

City of Rainier
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2013
7:00 PM
Rainier City Hall
106 West “B” Street

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Council Present: Mayor Cole, James Bradfield, Sloan Nelson, William Vilardi, Judith Taylor, Steve Massey and Scott Cooper.

Council Absent: David Sills.

City Staff Present: Debra Dudley, City Administrator/Finance Director/Recorder; and Police Chief Griffith.

City Attorney Absent: Stephen D. Petersen.

Flag Salute.

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:

Nelson moved, Cooper 2nd, to add boat marina issues to the agenda – **motion passed unanimously** – added as New Business, item d.

Mayor’s Address: The website with names of fallen service personnel was not available and Mayor Cole stated he would read the names at the next council meeting.

Mayor Cole read and signed the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation then announced candlelight vigils will be held on October 15th at 5:15 PM on the Rainier City Hall steps and on October 22nd at 5:15 PM at the Columbia View Park gazebo in St. Helens.

Mayor Cole read and signed an End the Government Shutdown Proclamation. Mayor Cole stated Dudley would be sending the proclamation to the federal representatives.

Visitors Comments:

Anita Bolin introduced herself as being the President of the United Way of Columbia County board.

Unfinished Business:

a. Approve September 16, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes: Vilardi moved, Taylor 2nd, to approve the minutes as presented – **motion passed unanimously.**

b. “A” Street Update: Mark Ellsworth from Governor Kitzhaber’s office updated the Council by stating it is a situation that has been easy for the community and the community leaders to feel helpless over and so much of it seems out of local control. Ellsworth said his hope is there will be contentment by working together on something really good for the community. Ellsworth said the goal is to help the City and the City does not have the ability to bring large amounts of money to the table. Ellsworth said that as part of the Governor’s Regional Solutions process, Senator Johnson has identified this situation as a key priority and there will be resources on the State side when normally that would not happen. Ellsworth said the main announcement he has is that tomorrow this is no longer going to be theoretical because an engineering firm will be chosen to start doing the design work to bring about the safety improvements previously discussed. Ellsworth added there are State dollars appropriated and the goal is to give the assistance to the community. Ellsworth stated they have no control over the trains, they are going to increase and that doesn’t have anything to do with any specific commodity or sites, it is just the nature of today’s economy and at some point there will probably be train traffic through Tongue Point or other places because this is an industrial corridor. Ellsworth added as we look to create jobs in this and other communities safety is an issue and with that in mind the legislature has given the Regional Solution program dollars to spend and as part of that there were some significant projects identified in legislation. Ellsworth stated the monies that will be used were not specifically earmarked by the legislature but more of a general fund but being a priority for this region the funds will be able to be used. Ellsworth said they will have up to about \$2,000,000 from that fund and will be talking with other communities along the coast and throughout the region and saying, this is why Rainier is important and this is why there will be some exceptions, and do work in Rainier with the money. Ellsworth said they will also be using federal rail safety dollars and other funds, as needed, since this is a significant project. Ellsworth said the City will be kept informed, last week he and Senator Johnson toured the area with the Governor’s new transportation and sustainability advisor, Karmen Fore, to show her the key projects and the Rainier project is a key project. Ellsworth said Fore was able to grasp the significance of the situation immediately. Ellsworth added Mike Avent (Rainier citizen) called and talked to him about the citizen group and Senator Johnson wanted Ellsworth to be responsive to them so he is going to meet with them later this month. Ellsworth said there will be a committee including the City, the rail, and road and business interests and he hopes that everyone will be able to contribute what they can financially. Ellsworth said the City will be given the safety and peace of mind needed to make improvements to ensure safety and help give the City an opportunity to grow and develop with the rail. Bradfield asked if the scope had been developed and how the scope was going to be designed. Ellsworth said they are not that far yet

