

City of Rainier
Council Work Session Minutes
November 2, 2015
6:30 PM
Rainier City Hall

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order.

Council Present: Mayor Cole, James Bradfield, Sloan Nelson, Robert DuPlessis, Steve Massey and Doug Aske.

Council Absent: Dan Smith and William Vilardi

City Staff Present: Debra Dudley, City Administrator, Finance Director and Recorder.

City Attorney Absent: Stephen Petersen.

a. Presentation by Rural Development Initiatives: Rainier Senior Housing Assessment.

David Wade, Program Associate, Rural Economic Vitality Services, explained the research results regarding senior housing in Rainier. Wade stated the population is getting older and with that comes increased medical care and providing care to those living in rural places and senior housing can bring jobs. Wade stated senior housing is expected to rise in the United States as the population of senior citizens is expected to double in the next 40 years. Wade added senior housing is seniors choosing to stay in their homes and being taken care of by their family and friends to folks who live in campuses where they barely need any type of assistance and then get care all the way including home aid and nursing care; the entire spectrum all in one place and then everything in between would be separate facilities. Wade described the various types of senior housing and referenced funding and assistance resources.

As far as marketing Rainier, Wade said one of the first things to do is put together a pamphlet indicating the assets, market analysis, buildable lands and worth, the proximity to medical care, an available senior center, and offering a percentage of apartments for low-income citizens by possibly reducing SDCs or required parking spaces. Wade stated the next steps are to form a community action team, get the information together and contact developers.

Mayor Cole asked Wade, based on his analysis, if there a need to provide senior housing in Rainier. Wade said the need is there, the population is aging and there are obvious benefits with having seniors living in one place. Wade stressed is the funding available to make that happen and that will require more research. Mayor Cole stated the easy answer is to get a developer for more senior housing but a big piece of the senior challenge is what can City Council do; such as

making sure the sidewalks are ADA accessible, reviewing the water and sewer rates and thinking about some sort of a fixed cost for seniors on a fixed income; allowing golf carts on city streets, and accessory dwelling units. Mayor Cole said in addition to a senior housing development Council needs to research additional means of accessibility. Mayor Cole said on the 18th he would like the interested parties to report how they can make Rainier better for the seniors and how can it be made better for people to be able stay in their own homes. Mayor Cole said sidewalks or asphalt pathways could be a big improvement for seniors since some of the streets do not have any sidewalks. Nelson stated there is a need for adult foster care homes.

Mayor Cole

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

.