

City of Rainier
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2014
7:00 PM
Rainier City Hall
106 West "B" Street

Councilor and Sgt. of Arms Vilardi called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Council Present: William Vilardi, David Sills, James Bradfield and Steve Massey.

Council Absent: Mayor Cole, Scott Cooper, and Sloan Nelson.

City Staff Present: Debra Dudley, City Admin./Fin. Dir./City Recorder; Police Chief Griffith; and Jim Dahlquist, Public Works Supervisor.

City Attorney Absent: Steve Petersen.

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda: None.

Mayor's Address:

Dahlquist introduced Eric Schaffner as the newly hired Public Works Utility Worker. Vilardi swore in Michael Taggart and Melissa McCullough-Coltrin as Rainier Police Department Reserve Officers.

Visitor Comments:

Bill Dias, Senior Center Director, stated the center received orders from the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) requesting financial records and other documents. Dias asked the City to draft a letter describing the relationship between the City and the Senior Center. Dudley stated she will work with Dias regarding the letter.

Skip Lahti, 29843 Riverview Drive, Rainier, OR 97048 expressed concern for the emergency response plan discussed at the last council work session in case an oil train blows up. Lahti stated he has done research on this subject. Chief Griffith stated there is an emergency response plan at City Hall and that he has a copy of the City's plans and it does not specifically address an oil spill by trains. Lahti expressed concern regarding the sewer rate change for commercial businesses stating he consults for a business that will see a large increase if Council passes the resolution. Dudley explained there was a public hearing in July and tonight was a continuation of the public process. Dudley added prior to the meeting, the City sent out over 116 letters to the commercial business owners that will be affected by the increase and less than 2% attended the public hearing.

Darrel Whipple, 76439 Alston-Mayger Road, Rainier, OR 97048 announced the Friends of Fox Creek annual meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2014, 6:30 PM at El Tapatio Restaurant.

Connie Budge, 29711 View Street, Rainier, OR 97048 stated she is in support of safe and healthy economic progress in Columbia County. Budge expressed concern regarding the slope stability in regard to current and future rail traffic. Budge stated it was time to update the 1989 slope stability study. (See attached written comments/questions dated 2-18-14 submitted to Council by Budge).

Unfinished Business:

a. Approve February 3, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes: Massey moved, Sills 2nd, to approve the minutes as presented – **motion passed unanimously.**

b. Approve February 3, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes: Sills moved, Massey 2nd, to approve the minutes as presented – **motion passed unanimously.**

c. “A” Street Update: Dudley stated the project is moving forward and ODOT is working to identify funds to pay for their scope of work on the project.

d. Highway 30/”B” Street Update: Dudley reported Tom Weatherford, ODOT, stated the project is on schedule, they are working on environmental issues and should be ready to start this late summer or early fall in order to complete the project.

e. Street Improvement Update: Dahlquist said he compiled a list of streets in need of repairs and will prioritize the list by traffic and cost.

f. Senior Center Update: Dudley stated the Senior Center board members are working through some information requested by the Department of Justice.

New Business:

a. Presentation of the 2012/2013 Financial Audit: Jason Tinder, auditor for Pauly, Rogers and Co., explained the audit process and said the City received a clean report and the Rainier Economic Development Council could not be included. Council complimented staff on doing a good job. Sills moved, Massey 2nd, to accept the audit report from Pauly, Rogers and Co. for fiscal year 2012-2013 as presented – **motion passed unanimously.**

b. Approve Agreement with Western Collection Bureau, Inc. for the Collection of Past Due Accounts: Dudley stated this is a renewal of the existing agreement that expands the service to

request the Oregon Department of Revenue garnish tax refunds of individuals with past due citation accounts. Sills moved, Massey 2nd, to approve the agreement – **motion passed unanimously.**

c. Discuss Columbia County Jail Levy Support: Dudley stated, per Mayor Cole, they were looking for consensus to see if the Council wishes to encourage the Columbia County Commissioners to place a jail operation levy on the May ballot. Massey moved, Bradfield 2nd, to encourage the County Commissioners to have the jail levy go before the voters. Sills expressed concern on why the levy was previously voted down and stated he would like Sheriff Dickerson to hold a hearing in Rainier. **Motion passed unanimously.**

d. Approve Resolution 14-02-01 Adopting Water Rates: Dudley explained the resolution is to adopt water rates, residential and commercial, in the City of Rainier for fiscal year 2013-2014. Dudley added the resolution formalizes the 0% increase to the water rates based on the financial solvency of the enterprise fund. Sills moved, Massey 2nd, to approve Resolution 14-02-01 – **motion passed unanimously.**

e. Approve Resolution 14-02-02 Adopting Water Rates for Residential Users Outside City Limits for Fiscal Year 2013-2014: Dudley explained the resolution identifies within the body of the resolution Council action from 2009, whereas the base rate for users outside the City was doubled. The City currently has five users. Sills moved, Massey 2nd, to approve Resolution 14-02-02 – **motion passed unanimously.**

f. Approve Resolution 14-02-03 Adopting Sewer Rates Outside City Limits – Dudley explained this was for fiscal year 2013-2014 and identifies within the body of the resolution Council action from 2009, whereas the base rate for users outside the City was doubled. This City currently has two users. Massey moved, Sills 2nd, to approve Resolution 14-02-03 – **motion passed unanimously.**

g. Approve Resolution 14-02-04 Adopting Sewer Rates: Dudley explained this resolution for fiscal year 2013-2014 formalizes the 0% increase to the sewer rates for residential customers; based on the financial solvency of this enterprise fund. Massey moved, Sills 2nd, to approve Resolution 14-02-04 – **motion passed unanimously.**

h. Approve Resolution 14-02-05 Adopting Commercial Sewer Rates: Dudley stated this was for fiscal year 2013-2014 and, as directed by Council, repeals the EDU formula and replaces it with a consumption based formula. Dudley reminded Council a special committee was formed to review rate structures and by consensus agreed that rates based on consumption provided the most fair and equitable formula. Dudley added there have been numerous meetings, public hearings and

numerous discussions at council meetings regarding this matter. Massey moved, Sills 2nd, to approve Resolution 14-02-05 – **motion passed unanimously.**

Staff Reports:

Chief Griffith – No report.

Dahlquist – New parts were installed at the water treatment plant, two leaks in the water distribution system, the recent snow and rainfall in a very short time put some very heavy flows through the system with minor backups on “A” Street, the crew spent hours attending to the streets during the snow, the drainage project on 1st and “D” Street was started, contacted the various vendors for the river pump project and need Council to approve the low bid. Dudley said we have the low bid and Council will be ready to award that at the next meeting. Sills moved, Massey 2nd, to direct Dudley to go with the low bid rather than bring it back to Council – **motion passed unanimously.**

Dudley – meeting next week on dike recertification and she is assisting the Senior Center with organizing an open house scheduled for April 5, 2014 from 1pm to 4pm.

Council Reports:

Massey - the Attorney General is studying the City’s proposal regarding the timber.

Vilardi – thanked Dudley and staff for the outstanding audit report and thanked the Public Works Department for the great job during the snow storm.

Sills – Appreciates the community comments, thanked Dahlquist and crew for a job well done, and thanked the police department for still making calls during the storm.

Bradfield – this is the first year that during a snow storm he was able to travel the streets and all the strategic places were sanded and plowed.

Vilardi adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.

William Vilardi, Council Member

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