

**City of Rainier  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 1, 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, Mike Avent, David Langford, Phil Butcher, Scott Cooper, Russ Moon and Bill Vilardi

**Council Absent:**

**City Staff Present:** Ryan Murphy, Bobby Jo Harding, Wayne Smith, Darrel Lockard and Debbie Dudley

**City Attorney Present:** Steve Petersen

**Visitors Present:** Lois & Orville Abken, Kenneth & Darlene Rea, Beverly & Norman Gressett, David Qualman, Jim Coffman, Michael Pattersen, Bob Hanson, Byron Rickert, Tony Bodenhamer, Bud Appleby, Steve Lovegren, Marqise Allen, Longview Daily News, and Debbie Hazen, Clatskanie Chief

**Flag Salute**

**Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:**

**Motion** by Butcher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vilardi to add consider a contract with Waters Technical Forestry.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Deletions: (Items will be moved to a future meeting.)**

**Motion** by Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Moon to move: Consider a Request from Columbia County Economic Team for \$2,500 in Funding Assistance and Consider the appointment of a representative to the Columbia County Economic Team to the next agenda.

**Mayor's Address:**

A moment of silence was observed for our fallen soldiers

**Visitor Comments:**

Darlene Rea, Norm Gressett, and Tony Bodenhamer spoke on behalf of the residents from Rainier Riverfront Estates, the housing development next to Teevin Brothers log yard. They expressed concern over the dust and black residue blowing into their homes and covering their plants and cars. The citizens provided samples and identified their concerns about health issues.

The Mayor encouraged the residents to attend the August 9<sup>th</sup> public hearing regarding a similar use permit application and non-conforming use application for Teevin Brothers.

Other items of concern expressed by the residents included the odor from the sewage treatment plant, street lights out on "A" Street and the absence of no-parking signs on the south side of King Drive. The Public Works Director and Sergeant Murphy offered to follow up on these issues.

**Visitor Comments Continued:**

Jim Coffman, a resident of Rainier for 70 years, asked for an explanation about the cities portion of \$23,000 to help fix a private land owners property. "In the last few years \$123,000 went out of here of tax payer's money on poor decisions". Other residents have faced similar problems with slides and received no help from the City. Mayor Cole responded by explaining the cost of the fix was estimated to be less than continuing with legal costs. Coffman also questioned whether the city's nuisance ordinance was being fairly applied, specifically tall grass, abandoned cars, etc. Mayor Cole and Councilor Nelson encouraged the residents to report nuisance complaints to the police department.

**Motion** by Moon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Butcher to approve the July 18, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Motion** by Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Moon to move Consideration of "A Request from Columbia County Economic Team for \$2,500 in Funding Assistance and Considering the appointment of a representative to the Columbia County Economic Team to the next agenda.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Motion** by Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Langford to start the process on developing an ordinance to prohibit smoking within 25 feet of the front facing entrance of businesses in the Central Business District. Discussion Summary; may create a burden on the police department, the current law is enforced by the State, how will ordinance be enforced, individual will be penalized, ordinance may cause hardship to business owners in that area, in some cases the businesses in that area don't have 25 feet to comply with restrictions.

Nay: Nelson, Avent

Aye: Cooper, Moon, Vilaridi, Langford, Butcher

**Motion Passed**

**Motion** by Langford, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Moon to advertise for an interim city manager. Discussion summary: Cole has been receiving emails about the managers position, printed out a resume from Michael Pattersen and introduced him to the council, opened the floor for discussion.

Cooper: look at reorganizing and restructuring, how many managers do we need, do we want to backfill a \$80,000 position.

Moon: Pattersen is willing to work for \$100 the first three month.

Vilardi: the council hasn't even discussed what we're re doing, no public notice, disservice if we don't come up with a game plan before we do anything, whether we look internal or go out to the public.

Moon: where is the contract review committee on the contract that expired in July, they were supposed to meet and provide a review for the employee.

Nelson: that was not the scope of the committee.

Butcher: we need to define some goal and direction for the position.

Cole then invited Michael Pattersen and Debra Dudley to speak about their qualifications.

Pattersen - 15 years of city manager experience, very comfortable with all facets of the job, what makes me different than a lot of people, my proposal is simple, I propose \$100 a month for three month to show you my skills and than negotiate a contract, I want to get back into city management, I made a mistake in my personal life that had nothing to do with my professional career, my track record is very successful.

Dudley - I'm surprised that we are at this point, when the last conversation we had is that we're going to operate status quo. One of the advantages that your existing staff has, is we know what needs to be done, what the issues and projects are. We have the qualification that we need to have to get the job done, no learning curve, currently doing the job, with regard to funding, I'm here I'm getting paid, willing to work at the same rate, what I would want is before I or anyone say I have the skills to do this job, is as a council you identify what this job is, as yet that hasn't happened. We need to know what the expectations are, what the projects are and in what priority, we have a number of things that need to done, and should be done by the staff already involved in those projects, identified specific experience, qualifications, project management, economic development, grant and loan writing, references, and civic memberships. Currently working on several grants, recommended that the City start attending the NWACT and Colpac meeting, get more involved in the

community, complete the project for the awarded ARRA and SCA grant so we can reapply for this years money, SCA amount was increased to \$50,000. I have the skills and experience to do the job.

Cole: when Lars left I asked for a list of outstanding projects or issues, he gave me four, I met with Debbie a couple of days later and she identified over 20 items. It's my feeling that the majority wants an interim, but in all fairness, we need to open it up to all applicants. Councilor's Avent, Vilardi and Nelson supported Dudley as interim manager, with Moon and Langford supporting hiring Pattersen.

Nay: Nelson, Vilardi

Aye: Cooper, Moon, Langford, Butcher, Avent

**Motion Passed**

The interim manager position will be advertised, with the closing date of August 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion** by Vilardi, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cooper to move consideration of a \$33,000 bid from the Automation Group, Inc. to the next agenda.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Motion** by Moon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Avent to consider a contract with Waters Technical Forestry, Scope of work "Exhibit B", and payment terms "Exhibit C".

**Passed Unanimously**

**Staff Reports:**

Lockard- Public works is busy replacing signs and mowing.

Dudley- Provided a written report, with a verbal explanation;

The first phase of the technology upgrade is complete and working well. We will be assessing our needs and compiling cost estimates for the second phase.

Once complete we will bring the proposal back to the Council.

Utilize I.T., Inc. will be available to assist the Police Department with the assessment on the "Tough Books" donation for the police cars. There may be a possibility of reducing our costs or providing for extra replacement computers.

The City of Rainier Website will continue to be updated with the goal of adding minutes, budget and forms.

The utility billing should be online by the next billing cycle. We will be encouraging the Council and Staff to use this service as a trail before it's made available to our citizens. This service will provide e-statements and the ability to pay online.

We will be participating in the City County Insurance Service Occupational Safety and Health Training Program. The training information is available online, is directed at all areas and offered at no cost to the City. Completion of this program could result in a 6% rate reduction in our insurance costs.

Mayor Cole and I have met to discuss pending or outstanding items. They will be assigned to the appropriate department with updates to be provided to Council.

The Summer Reading Program was a success! We estimate we had almost 200 children participating in various activities offered by the Library during the four weeks.

**Motion** by Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Avent to extend the meeting time of the council meeting.

Nay: Langford

Aye: Moon, Avent, Cooper, Butcher, Nelson, Vilardi

**Motion Passed**

**Council Reports:**

Langford – Thanked Michael Pattersen for attending the meeting and providing his proposal.

Vilardi – Thanked the audience, public input provides for better accountability.

Nelson – Welcome the citizens and invited them to stop in and say hi. Butcher - If anyone has any thoughts or input about the “A” Street project let him know.

Cooper – Asked that the lights on “A” street be fixed and thanked the audience for attending the meeting and sharing their concerns.

Avent – Reminder that the Conrad Wood sewer rate issue has not been resolved, requested that the Council look into the exemption for work hours.

Moon – Thanked audience for coming to the meeting.

Butcher – Thanked citizens for attending and wants cautioned about the interim position

Cole – Reminder the City Wide Garage Sale is this Saturday

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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Jerry Cole, Mayor

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Dudley, Recorder