

**City of Rainier
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Rainier City Hall
106 West "B" Street**

Meeting called to order by President Butcher at 7:00 p.m.

Council Present: Sloan Nelson, David Langford, Phil Butcher, Scott Cooper, Russ Moon and Bill Viladri

Council Absent: Mike Avent and Mayor Cole

City Staff Present: Lars Gare, Gregg Griffith, Darrel Lockard, Patti Stanley, Darlene Lavelle and Debbie Dudley

City Attorney Present:

Visitors Present: Robert Duplessis, Mike Mullins, Jenifer Valley, Lori Neveau, Ron Neveau, Ryan Neveau, John Harper, Debbie Hazen, Clatskanie Chief and Cheryl Borgaard, Longview Daily News

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:

Motion by Langford, 2nd by Moon to add IT/Email retention discussion.

Passed Unanimously

Deletions: Employment agreement with Gregg Griffith.

Mayor's Address:

None

Visitor Comments: Robert Duplessis asked for an update on "C" Street, stating that it's been 5 years and nothing has happened. This will be put on the April 18th agenda for further discussion. To date, legal action has been filed against the property owner.

Mike Mullins provided a presentation and spoke on behalf of "Stoney Girl Gardens Foundation"; they work "as a support mechanism in Oregon for major medical marijuana organizations and patients". He spoke in support of Club Pitt Bull, a medical marijuana business hoping to locate in Rainier.

Jenifer Valley. A thyroid cancer survivor and medical marijuana user described the benefits she received from the treatment and the benefits this type of program can provide to the health care industry.

Ryan Neveau, the Club Pitt Bull business owner thanked the Council for allowing his supporters to speak at the meeting.

John Harper asked the Council to keep an open mind about this business and understand that these services are to dispense to individuals in need, especially the elderly.

Motion by Moon, 2nd by Vilardi to approve the March 7th, 2011 Work Session Meeting Minutes as presented.

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Nelson, 2nd by Moon to approve the March 7th, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Passed Unanimously

Discuss Financial Information presented at March 7th Meeting:

Dudley asked if there were any comments or questions about the budget and financial information provided at the March 7th meeting, hearing none moved ahead with a brief explanation on reports. The financial information is similar to what has been presented in prior months. The budget information addresses the General, Sewer, Street and Public Property Funds because those are the funds which need or have needed supporting revenue from other funds. Also reviewed the memo provided in the Council packet disclosing additional revenue from the County of \$52,045 and OMB of \$6,350.

IT/Email Retention Discussion Summary:

Had a meeting with Dudley and the IT consultant, recognized the value provided by Utilize IT. Looking at inexpensive ideas for updating systems and software. Councilor Cooper provided an "E-mail Policy Manual for Local Government" to all Council and asked that it be reviewed and discussed at a later time, will have City email addresses available to all Councilors if they choose to adopt for use, this will provide easier compliance with laws, asked Gare to follow up with City Attorney on email retention and correspondence laws, found systems are in pretty good shape, some room for improvement.

Motion by Cooper, 2nd by Langford to approve Resolution 11-03-02 Setting USG Sewer Rates for Fiscal Year 2011/2012

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Langford, 2nd by Vilardi to approve Resolution 11-03-03 Setting Rainier School District Sewer Rates for Fiscal Year 2011/2012, Fiscal Year 2012/2013 and Fiscal Year 2013/2014

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Moon, 2nd by Cooper to approve Resolution 11-03-04 Setting Municipal Sewer Rates for Fiscal Year 2011/2012. Discussion Summary; uncomfortable with balancing the sewer fund by rate increases without any reductions or transfers, the sewer fund needs to be made healthy, debt service requirements created the deficient.

Aye: Moon, Langford, Vilardi, Butcher

Nay: Nelson, Cooper

Motion Passed

Motion by Moon, 2nd by Vilardi to approve Resolution 11-03-05 Setting Municipal Water Rates for Fiscal Year 2011/2012.

