

City of Rainier
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2014
7:00 PM
Rainier City Hall
106 West “B” Street

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order.

Council Present: Mayor Cole, James Bradfield, Scott Cooper, Sloan Nelson, Steve Massey, David Sills and William Vilaridi.

Council Absent: None.

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:

Vilaridi moved, Massey 2nd, to add Merchant Card Services Resolution as New Business, item e. – **motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor’s Address:

Mayor Cole read the names of eight (8) fallen service personnel since the last time Council met and a moment of silence was observed. Mayor Cole wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Visitors Comments:

Don Puckett, 511 West 2nd Street, Rainier, OR 97048 expressed several concerns: that Mayor Cole stated in the newspapers that the Senior Center was in compliance and he thinks they are not, there is one Council liaison when there used to be two liaisons and that Mayor Cole converses with Bill Dias, Senior Center President, on a regular basis. Mayor Cole replied that he talks to all citizens as they contact him. Puckett added the Senior Center needs to be repaired and he hopes that the Senior Center has to make all the repairs and that his tax dollars will not be used. Dudley stated that, in regard to the repairs that are on the agenda, they are through the insurance company and there will be a \$1,000 deductible to the City. Dudley added it is for water damage that was specific to broken pipes.

Unfinished Business:

a. Approve December 16th Regular Meeting Minutes: Cooper moved, Vilardi 2nd, to approve the minutes – **motion passed unanimously.** Dudley will add Nelson's name as present at the meeting.

b. Approve December 16th Work Session Meeting Minutes: Cooper moved, Massey 2nd, to approve the minutes – **motion passed unanimously.**

c. "A" Street Update: Nelson congratulated the "A" Street group in getting started on a program and would like to have the City offer them assistance in any way to help them in this mutual quest. Bradfield asked who, besides Mike Avent and Skip Lahti, were on the "A" Street committee and what authority they have. He also commented that, according to the Clatskanie Chief, they are involved in policy and decision making processes and he does not remember any of that coming before Council. Nelson clarified that he feels it is time the City get involved with the citizens group and work collaboratively. Cooper explained this is not the first time citizens have made improvements to the City and even though the committee is trying to get grant money for improvements they won't be able to make any hard and fast policy decisions. Nelson stated the Port of St. Helens and another agency gave the citizens group money. Sills stated the City's meeting time and location has never been a secret and it would be wonderful to work with these citizens. Bradfield stated there is always opportunity for citizen involvement, but did not know there was a committee going out and getting grants or by whose direction and authority, or even who is in the committee. Bradfield stated he is not opposed to the committee but is opposed to "separate tracks." Nelson agreed with Bradfield and reiterated it would be nice for the group to come in and make sure everyone is on the same page. Cooper agreed with Nelson. Mayor Cole said he thinks it would be healthy for the committee to get together on the same page and bring it to the City. Mayor Cole stated the group is coming up with good ideas and moving forward but he worries about the State coming in and steam rolling the Council over, which they have already started to do, by interviewing a project manager without inviting the City to the interviews. Mayor Cole said he is worried about the State coming in and saying this is what the project is going to look like and this is what you are going to be charged. Bradfield said the decision making is already happening, what about the City's concerns; an overpass or a medical station. Whipple added that he has attended Port meetings and Mike Avent, Port Commissioner gives the impression that the "A" Street committee is working closely with the citizens of Rainier and the State agencies to work out solutions for "A" Street as if they already have some kind of authority to do that. Whipple said the Council should be aware the committee is basically a front for the Port of St. Helens. Cooper said he appreciates the comment; the City of Rainier government was made aware of the group's activities in an article by the Clatskanie Chief. Everyone agreed that community involvement is great and would like to work with the committee. Mayor Cole said if Council has concerns with State representatives meeting with the group, the Council could request the State come in and explain why they are going around the Council and meeting with the group. Mayor Cole suggested inviting the State representatives

and committee to the next Council meeting to explain what is going on rather than Council being left to guess. Bradfield said he would like to state his case to the State as to why he feels an overpass is a good idea. Sills stated he appreciates the idea of citizens getting together but the group is appearing to have appointed authority and are they speaking on behalf of the City without public process. Sills added he would like Council to work with the group but the question is would the group care to work with Council. Mayor Cole said the first meeting in February would be a work session and the State and the downtown stake holders committee would be invited. For clarification purposes, Bradfield added, it would be a good idea to reread the City Charter that states the authority levels.

d. Highway 30/"B" Street Update: Cooper moved, Nelson 2nd, to accept proposal #2. At Sills' question of a starting date, Mayor Cole said proposal #2 would be sooner than the original plan. Dudley added it would probably be late summer. **Motion passed unanimously.**

e. Street Improvement Update: Not addressed.