and nothing has been determined. Massey expressed concerns, stating plans were being made for greatly increased rail traffic with increased speed that would have a negative impact on Rainier and effect a lot of people in the south end of Columbia County. Ellsworth asked for specifics and Massey stated currently there are seventeen crude oil trains coming through a month and if the trains are increased to six trains a day they would take a lot more time going through Rainier and it would be noisier. Massey added he heard comments about making Rainier a quiet zone and a continuous rail through but his feeling is the more train traffic there is the more quality of life is lessened in Rainier and right now many of the citizens are alarmed at the amount of trains going through Rainier. Massey asked if there wasn't any assistance given and the train traffic through Rainier was unsafe could that slow the trains down and keep them from expanding the rail. Ellsworth stated the Governor is supportive of Rainier and said the City has the option of not cooperating and the City will not get any help, the train traffic will increase because the railroad has a right to run trains in any fashion they want and it has nothing to do with the State of Oregon or the Governor. Mayor Cole added that since Port Westward is in Columbia County the City has some leverage to make some safety improvements and if, for example, Tongue Point was developed the County Commissioners of Clatsop County would not care about trains going through Scappoose, St. Helens and Rainier. Mayor Cole said the rail traffic could be increased without having to do anything and right now with the possible increases in rail traffic, because of the crude oil, there is some leverage because they want it to be safe and it would increase economic development. Mayor Cole said what he wants to see in the scope is safety and a quiet zone. Nelson said his livelihood will be effected due to the increase in rail traffic and prefers safety improvements be implemented rather than not. Cooper said his business conference calls are interrupted because of the extensive train horns and if there were gates safely set up over the streets hopefully the number of train horns could decrease. Cooper added an overpass over "A" Street would be beneficial at one of the intersections and thanked Ellsworth for the interest in assisting. Mayor Cole said he would like to see a quiet zone to increase livability in Rainier, safety at the crossings via a notification device and an overpass. Massey said he agrees with everything Mayor Cole stated and asked if the \$2,000,000 is just for Rainier and Cooper stated that there would be federal dollars, other businesses, and railroad users to partner with for funding. Taylor stated she is thankful the Governor and Senator Johnson is offering assistance and allowing citizen group involvement. Mayor Cole reminded Council that Global Energy is a customer. Bradfield offered to be an advocate for an overpass. Ellsworth stated there will be crossings, day lighted track, rock to drive on and Dudley is researching the utility improvements. Ellsworth said with the changes more off-street parking will be required and where will that be located. Massey added that Ellsworth is going to try to get the best deal possible for Rainier and Ellsworth added it is not going to be gold plated. Ellsworth added the steering committee will be discussing the particulars of the project and researching funds. Council thanked Ellsworth for the update. Later in the meeting Ellsworth referenced the signal at Veterans Way and stated Larry

McKinley of ODOT has put that in the cue of the project to begin the analysis process. Dudley added Council thought Rainier was on the list for a traffic signal, however, the City was not on the list which Ellsworth verified. Nelson said Senator Johnson told him that she was attempting to get money for the project when it was discovered it had not been approved. Ellsworth repeated it is now on the list to start the analysis. Mayor Cole suggested contacting Connie Budge who was on a previous committee regarding the traffic signal.

c. Highway 30/"B" Street Update: Dudley stated she has talked with several representatives from ODOT and there were three outstanding property acquisitions; one has been resolved and language will be added to the acquisition; the other two are under negotiation. Dudley stated we hope to have a resolution within the next month.

d. Street Improvement Update: Dudley reported she is meeting with David Hill, Columbia County Road Department, to discuss the possibility of the City piggybacking with the County on paving because the County will be paving next spring. Dudley added the County goes in cycles and next spring is the paving schedule and they are confident they will be able to help the City with paving projects. Dudley stated, prior to paving, the streets have to be repaired for any potholes, ditches and culverts and that will be worked on this fall and winter along with rocking and improving the current gravel roads to be able to chip seal through the County the following year.

e. Library Update: Mayor Cole announced the on-line book checkout is available.

New Business:

a. Approve Payne Reforestation Contract for Herbicide Spraying: Vilardi moved, Cooper 2nd, to approve the contract – **motion passed unanimously.**

b. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation: Addressed previously on the agenda.

c. Approve Agreement with Long Painting: Dudley said the contract with Long Painting was vetted and recommended by the Engineering firm. Cooper moved, Massey 2nd, to approve the agreement – **motion passed unanimously.**

d. Boat Marina Issues: Nelson moved, Cooper 2nd, to raise the marina slip rate to \$80.00 monthly, eliminate the discount for yearly prepays and give preference to City of Rainier residents for new open slips, direct the administrator to compose a resolution and direct the Mayor to sign said resolution – **motion passed unanimously.**

Staff Reports:

Chief Griffith: Senior Center items are at lab and the new patrol car is in the shop for equipment installation.

Dudley: Working with Diking District, hope to have a public membership meeting; will hear from painting contractor when he is going to start; and Dudley is working on the window project.

Council Reports: Taylor asked Dudley if the Senior Center had complied with the lease agreement and Dudley stated they are not in compliance. Massey, as liaison of the Senior Center, requested clarification and direction from the Council. Mayor Cole said they won't be in compliance with the issue at the State and Taylor said the Council could help by mandating board training, there are novices trying to run the Center and encourage training for the manager. Taylor added they do not have financial information or an operating budget on the table and they need guidance. Taylor said the City has the authority to hold their hand and make sure it happens. Massey stated they do not want their hand held and if there are rules that aren't going along with what they like, they are changing the rules. Cooper suggested putting this issue on the next meeting's agenda. Massey said he would like direction from the Council.

Cooper will meet with Dudley regarding the notes he and Bradfield requested.

Bradfield stated he noticed a city public works crew member does not attend the Council meetings and Dudley replied she has taken the role of reporting to Council to save paying overtime. Dudley announced any public works questions the Council had to direct them to her.

City Calendar/Announcements: Mayor Cole said there is a Fox Creek sign dedication on Saturday, October 19th at 2:00 PM and the next City Council regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21st at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Cole adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Mayor Jerry Cole

Attested: _____
Debra Dudley, City Administrator/Fin. Dir./Recorder