

Passed Unanimously

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:

Motion by Butcher, 2nd by Nelson to add email policy discussion to the agenda.

Passed Unanimously

Deletions:

REDCO Issues
Executive Session

Mayor's Address:

A moment of silence was observed for our fallen soldiers. Mayor Cole announced that he helped submit House Bill 3354, a bill that would rename a portion of Highway 30 honoring Chief Painter. The Eagles will no longer be sponsoring "Rainier Days in the Park". A meeting will be held at City Hall, March 1 at 6:00 pm to discuss options for the community. Any organization interested in helping to chair the event is invited. The City's role is to provide an avenue for committee involvement. The Eagles and Mike & Sherry Poorman were thanked for their many years of involvement.

Visitor Comments: Melanie Harrison spoke in opposition to the new business "Fat Jacks"; she is against drug use and the drug paraphernalia being sold in this store. Billie Martin provided samples of what she described as drug paraphernalia and included information obtained from the web about the items.

Visitor Comments Continued:

Kathleen Miller indentified herself as a recovering drug addict and explained what the items being sold in this store were used for and that the upstairs is an adult shop. She talked with the owner about her concerns and he resorted to name calling, stating that he is not doing anything illegal. She wants to draw up a petition against this business to give to Council.

Anthony Sworst wanted to share information with the Council; he believes kids are being targeted for this kind merchandise.

OLCC contacted Pastor Jeff McCracken when the liquor store opened in the area by the church; he supported that business but does not support this business.

Avent talked to the City Attorney about this business, the law protects the owner's right to do business as long as what he is selling is not illegal.

Nelson mentioned that Clark County is working on an Ordinance to ban this type of product being sold. Langford requested that the City Attorney contact the County DA and stated that this business owner's signs are out of compliance. Cooper pointed out that there are other business owners with signs out of compliance.

Dawn from the Beaver Homes Grange informed the Council that the Grange had raised over \$26,000 for the Painter family and had heard about a sign for Chief Painter and wanted to work on it.

Cole clarified that the sign discussed in a prior meeting was an informational sign for Board vacancies.

Motion by Langford, 2nd by Cooper to approve the February 7, 2011 Council/REDCO Work Session Meeting Minutes as presented.

Passed, with Moon abstaining

Motion by Langford, 2nd by Vilardi to approve the February 7, 2011 Work Session Meeting Minutes as presented.

Passed, with Moon abstaining

Motion by Avent, 2nd by Butcher to approve the February 7, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Passed, with Moon abstaining

Sewer Fund Budget Discussion Summary:

Gare summarized the projected deficit in the Sewer Fund as being related to the debt service requirement for the 2.7 million dollar revenue bond needed to complete the sewer treatment plant. The utility rates have not been adjusted to cover the cost for the debt service. Lockard presented 10 rate increase proposals ranging from base rate increases from 34.25 to 44.75, consumption rate increases from 2.90 to 3.10 and EDU increases from 75% to 100%. Concerns by Council included the burden to residents, other available options and what cost saving measures have been implemented.

Michael Carter spoke on behalf of the School District. The district provided a draft contract they would like the City to consider. They are looking at a term of 3 to 5 years. Carter stated that the contract offers more than asked and is very fair. He appreciated the cooperation between Lockard and Gare in dealing with this difficult issue.

Motion by Moon, 2nd by Avent to approve paying the health insurance benefits for Chief Painter's beneficiaries for the month of March and April not to exceed a total of \$3,015.

Passed Unanimously

Email Usage and Retention Discussion:

Cooper asked if there was a specific City policy involving email retention. Hearing that there is not, he suggested that this be reviewed. In the event of a request for information all Council email relating to City business can be eligible for discovery.

Staff Reports:

Lockard - Provided in regular meeting, Sewer Rate proposals.

Dudley – In meeting with the Library Board, they were disappointed that the Library did not have an individual named as the liaison, requested reconsideration. Vilardi volunteered for the position. Provided budget information on employee CPI increases, PERS rate increase, property tax, liability insurance rates and health insurance rates were not available yet.

Gare – Sheriff Dickerson will be attending the March 7 meeting to address Council about the Sheriff's Department ballot measure, will be attending the EIAC meeting.

Griffith – On May 5th at 1:00 p.m. there will be a service honoring fallen officers at the DPSST training center in Salem.

Council Reports:

Avent – Welcomed Moon back and asked about safe guards the City had in place following an accident.

Cooper- Requested a progress report from the department liaisons, inquired about other funding opportunities and what is happening with the trailer park sewer hookup.

Nelson – Would like to see reports disclosing what the departments are working on, reports should include incidents and accidents, a Public Works report was not sent in timely and resulted in a \$1,000 fine, requested information about the launch fees as they relate to the Marine Board Grant and updates on the Diking District recertification.

Moon – Asked that performance reviews on contracts be added to the March agenda.

Cole – Announced that the Judge would be attending the first meeting in March to provide his report.

Vilardi – Will be getting together with Lockard to work on Christmas decorations.

Langford – Receiving lots of public contact about "Fat Jacks", asked Gare to follow up on the sign code for this business.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Jerry Cole, Mayor

Attested: _____
Debra Dudley, Recorder