

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

Meeting called to order by Mayor Jerry Cole at 7:10 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: Steve Petersen

Visitors Present: Judge Charles Wardle, Patrick Trapp, Cliff West, Columbia County Sheriff Jeff Dickerson, Andy Moyer, Debbie Hazen, Clatskanie Chief and Cheryll Borgaard, Longview Daily News

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:

Motion by Langford, 2nd by Nelson to add progress reports to the agenda.

Passed Unanimously

Deletions:

Columbia Rider Funding Request
Executive Session

Mayor's Address:

A moment of silence was observed for our fallen soldiers. Mayor Cole appointed Vernae Christophersen, Sloan Nelson, Bill Vilardi, and Russ Moon as chair to the focus budget committee to "look at some items"... "Make sure that we're doing the right format everybody wants to do", first item look at budget schedule.

Visitor Comments: Patrick Trapp the new Port of St. Helens Executive Director introduced himself to the Council.

Cliff West presented the Police Department with a commemorative diorama honoring Chief Painter.

Motion by Moon, 2nd by Avent to approve the February 22, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Passed Unanimously

Presentation Summary by Sheriff Dickerson:

Provided information about ballot measure 5-2011 "Sheriff's Stable Funding". This measure will enhance the services of the Sheriff's department by adding officers. An advisory committee was formed about 15 months ago and "made a recommendation that there should be an effort to go forward at some point in the future to get some additional law enforcement and public safety services through the Sheriff's Office through some sort of increased tax measure". The polling showed that there was more support inside the Cities than outside the Cities. They thought lack of deputies had a negative impact on the safety and security of City police officers. Currently the County has 5 to 6 deputies to respond and patrol. The measure would provide 24 hour coverage, seven days a week and increase the amount of deputies on duty. Currently there is a 4 hour period that no one is on duty. There is only 1 deputy on duty during the day and maybe 2 deputies on duty at night. The average for rural coverage is one deputy per 1000 residents, which would be 23 to 24 deputies. This measure would increase coverage to 12 patrol deputies and 3 detectives versus the 5 to 6 that they have now.

The proposed tax measure rate is .6203 for County and City residents.

Motion by Langford, 2nd by Moon to support the 4 year Local Option Levy, Ballot Measure 5-210, Sheriff's Stable Funding" in the form of a resolution. Mayor Cole pledged 100 % support for this measure.

Passed Unanimously

Judge Charles Wardle Presentation Summary:

Appeared before Council on June 21st to respond to some allegations of being branded as a money sucking Municipal Court, reviewed the finances of court and discovered that we had lost money, courts are not here to make money, but had suggestions which included a 10% cut in pay and continue to pay 12% for health insurance and try to pledge 20 hours of service each week. Due to extenuating circumstances fallen short of the 20 hours. Currently on the fourth court clerk, she is very knowledgeable. The current loss in court is 2,876. The budgeted amount of 146,070 for expenditures and income of 105,000 had a differential of 38,000; due to financial constraints we are now back to where we should be. Questions?

Vilardi; how often do we hold court?

Wardle; court is held every other week; traffic in the morning and criminal in the afternoon.

Nelson; do you anticipate your activity in court getting to a level where you will be able to have 20 hours a week?

Wardle; I think so, talked to the Interim Chief, have a good working relation, I was informed by Ms. Dudley that I'm the administrator of court so I'd better do some administrating.

Vilardi; how much activity do we have for criminal and traffic, what are we looking at for numbers?

Wardle deferred question to Sergeant Griffith, he did not have the numbers with him.

Cole; how about the last date of court, how many cases?

Wardle; last day of court you don't want to ask.

Cole; how about in December?

Wardle; not sure, about 20 traffic and 4, 5 or 6 criminal.

Moon; Today on the Judge's behalf I went and talked to his court clerk and she had already made out for the month of February revenues and expenses and had a nice spreadsheet but I guess that's not available tonight.

Nelson; one of the other things we had talked about is the 20 hours a week for eligibility for health care, you say you're not there yet, how long do you think until you are there?

Wardle; by the end of this fiscal year, there's a lot of things I do, there's prep time, for instance right now I'm reviewing 50 some legislative bills that have to do with traffic courts, I spent 3 days at a conferences, I've attended several conferences since I spoke with you last, those are the things you don't see a physical presence here.

Nelson; I stopped and talked to the clerk today to see there we were at, asked about hours we were having, she said twice a month, morning session that goes from 9:30 to 11:30 and the afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00, roughly 3 ½ hours of court, would you say that's an average, (Wardle; yes) pretrial once a month for 1-1/2 hours, so 8 to 9 hours of actual court time twice a month.

Wardle; but that doesn't mean that I walked in and court started, it doesn't mean, when I think about how many people actual showed up in court or how many people wrote explanations on their citation and I have to sit and read those.

Cooper; how many warrants do you issues after hours?

Wardle; 0 to 3 per year, things have taken a dive, several years ago we had a court clerk, every Monday or Friday I'd walk in and we'd have a stack of warrants or show causes to sign, that came to a halt when we combined the court clerk with the police clerk position. The clerk we have now is doing a good job and has previous experience. She is being certified for LEDS and will able to process warrants.

Nelson; biggest reason this meeting was called, focus was to determine his hours as far as eligibility for insurance, that what we had asked, you're not there yet, close, would you be willing to come next month and give us an update, it seems to me like you're a long ways off, have you been keeping a log of hours that you can provide to us, what services your providing, what you're doing for those hours, would you be able to do that next month?

Cole; first or third Monday of next month, let Gare know which meeting you want to come to.

Avent; wanted to thank the Judge for working with us, look forward to the staff's report.

Progress Reports:

City Administrator not available for report.

Finance Director's report discussed in work session.

Performance Elevations coming up.

Rainier Days in the Park Discussion Summary:

Jerry Cole chaired the first meeting for the Rainier Days in the Park and Scott Cooper acted as secretary. There were 15 people in attendance, discussion focused on what needs to be done and what is wanted at the event. The subcommittees needed are; carnival, parade, vendors, beer gardens, and fire works. The Eagles will continue to provide information to assist in the planning of the event.

Jerry Cole volunteered to chair the Carnival subcommittee and Public Works will direct where the carnival will be placed.

Motion by Moon, 2nd by Langford to approve the official appointment of Gregg Griffith from interim Police Chief to Police Chief. Discussion; subject to mutually agreed contract, term of contract one year contract was suggested, Moon and Cole will negotiate a contract and have it available for Council review after review by City Legal Council.

Passed Unanimously

Staff Reports:

Lockard – Cold weather not a problem this time, working on budget, working on State Water Rights agreement.

Dudley – Budget report covered in Work Session, monthly financial reports provided for review and will discuss at next meeting, Library is looking into joining a consortium for electronic book check out, will allow the City to expand service for minimal cost. The Rainier Review is on the website but one complaint is that the imaging is not clear.

Griffith – Talked with Fat Jack’s about sign issues, highway sign issue seems be resolved.

Council Reports:

Langford – Thanked citizens for involvement about Fat Jacks, still out of sign compliance, need budget cuts, favors raising Sewer EDU rates to 85% and increase school, saw a proposal about a year ago contracting out the Library, can make major savings there, will research and bring it in so to look at, need to charge SDC’s for parks & recreation, investigated the incident with the Oregon State Fire Marshall and Public Works regarding the \$1,000 fine, in 2008/2009 the form wasn’t filed and we were not fined on that, what they said is they were looking for funds so we got fined, Lars Gare has been added as a point of contact, two eyes so it won’t get missed.

Vilardi – Been working with the resignation of Connie Budge, setting up a meeting, talked with Debbie and Patti about declining patrons and hours, looking at hours, may need to adjust hours back to some morning hours.

Nelson – Beaver Homes Grange is having a fund raiser for the Sheriff Department on April 2nd at the High School, comedy show, tickets are \$20.

Butcher; suggested financial reports be emailed a couple days before the meeting.

Cooper; Debbie’s putting a meeting together with our IT vender, go over maintenance, DR, etc, remembers hearing about past due citations, can we offer work programs, (Wardle wants to offer an amnesty program), being a new Council member I met with Debbie, she explained everything to me, offered to meet with me any time if I had questions, was very receptive to suggests on how to improve, would suggest if you have questions or things you would rather see go in and discuss them with her.

Avent – Budget concerns, need to tie revenues to expenses, fixes long term, need to live within our means.

Moon – New Chief addressed the sign issue promptly and contacted other agencies, would like to see show of hands for new officer, 100% support.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jerry Cole, Mayor

Attested: _____
Debra Dudley, Recorder