f. Senior Center Update: Dudley said bids were requested and she has received two. A third contractor called and asked if he could turn his in tomorrow. Dudley added, depending on the dollar amount, the work may have to be done at prevailing wage and she will get back with Council with the third bid. Dudley stated she has talked with the insurance adjuster and the two companies she has received bids from are both reputable with the insurance adjuster. Dudley said they will go with the apparent low bidder for the water damage. Cooper asked if Dudley had received an update from the Board as far as the painting and Nelson and Dudley said it will be covered by the insurance company who will want to make sure it is completed per specification. Cooper clarified that he was referring to the work Dias stated they would do themselves. Dias added they have a person they are supposed to be training, paid for by the State, and he wants to teach him and show him what needs to be done as far as the dry rot and making the repairs. Dias said they use the facility and he feels they should take care of some of the repairs. Cooper asked Dias if there was any update on the grant and Dias said he was told they would try to rush it for the Seniors and he is getting a couple of others grant applications out. Nelson advised Dias that, before any big or little projects are taken on, he should confer with Dudley and not just take them on. Dudley stated it has been considered, since the contractor who is coming in to do the insurance work will already be at the site, that he be asked for an estimate on some of the issues that were identified in the inspection report. Dudley said when that is received she will get back to Council and Dias. Nelson said he and Vilardi, at Council's approval, looked at the Senior Center attic space and originally they thought they could install some heat tape on the lines and insulation but after looking at it that is not an option because there are so many pipes in various locations. Vilardi stated he thinks they should see what the insulators can do and Nelson added they talked about installing a cadet heater on a thermostat so when it gets to 35 degrees it kicks on. Nelson added they also spoke about working with the Senior Center and the

Public Works Department to have a winterization program that the City oversees to make sure the swamp cooler gets properly drained and other little things that would make a big difference. Nelson added if the attic is heated and it is cold outside the swamp cooler is still going to freeze. Nelson said they would like to hire an electrician and that Vilardi does not want to be involved in that process so Nelson will work with Dudley to get an electrician to install a heater in the attic space with a thermostat. Vilardi added the attic needs to be insulated better than it was prior to the damage. Nelson said he and Vilardi feel they can stay within the approved budget amount for the attic repairs. Nelson said this should have been done when the building was originally built.

New Business:

a. Reappoint Erin O’Connell to Planning Commission Position #6, term ending 12-31-2017:

Nelson moved, Cooper 2nd, to reappoint O’Connell – **motion passed unanimously.**

b. Reappoint Paul Rice to Planning Commission Position #7, term ending 12-31-2017:

Nelson moved, Massey 2nd, to reappoint Rice – **motion passed unanimously.**

c. Senior Center Bid for Repair Work: Dudley said when she gets one more bid she will notify everyone who the apparent low bidder is provided they come recommended and have the qualifications. Dudley reiterated it is insurance work.

d. Discuss Councilor Vacancy: Mayor Cole stated vacancies are usually announced, given a certain amount of time for people to show their interest by submitting an application, and then invited in for a Councilor interview. Massey moved, Bradfield 2nd, to postpone filling the vacancy until the recall investigation is finished. **Motion passed unanimously.** Mayor Cole advised this would be moved to old business.

e. Resolution Stating Authorized Signers for Executing Merchant Card Services For The City of Rainier:

Massey moved, Sills 2nd, to approve Resolution 14-01-01 – **motion passed unanimously.**

Staff Reports:

Chief Griffith – Nothing.

Dudley – The new public works supervisor will start next Monday and will come in and meet everyone. The public works crew has addressed some road work repairs such as potholes and sink holes. The RV camping area is being used by the rail while they are working on a spur and they will be done this week. Then they will restore the site to its original or better condition. Waste control has been notified to empty the container for recycled glass. Nelson asked Dudley to research signage for the use of the RV park and for a directional sign on Highway 30.

Council Reports:

Massey – Has been in contact with Nate Cullen from the Hillsboro wastewater plant to analyze the clean water project to defray the cost of sludge disposal and will continue to research this matter. He has talked to Rickert regarding starting a political movement, directed at the federal and state senators and the governor, to exempt the small municipalities like Rainier from the Forest Resources Conservation Act of 1993 that restricts public timber being shipped out of the country. It has been brought to Massey’s attention that the senior population of Rainier may be underserved and there has been much disharmony within the Center since its inception. Massey added he would like to hear the thoughts and ideas of the council and the Senior Center’s membership about how to remove the politics from the Center and better serve the Seniors from Rainier. Massey stated he will give Council regular reports on that subject. Massey read an associated press report regarding the danger of crude oil trains and added he will be exploring the possible options the City can take to impose a ban on dangerous cargo, specifically crude oil and ethanol, moving through the City of Rainier. Massey added he will be talking with the citizens of Rainier to educate them about this danger and talking to people to decide the best way to go about protecting our community. Massey said since we are a Home Rule State maybe it will be an ordinance, maybe a class action lawsuit and then courts can decide how to deal with this danger, or maybe the State of Oregon can intervene to protect its citizens. Massey said he plans to look at all the options to protect our citizens.

Cooper – Suggested the representatives Massey referred to be invited to attend the next scheduled City/County dinner. He also suggested a town hall meeting for the seniors.

Executive Session: ORS 192.660(2)(e) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions and ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

The meeting was adjourned after Executive Session.

Mayor Cole

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