

**City of Rainier**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**May 18, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Rainier City Hall**

Mayor called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**Council Present:** Sloan Nelson, Robert duPlessis  
James Bradfield, Mike Kreger, Jenna Weaver, Steve  
Massey, Richard Sanders- via phone

**Council Absent:** None

**City Staff Present:** Sue Lawrence, Public Works Director;  
Sarah Blodgett, Office Manager; Gregg Griffith, Police  
Chief; Debbie Dudley, Budget Officer-via phone

**City Attorney Present:** No

**Flag Salute**

**Additions/Deletions from the Agenda-** Mayor Cole asked to have Hudson  
Garbage added to the agenda. Kreger moved, Massey 2<sup>nd</sup>, to add Hudson  
Garbage to the agenda-**motion passed unanimously**

**Mayor's Address:** None

**Visitor Comments:** None

**Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

**Consider Approval of the April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes-**  
Nelson moved, Massey 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve minutes as presented. - **motion passed  
unanimously**

**7c. Hudson Garbage-** Nathan from Hudson Garbage reviewed the provided a  
document showing historical and proposed rates for Rainier and comparable  
cities. Nelson stated that since Columbia County Transfer station had waived  
pass through fees, he asked if Hudson had any increases from the County and  
Nathan replied no. Nelson asked what the pass through fee would have been if  
imposed and Nathan stated .4%. Weaver asked Nathan if Hudson Garbage  
offered any relief programs for their customers and Nathan explained they have  
offered long term payment plans. Weaver asked that the City let Hudson  
Garbage have the fee increase. Nelson stated he feels they (Hudson Garbage)  
should not have an increase on Rainier since they did not experience an  
increase from the County. Mayor Cole asked why the difference in rates for all

the cities on the document and why is Clatskanie's rate lower.? Nathan stated that several years ago they set lower residential rates and higher commercial rates in Clatskanie and that all these agreements had different starting rates. Nathan noted that wages and benefits were the main reason for the proposed rate increase. Nelson motioned to deny the Hudson Garbage rate increase, Bradfield 2<sup>nd</sup>. Weaver stated the motion was confusing and disagreed with it. Motion was rescinded by Nelson. Jenna motioned to accept the rate increase, Massey 2<sup>nd</sup>. **-Motion was not approved with Kreger, Bradfield, duPlessis, Nelson and Sanders voted no.**

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **6a. A' Street Update-**

**Change Order #10-** Lawrence explained they had found two oil tanks and one of them was leaking down on A street and they had to remove property pins and a fiber optic line was damaged. Lawrence noted the change included a credit of \$2480 for the fiber line. Council asked Dudley where the money is coming from for these change orders and was the tank on Steve Hov's property. Lawrence noted that ODOT said it was in the City Right of Way. Dudley stated it come out of the work pertains to water, sewer or streets etc. Lawrence noted that 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> streets paving is being paid for with City money, not grant money and that they can be paved for \$75,000. Dudley stated the City has over \$300,000 in the Street Fund. Nelson asked about ear marking money and if it was in the balance, Dudley stated it was included in it. Kreger moved, Massey 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve Change Order #10 as presented- **motion passed unanimously**

**Change Order #11-** Lawrence read the change order details affecting 'A' street, E. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> streets. Kreger moved, Massey 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve change order as presented- **motion passed unanimously**

**Change Order #12-** Lawrence noted this would be paid from the water fund and that while working on 'A' street storm drain, our waterline was in the way and it needed replaced. Lawrence state our city public works employees replaced the line and the contractors did the rest. Nelson moved, Kreger 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the change order as presented- **motion passed unanimously**

**Change Order #13-** Lawrence noted no change to City, it is included in the project and it is for 100 feet of 3" black tubing rail for the walk along the water quality swale. Nelson moved, Kreger 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the change order as presented- **motion passed unanimously**

**Item #5 is just a detailed material breakdown**

Lawrence explained that a lot of laterals were not counted in the original scope and that we are having to repair or replace them and that some of the laterals were tied to each other and that is a lot easier and less expensive to connect those laterals to a new line that's only 5 foot deep vs. the 12 foot deep sewer line that has the water line above it. Lawrence also noted the sewer lines should be all done by Friday.

**6b. Riverfront Trail-** Lawrence stated she has a bid for the pedestrian path survey and also that easement documents are done. Lawrence stated the bid is for \$19,884 and she will get a second bid.

**c. Fox Creek Update-** Lawrence stated she has a scope of work for the feasibility study that includes three options and she is still reviewing it. Lawrence noted the study is \$84,281 and that the goal is to apply for grants to pay for it. Lawrence stated that we will eventually need to get the community and partners together and review it. Nelson asked to put this back on the agenda in a couple of months. Bradfield confirmed that we are still moving forward and that should appease the state.

