

**City of Rainier**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**June 6, 2022**  
**6 p.m.**  
**Rainier City Hall**

**OPEN BUDGET HEARING – ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSE BUDGET HEARING**

Mayor Jerry Cole opened the hearing on the budget resolution at 6 p.m. No public comment was given. The hearing was closed at 6:01 p.m. Mayor Cole opened the hearing on state revenue sharing at 6:01 p.m. No public comment was given. The hearing was closed at 6:02 p.m.

Cole called the council meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Council Present:** Connie Budge, Scott Cooper, Robert duPlessis, Jeremy Howell, Mike Kreger and Levi Richardson

**Council Absent:** Denise Watson

**City Attorney Present:** No

**City Staff Present:** Sarah Blodgett, City Recorder; Gregg Griffith, Police Chief; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; City Forester Patrick McCoy

**Flag Salute**

**Additions/Deletions from the Agenda:** City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said that Public Works Director Sue Lawrence wanted to add the purchase of a mower as an agenda item. Councilor Scott Cooper moved to add that item to the agenda. That motion was seconded by Council President Mike Kreger and adopted unanimously. Cole said he wanted to add an executive session about legal matters. Kreger moved to add that item to the agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Connie Budge and adopted unanimously.

**Mayor's Address:** Cole noted that it was the anniversary of D-Day and observed a moment of silence in honor of that event. Kreger said that three local students were selected to participate in the Shriners' East-West All Star Game. A plaque was presented to Kenneth Tripp in honor of that achievement.

**Visitor Comments:** Ronald Roche said his neighbors asked him to request speed humps on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. He also requested that the city vacate an easement on West E Street. Jorgensen asked him to send an email about the requested easement. There will be an upcoming council discussion about potentially vacating some city rights of ways and easements. Rainier School District Superintendent Joseph Hattrick congratulated the 78 seniors from the district that graduated the previous weekend. Nick Gratzner said cars have been parked on the street near the intersection of East Second and Highway 30. It's dangerous for anyone trying to make a left turn. He said that there are people living in their cars near the kayak launch area. Jorgensen

said staff is looking into security enhancements and a contractor was in the city earlier in the day as part of that. Staff will be presenting about that at the July council meeting.

### **Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Consider Approval of the May 2, 2022 Regular Council Meeting and May 16, 2022 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes—Kreger moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Robert duPlessis and adopted unanimously.

### **New Business**

- a. IGA with Rainier School District #13 Providing the Contracted Service to Manage the City Library—Cole said he and Jorgensen met with Hattrick to discuss the IGA. They came to the mutual decision to not renew it. Hattrick said he and the district appreciate the partnership. Successes include the remodel of the library and establishing a web presence. He thanked Cole for the good working relationship. Jorgensen went over the various options that are available. A fifth option is to close the library, but he doesn't think anyone wants that one. The library board met that morning to come up with a recommendation for council. He and Budge attended the meeting. Board chair Marcia Roberts said that body had a half hour discussion and voted unanimously to recommend the second option, which would have the librarian be a city employee at 32 hours a week. duPlessis said he remembers past discussions at council about how to keep the library services going. The IGA was a win-win for the district and the city. He would like to keep the same amount of service and include evening and weekend hours. Jorgensen said the library staffing is in the 2022-23 fiscal year budget as a contracted service. But he talked to the city's contract CPA Summer Sears about it. She said it can be changed and the processes to do that wouldn't be difficult. The district advertised the librarian position and received two applicants, including current substitute Allen Snider. There would be enough time for the city to advertise the position and have someone hired and in place by the time the IGA expires on June 30. Cole said that the fourth option of continuing the library staffing as a contracted service could also work. The previous librarian retired, but the district provided a substitute under the terms of the IGA. Jorgensen said he included some materials in the packet to give council information on some options. When he lived and reported in Josephine County, they closed their library branches when the Great Recession hit. A non-profit formed and the county contracted with it to operate the library system. It's now operated as a library district. Similarly, Jackson County contracted with a private company to run its library system. That same company had operated the library system in Riverside County, California. It would be a similar process as hiring a librarian. The city would put out a request for proposal, advertise it for a couple of weeks and council could award a bid at its June 27 meeting. Budge said this could be an opportunity to work on a new strategic plan. She expressed her preference for the second option. Cole said the city can specify the services it wants through a contract. Cooper said that when he worked in IT, many employees were contractors. Councilor Jeremy Howell said that in some instances, there can be a lack of consistency with contractors. Councilor Levi Richardson said that in a small town, everyone knows the librarian. Cole said he thinks that kind of consistency can still be maintained with a contract service option. Cooper suggested that the matter be tabled and reconsidered at the council's June 27 meeting. Cole agreed and asked Hattrick if the city can contract with the school district for one more month of services. Hattrick said he could send over an addendum that would enable that.
- b. Timber Sale Discussion—City Forester Patrick McCoy said there was a previous council discussion about possibly doing a harvest in the city's watershed this summer. Increased

