

City of Rainier
Work Session Minutes
January 9, 2012
6:00 PM
Rainier City Hall – 106 West “B” Street
Rainier, OR 97048

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Council President Phil Butcher.

Council Present: Phil Butcher, Mike Avent, Sloan Nelson, Scott Cooper and William Vilardi

Council Absent: Mayor Cole

City Staff Present: Debra Dudley and Darrel Lockard

Visitors: None

Agenda:

- a. **City Goals/Strategic Planning** – Dudley informed the Council the information for a one day planning session in the packet was provided by Carolyn Tilton. Tilton will be available to present a presentation to the Council at the meeting on the 23rd at no cost. Avent said he spoke to Butcher and Nelson about this and it’s a good idea but was concerned about waiting for the two new council members to be appointed so they can be involved in the process. Butcher said the training would help with goals, missions and where the City wants to go as a whole. Butcher shared a conversation he had with Mayor Cole stating that Mayor Cole’s thought that the present city council, anyone who was applying for city council, interested citizens and the planning commission should be a part of the session. Butcher stated the seminar could be useful as far as planning and direction. Nelson asked the cost and Butcher stated it would be \$2,000 regardless of the number of attendees. Avent stated that some communities open it up to other cities but he was not in favor of doing that because new council members might be overwhelmed. Cooper supported the idea and suggested the planning commission also attend. Vilardi asked if this was something the League of Oregon Cities could do. Butcher said she does contract work for the LOC. Dudley said she could check with other agencies. Nelson said there is an entire section on Council training and cautioned about bringing in people that it would not apply. Avent suggested doing half the class for council members and then opening it up to the planning commission. Dudley referenced last year’s council goals stating we have some projects that have moved forward, the SCA and ARA grants are completed, in April we will be applying for another SCA grant in the amount of \$50,000, “B” Street has been moving ahead and another project that is becoming critical is the “A” Street project. Dudley added there are things that need to be resolved such as the marina grants to make sure we are in compliance, park bathrooms, and the traffic signal by Veterans Way. Dudley said the signal has been warranted but the big obstacle is funding. Now that the City is moving ahead with projects, she feels the State will be receptive in talking to the City about funding. We have heard from a number of citizens regarding their safety concerns; egress/ingress for the park, Senior Center and deliveries to the

wastewater treatment plant. Avent said that he and Robert Kaiser met with the Mayor and Councilor Nelson about “A” Street potential and ultimately what the outcome could be is you have Astoria and private parties vying for projects. Avent said he is trying to convince the Port that long term they have a vested interest in making sure we are able to dedicate whatever happens so Rainier is not in it alone. Avent added the City can afford a study or two but cannot afford crossings, tear out sidewalks, black top, etc. Dudley added infrastructure also and stated it is a significant undertaking but it is something the City needs to look at sooner rather than later. As the train traffic increases, the potential for accidents increase. Dudley stated we do not want the town cut in half and people not to have access to our business areas or emergency access. Dudley added the Council needs to be involved in minimizing the impact of the train traffic to the City. Avent said emergency vehicles are also a concern. Dudley added that increased train activity should allow more discussion with regard to money and funding sources. Avent said he and Butcher could contact the new president of the rail and set up a meeting with him and include Dudley. Dudley said there are existing plans and designs for “A” street. Lockard added the design may not any longer be good since Teevin Bros. did their expansion. Dudley added one of the big problems with the design is Foss because of their location and activity, but it is something we need to investigate and we need to reintroduce ourselves to the key players. Butcher said that tentatively it is being talked about doing high speed rail through Rainier and Columbia County and whether or not that happens he does not know. Avent asked Lockard where the City is at with the infrastructure problem on “A” Street and Lockard replied that it would be \$600,000 which is from two different sources for the sewer and storm drain. Lockard the process is in Washington DC being prioritized. Butcher said Senator Berkley was going to be in Clatskanie on January 17th, the grants needed would be \$600,000 for a storm drain and \$600,000 for the sewer aspect. Butcher said other options were discussed such as putting it in the Army Corps of Engineer’s operating budget where they would come in and do the work. Lockard said one real bad thing is there is one section that has to be replaced. Dudley said that one of the discussions with regard to “A” Street may be the improvement needed for the existing infrastructure; you don’t want to improve the street and rail, then have to tear it up because a sewer or water line failed. Avent agreed and stated that now might be the time because we have some grants and if we speak with the rail they might have some political clout that might be helpful. Lockard said that some of the service lines are on opposite sides of “A” Street.

- b. City Council Vacancy Discussion** – Dudley stated Mayor Cole asked her to check with the City of Vernonia to see what they did with their Council openings. Similar to Vernonia, the City could advertise that anybody who was interested in serving on the selection committee should come in and sign up, requirements include, commit to being available when the interviews were going to take place, be a registered voter within the State of Oregon, reside within the city limits and not be an employee, has not served in an official capacity for 18 months and be available to interview the candidates. Dudley said we had advertised for the council vacancy, but suggested re-advertising for the council position with an expiration date, rather than an open until filled as it was previously advertised. Cooper asked if the interview panel consisted of existing council and citizens who signed up to be on the panel and Dudley said that was correct. Dudley said how the City wants to go about it is the Council’s choice. Butcher said he thought that was a good

idea and Nelson thought that a delegate from the library board and the planning commission would be beneficial to the panel committee. Butcher added a staff person from the police department and a staff person from the public works department would be beneficial also. Dudley said she will need a motion at the regular council meeting. Cooper asked if the selection panel could be formed prior to the next council meeting and Dudley said it would need to be in the paper and Council needs to decide how many to have on the panel. Butcher said to take an ad out for two weeks and if there is a turnout of three or four interested individuals then all three or four could be on the panel and if you get twelve or fourteen you draw some out of the hat, get some from City staff and some from City Council. Nelson said he doesn't want it to drag out too long. Dudley suggested advertising for a selection panel, bring it back to the Council on January 23rd and depending on how many candidates apply to be on the selection panel, determination at that time how big the panel is going to be. Nelson asked when the water bill was going to go out and Dudley said on the 16th and a notice can be included in the water bill for the open city council positions and the selection panel. Council decided to pick the selection committee at the meeting on the 23rd, and set the parameters for the selection committee. Dudley suggested the selection committee can meet and interview candidates at a work session on January 30th at 6:00 PM. Nelson clarified that the Council could be selected on February 6th. Dudley suggested having the open council candidate close the 25th and council agreed. Avent asked if they can come up by that time on how they are going to pick somebody since there are already disagreements on the procedure. Nelson said the selection panel would pick the two people to recommend to Council. Avent was concerned regarding only having two recommendations to council and Dudley said that at the next meeting the guidelines can be formulated for the selection because it is not uncommon to select the top three or five and then have the selection committee go back and review their input for that five. Nelson suggested they can still do that on the 30th. Avent clarified the selection committee could come up with the top four candidates recommended to Council and then the Council would make a vote at the meeting on who out of the four they wanted. Dudley said the Council will ratify the decision from the selection committee and we can fine tune this at the January 23rd meeting. Avent stated the top four candidates would be recommended to the Council. Nelson asked Dudley to make a score sheet and all candidates would get the same questions asked of them. Nelson clarified having someone from the Planning Commission and Library Board on the selection panel. Dudley asked if they wanted a staff person from each department and the consensus was they did not.

Butcher adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Phil Butcher, Council President

Attested: _____
Debra Dudley, Recorder