Aye: Moon, Langford, Vilardi, Butcher

Nay: Nelson, Cooper

Motion Passed

Motion by Moon, 2nd by Langford to approve Resolution 11-03-06 Setting USG Water Rates for Fiscal Year 2011/2012

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Langford, 2nd by Vilardi to approve Resolution 11-03-07 Setting Multiple Unit Sewer Rates for Fiscal Year 2011/2012, with a change to Rainier Senior Housing to an EDU formula of 85%.

Passed, with Nelson Abstaining

Motion by Moon, 2nd by Langford to approve the contract with RK Reforestation for planting of seedling trees in the harvested areas of the Watershed for an amount of \$4,500.00.

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Nelson, 2nd by Vilardi to appoint Chief Gregg Griffith as an authorized check signer for City checks.

Passed Unanimously

Staff Reports:

Lockard – Most of staff report was covered in the work session, working on bull rails at marina, cleaning ditch lines, hauling sledge, provided assistance to another water district, working on sign brackets. (Nelson asked if anything had been done with the thing Vernae brought up). Not as yet, the information had just been received.

Griffith – Department responded to 211 calls for service in the month of February.

(Nelson asked to have the information broke down to include outside/inside City limits). The new officer will start on April 1. (Nelson commented that the police department using Facebook for police investigations was a great idea).

Dudley – Thanked and congratulated the Council, Rate Committee, Public Works Director and City Administrator for their hard work and on making very difficult decisions in balancing the Sewer Fund. The City has struggled with how to resolve the deficient in the Sewer Fund caused by the debt service. The Council packet contained a memo outlining additional revenues (property tax receipts and the OMB grant) that will help resolve the General Fund deficient. The Street Fund debt service is paid, so it will not be necessary to transfer funds from the General Fund. The projection is in the information provided at the March 7th meeting and estimates about \$30,000 ending balance that could be applied to street improvements. The City would not benefit from refinancing the current debt; the current rates are very low. We are looking into refinancing the REDCO debt.

Staff Reports Continued:

Gare – The 2 grants for street improvement the City received will be used this spring, the “B” street design phase is over, will be going out to bid, the City received a bill for about \$21,000, it may be covered by a REDCO match, complaints about Lewis Road and View Street, looking at options, streets were sub-standard to begin with, (Nelson asked if the City has checked into remonstrance agreements), there are some in place will look into further, working at the marina on bull rails, attended a meeting on the Columbia County Economic Team, in the start up phase, lots of participation from government and private stake holders. (Nelson asked how the boat launch fees affect the OMB Grant), will follow up and get back to Council.

Council Reports:

Moon – Recognized Lockard for going out on his own time to help the community of Midland with their water issues.

Cooper – Thanked Dudley for putting together the Utilize IT consultant meeting, provided information on general state of computer systems and work stations, continuing to work on this and get it behind us, looks forward to working on the other liaison position.

Langford – Thanked the Committee for their work on the rates, thanked the supporters of Club Pitt Bull for coming in and providing the information to the Council, will try to look at with an open mind but any drug paraphernalia and use is not good for the community. What is happening with the Fat Jack sign permit and where is the City in getting information about increasing the no smoking areas to 50 feet? Receiving complaints from residents about noise late at night from Tevins, asked Gare to call them and see if they can quiet things down at night.

Vilardi – Will try to keep an open mind in decision relating to Club Pitt Bull, thanked Dudley for meeting with him and going over the budget and financial information, attended the Library Board meeting, no quorum, next meeting hope to discuss hours and Ford Family Foundation Grant.

Nelson – It’s great that the Council is working together, good stuff is happening with the Rainier Days, Texas Hold-um fund raiser tournament, lots of private citizens helping with Rainer Days.

Butcher – Thanked Lockard for hard work on rates and thanked Griffith for the report provided tonight. Staff and Council have made good strides in moving along with balancing the budget before June 30.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Phil Butcher, President

Attested: _____
Debra Dudley, Recorder