**d. Consider Approval of Updated Budget Calendar-** Kreger motioned, Massey 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve Updated Budget Calendar as presented-**motion passed unanimously**

**e. City Administrator Discussion-** Mayor Cole noted that he is looking for direction on moving forward. Malakoff noted he contacted a Prothman and the base fee is \$17,750 plus the Council has to go to their office to give input. Malakoff explained the process and stated he contacted the City of Paulson and it cost them about \$40,000 to recruit using Prothman Recruiters. Nelson asked what about the League of Oregon Cities, do they have this service? The consensus was their only service was posting jobs. Dudley noted the City could look for a recruiter that fits our needs for like a local government personnel institute. Mayor Cole recommended they start with lower cost advertising of our own and if that does not work, then go to the more expensive route of using a recruiter. After further discussion, Dudley and Mayor Cole agreed that they will work on this and have information as soon as possible. Mayor Cole mentioned Malakoff has been helping Sue a lot with the 'A' Street Project and Lawrence stated she has used him when she was not able to attend meetings, working with HOPE, 3<sup>rd</sup> street apartment issues, and that he has coordinated a lot of things she does not have time to do. Lawrence stated he has worked on the park grant and that it would be a loss to her not the have him here

throughout the 'A' Street Project. Malakoff gave a briefing of all the things he has been working on and noted that COVID-10 has added a lot of work for him. Nelson asked what he has been working on and Malakoff stated lately, COVID-19 related items and mostly 'A' Street, and the park grant. Blodgett noted that Council can see his itemized monthly invoice if they so choose. Mayor Cole asked if anyone wanted to keep him. Malakoff noted that he had been doing research on a new City Administrator and that Lawrence and Mayor have kept him busy. Bradfield voiced his concern that he just wanted to know the rules and make sure we follow them in the hiring process. Mayor Cole asked Lawrence for her recommendation, Lawrence stated until the end of the 'A' Street Project, which is two more months. Mayor Cole recommended July 31<sup>st</sup> as the last day for Malakoff as the drop-dead date. Kreger motioned to retain Malakoff until the end of July, Bradfield- **motion passed unanimously**. DuPlessis noted he feels we need to move quickly on getting a City Administrator after Malakoff leaves. Mayor stated if Council wants to for any reason, they can extend past July 31<sup>st</sup> if needed.

**7a. Consider Approval of Resolution 20-05-01 Authorizing the Submittal for a Local Government Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Development of a Parks Master Plan.-** Malakoff reviewed the process the City needs to go through to apply for this grant and that COVID-19 has really hurt this grant as it is funded through the lottery. Malakoff noted the uncertainty of receiving this grant, as last years grants still have not been funded. Malakoff noted that getting the Master Plan done will get them to take a more serious look at our park grant application.

**7b. Consider Approval of COVID-10 Utility Bill Relief Resolution 20-05-02-** Kreger moved, Massey 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the COVID-19 Utility Bill Relief Resolution as presented- **motion passed with Nelson abstaining with a conflict of interest as a business owner**

**Staff Reports:** Lawrence stated she just talked to a lady regarding the SCA grants and the gal looked at the 'D' Loop Waterline Project. Lawrence stated that our guys could do the waterline up Debast Rd. and we could use the grant money for the paving portion and also on East E. between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> street. Lawrence noted for 2021 grant cycle, she is looking at other areas to do street improvements. Nelson motioned to give Mayor Cole authority to sign the SCA Grants, Kreger 2<sup>nd</sup> motion as presented- **motion passed unanimously**

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Chief Griffith noted the state would allow us to stripe defined parking areas on the side of Hwy 30 and that if the vehicle length goes over, they can be cited. Lawrence noted rail arms should be installed by Friday. Nelson asked about the house demo on Old Rainier Rd. Lawrence said she tried to get an asbestos survey so we could burn it. Chief stated the owner died and his significant other stated he would like to save it, but Chief noted we are still moving forward with demo. Lawrence noted we now have an agreement with Clatskanie PUD to maintain our streetlights and stated they will not charge labor and we have to provide the materials. Lawrence asked Council what they want on the light poles.

**Council Reports-** duPlessis stated he walked downtown, and it looks nice and thank Lawrence for working with the Historical Society with getting the sidewalk stamping done. DuPlessis also noted the 2020 RHS Senior Class Flag was nice.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

**City Calendar/Announcements:**

Next Meeting June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 REDCO Budget Comm. Meeting at 5pm  
City of Rainier Budget Comm. Meeting at 6pm at the Masonic Lodge  
301 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

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Mayor Jerry Cole

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Sarah Blodgett, Interim City Recorder