interest rates caused lumber futures to plummet and housing starts are also projected to drop. Prices have become more volatile. Any sale would have lower profits due to increased fuel prices and other costs incurred by doing a harvest. Overall, lumber prices are down 20 percent from their high and 10 percent from the last harvest. duPlessis said the economy is different than it was during the previous discussion. Cole said he's fine with not doing a harvest this year. Council agreed by consensus. The original discussion was to try and do a harvest every other year. McCoy said he could rock some roads to prepare for the next harvest. Budge asked about doing a master plan for the watershed. McCoy said a contractor is working on that and it will cost around \$3,000. That will consist of aerial photography to determine the inventory. The city will then have a better idea of its net acreage and age classifications. Cole agreed that if a harvest isn't be done this year, a master plan should be done instead. He added that the sustainability of the watershed is his goal.

- c. Appointment to Planning Commission Position #2—Cole recommended that Nick Gratzer be appointed. Kreger moved to appoint Gratzner to Planning Commission Position 2. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.
- d. First Reading of Ordinance 1082—Pertaining to Flood Damage Prevention in the City of Rainier
- e. First Reading of Ordinance 1083—Regarding the Annexation of Contiguous Properties and Annexation of Properties that are a Danger to Public Health
- f. First Reading of Ordinance 1084—Repealing Ordinance 1055
- g. First Reading of Ordinance 1085—To Amend the Rainier Zoning Code Text: Chapter 18.50.050, Sections C 2(a) and D 2(a)—Quality of Materials
- h. Consider Approval of Resolution #22-06-01—Related to Adoption of the 2022-23 Budget—Kreger moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Howell and adopted unanimously, with Cooper abstaining.
- i. Consider Approval of Resolution #22-06-02—Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues for the Fiscal Year 2022-23—Kreger moved to approve the resolution. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously.
- j. Authorize Mower Purchase—Cole said public works currently has a diesel-run mower that has lasted for over 25 years. Public Works Director Sue Lawrence has recommended the Kubota. Cooper moved to authorize the purchase of the Kubota for the \$16,714.54 bid that was received. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

- a. Second Reading of Ordinance 1087—Establishing Rules and Regulations for Recreational Vehicles—Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Cooper and adopted unanimously. Budge had some language she wanted to add to a section of the ordinance. Cole said that can be amended at a future meeting.
- b. Riverfront Trail Update—Cole suggested removing the item from the agenda, as the project has been completed. Council agreed by consensus.
- c. Fox Creek Update—Jorgensen said he met with Kate Trudeau, the regional mitigation and recovery coordinator for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM). They went over the grant funding opportunities for the project, and they coincide with the completion of the feasibility study that's currently being conducted. The notice of funding should go out towards the end of August or early September. Then the city would have to submit a letter of intent, which will be informed by the study. The pre-application will take place in November or December. Then the OEM will select projects and award grants. Trudeau will find out the timeline for the grant award and if

it will be a reimbursement grant.

- d. Senior and Multigenerational Housing—Budge said that Mike Avent would like to participate in the committee that will be formed. Cole said council can discuss it further at its July meeting.

**Staff Report**—Budge asked Police Chief Gregg Griffith about code enforcement. He said the department is still down one officer and doing the background checks for its new recruit. Budge asked if the new ordinances will help. Griffith said they will. Code enforcement will be easier to do once the department is fully staffed. Cole asked if Griffith should put together written reports on abatement activity for council packets. Griffith said he could. City Recorder Sarah Blodgett said that new utility billing clerk Dana Potter has been working for the past few weeks and is doing well. Jorgensen said he conducted and completed contract negotiations with Teamsters Local 58 for the city’s clerical and public works employees. They voted to approve the contract earlier in the day. He attended the mayor’s prayer breakfast and worked on the budget. He and Lawrence have been meeting with representatives of a company that provides security cameras, and he emceed the riverfront bridge dedication event on May 29.

**Council Reports**—Cooper was pleased with the handrails that were added to the riverfront trail. Richardson said the dedication ceremony went well and he appreciates the asphalt improvements that were made around the park. duPlessis thanked the police department for putting together the graduation parade for high school seniors. Kreger said he’ll be speaking to the history clubs at the high school and middle school about the city, military and the VFW. Cole said the dedication ceremony had good turnout and weather.

**City Calendar/Announcements**—Cole said the next council meetings will be June 27 and July 11.

Cole adjourned the regular council meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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Mayor Jerry Cole

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W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator