

**City of Rainier
Work Session Minutes
September 6, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Rainier City Hall
106 West "B" Street**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Jerry Cole at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: David Langford

City Staff: Darrel Lockard, Bobby Jo Harding and Debbie Dudley

Visitors: Connie Budge, Sarah Heller, Brady Berry, Tom Weatherford, David Kim, Mark Buffington and Debbie Hazen, Clatskanie Chief

"B" Street, "A" Street, SCA/ARRA Grant, and Traffic Signal at Veterans Way Discussion and Update.

David Kim and Tom Weatherford from ODOT and Brady Berry and Sarah Heller from WH Pacific provided the update.

"B" Street – Tom Weatherford, ODOT and Brady Berry, WH Pacific; The project first started in 1999 with the engineering phase, in 2006 due to freight mobility issues it was necessary to redesign the project. The city is responsible for the cost of the project with a 10% match and cost overruns up to 10%. There are several items to be addressed tonight, the agreement codifying the \$500,000 from ODOT, it's not new money, if the City wants the money, the agreement needs to be approved. Will need to renew the right of way services agreement and the State funding agreement for Fox Creek, these lapsed due to expiration dates. Weatherford will work with Dudley to get the documents and cost proposals to the Council. Due to funding constraints the scope of the project may need to be reduced. Plans were distributed detailing the potential project reductions, with explanations by WH Pacific. The Council was asked to decide what to take out of the project.

"A" Street – David Kim; In 2005 a railroad corridor study was done, and the need to complete a infrastructure analysis was identified, you don't want to fix the street then find your underground water and sewer pipes are bad. Then in 2009 the project started going again with ODOT spending \$10,000 in consulting, identifying action items and next steps for the City and that's where it was left. The first step is determining if the lines need repair, working with funding agencies to secure funding if they need fixed, it's been two years and there hasn't been much activity on the City's part. Butcher; the first phase of the infrastructure has been approve and we're moving into Phase 2. Kim; ODOT stands ready to support the City with this project, it's a safety issue, the City needs to work with the railroad and other agencies. Each year that goes by we're losing fund opportunities. In June of 2010 we informed the City of two funding opportunities, the SCA allotment and a federal allotment for about \$58,000, "it was kind of like pulling teeth to get the City to accept the money" the City finally accepted the money and to date nothings been done. "That money has to be spent by September 2012 or you lose it, it your money to spend". Cole; We've been trying to get our public works director to get bids and

he hasn't done it. What's frustrating about the SCA allotment, is we use to get it every year and spend it. Kim; I encourage you to get this money spent so that you'll have another \$50,000 coming, it's being held up until you spend the first. Lockard; we have received bids and are waiting for some more.

Traffic Signal – Kim; ODOT studies have shown that putting in a crosswalk would not improve pedestrian safety. Pedestrians are more cautious crossing the highway without a crosswalk. This intersection does meet or is warranted for a traffic signal. The next hurdle is funding. The estimate is around \$400,000. Kim will be happy to work with the City to identify and pursue grant funding opportunities, but the priority is the other projects. After these projects are well under way he will be willing to talk with the City to see what we can do about a signal at that intersection.

Budge: How can we work with you to come together to force this to happen, when we talk about pedestrian safety, we're talking about 6th Street, that's where the intersection is, this is an issue, we have people in this community that have been struck by vehicles and it's gotten worse with the additional traffic, your talking about the "A" Street and "B" Street projects going on for a long time, in the REDCO meeting minutes of 9/22/2000 they were going to put in \$150,000 to get this done. How can we come together and make this happen before we have another tragedy. Kim; The last thing we want to see is a pedestrian being hit by a vehicle, it meets the technical requirements, it's a matter of finding the money, I will work with the City and the community to find the money, there are grant opportunities out there. Budge; It's been a whole year since you found we were warranted. Kim; that is correct, that information was provided to the former City Administrator. Budge; we need to move ahead with this, a resolution supporting this was passed. Kim; We don't want to see a project that should take 1 year take 4 years, so what I need is for the City to complete the SCA allotment project and I need to see progress on the "B" Street project, good faith and I will partner with the City to help identify funding. Cooper; Connie what he is saying is they've given us money we haven't spent, we get money, we sit on it, we don't do anything with it and they're tired of it. Budge; what do we need to do as a community to help get this off the ground. Avent; check with REDCO about those funds and urge the City to get the other projects done. Kim; the City would submit an application, the match depends on where the funds come from, currently working with Senator Johnson and Commissioner Fisher on a Highway 30 safety corridor, we have a safety corridor initiated between Scappoose and St. Helens, we're not just looking at that segment of the highway, we're looking at the 57 mile corridor, so this fits in well with improving safety. The legislature passed the Chief Painter memorial highway signage, will work with the City for planning some type of event or ceremony in October, introduced Mark Buffington, the ODOT maintenance manager located out of Clatskanie.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.