

City of Rainier
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2012
7:00 PM
Rainier City Hall
106 West “B” Street

Mayor Cole opened the meeting at 7:08 PM.

Council Present: Mayor Cole, Sloan Nelson, Scott Cooper, William Vilardi, Phil Butcher and David Sills.

Council Absent: James Bradfield and Mike Avent.

City Staff Present: Debra Dudley, Dan Foultnr, Wayne Smith, Chief Gregg Griffith and Bobby Jo Brusco-Harding.

City Attorney: Absent

Flag Salute

Agenda Additions/Deletions:

Cooper moved, Nelson 2nd, to add request by Heidi Sills to have chickens in the City limits – **motion passed with Sills abstaining**. Mayor Cole added it as New Business, item e.

Nelson moved, Butcher 2nd, to add request by citizen to park travel on street to prepare for camping – **motion passed unanimously**. Mayor Cole added it as New Business, item f.

Mayor’s Address: Mayor Cole read the names of 10 fallen service personnel since the last council meeting and a moment of silence was observed.

Visitor Comments: Connie Budge, View Street, Rainier, Oregon thanked the Council for hearing and responding to her issues she previously addressed six months ago. Budge complimented the public works crew for their response to those items and items that are scheduled to be addressed, asked the Council to consider reducing the speed on View Street to 15MPH and the “spray” policy be revisited. Budge stated the public works with the reduced staff seems to be planning and scheduling, addressing safety issues and ongoing communication. Budge complimented the police department, office staff and public works department on their efforts to seek ways to help the community.

Unfinished Business:

- a. **Approve May 7, 2012 Work Session Meeting Minutes** – Vilardi moved, Butcher 2nd – **motion passed unanimously**.
- b. **Approve May 7, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes** – Vilardi moved, Sills 2nd, - **motion passed unanimously**.
- c. **View Street Update** – Foultnr said the water lines are being marked out and trying to get to it. Nelson asked if Asplundh could be contacted regarding some trees that need to

be cut since they have been allowed to park at the sewer plant. Foultnier said he would check into it.

- d. **“B” Street Agreement Approval** – Has been completed, Dudley is working out a schedule for them to come back regarding acquisitions.
- e. **“C” Street Slippage** – Dudley said Kynsi Construction had been contacted and the weather has prevented them from completing the project but they were planning on finishing within a week to a week and a half.
- f. **Pocket Park Update** – Nelson invited everyone to a work party scheduled for June 2, 10:00 AM, plants have been purchased, the rest of the rock work will be finished this week, still need money to be able to purchase a bench and have enough money for the bark dust.
- g. **Training Update** – Dudley said it was on hold until after the budget process.
- h. **Park & Ride Update** – Dudley reported Petersen was going to research some issues raised by Mr. Lucas and report back.

New Business:

- a. **Presentation by Fire Chief Mike Greisen on Portland UASI Program and Change to Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization** – Greisen is county representative on a project called Portland Urban Area Security Initiative provides grant funds for improving planning, security and response for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive incidents after September 11th. Greisen said the membership includes with Portland and surrounding counties to improve the systems that respond to emergencies. Greisen said they want regional people to respond and have the same objectives. Greisen said they need elected officials to participate, currently the elected official from Columbia County is Commissioner Hyde and they need an elected official from two city governments’ entities and it involves two meetings a year. Mayor Cole advised any council members who were interested to contact him.
- b. **Approve the Columbia County and UASI Countywide Sub-recipient Agencies Amendment for Intergovernmental Agreement** – Nelson moved, Cooper 2nd – **motion passed unanimously.**
- c. **Consider Request to Remove Trees in West “D” Street Right of Way** – Jennifer Nelson, Maple Drive, Rainier – J. Nelson said the trees are small to medium, a tree guy has been hired to remove the trees, the neighbor below her residence signed a document that Nelson provided stating they agreed for Nelson to have the trees on their property removed also and they have no problem if the trees on the undeveloped city right of way were removed. Mayor Cole asked if any of the other neighbors were contacted and commented and J.

Nelson clarified who was affected. Cooper moved, Vilardi 2nd – **motion passed with S. Nelson abstaining.**

- d. **General Fund Budget Discussion** – Mayor Cole moved it on the agenda to after executive session.
- e. **Request by Heidi Sills, 29681 Riverview Drive, Rainier, OR 97048 for permission to have not more than 20 chickens in City limits at her residence** – H. Sills stated the chickens will be in a coop in the back and hardly noticeable from the street, they contacted the surrounding neighbors who stated they would not have a problem. H. Sills presented Council with a copy of a memo whereby the Sills' neighbors signed they would not have a problem with the chickens. The letter stated there would be up to 20 chickens, housed in a coop in the back yard, no rooster and they will be released occasionally in the yard to clean and service the coop. Nelson asked if they have neighbors behind and D. Sills said there is one neighbor down the slope and he will not be able to see them. Cooper moved, Nelson 2nd, to approve the request contingent to neighbor complaints and not to exceed 20 chickens to allow the Sills' approval for the chickens – **motion passed with D. Sills abstaining.**
- f. **Request to park travel trailer on street to prepare for camping** – Butcher moved, Cooper 2nd, to approve the request. Sills asked for clarification and Mayor Cole said this person asks every year and that technically it is illegal to have any RV on the street and this is the only person that every asks for approval. During discussion Butcher moved, Cooper 2nd, to amend the motion to grant Howard Butz's request to spring time specified dates for five years – **motion passed unanimously.**

Staff Reports:

Chief Griffith – The Washington D.C. trip went well and there were 362 names added to the memorial wall.

Foultner – finished the marina project, waiting on the bull rails to be installed, porta potty dispenser in use, done spraying, cut down from one and one half month with one person to five days with two people and last time there was overtime involved, still working on View Street and everything else they are trying to maintain and get on top of as soon as possible.

Dudley – covered in budget session.

Council Reports:

Sills – thanked the Council for approving the money for the police officers and he has received positive comments from the community, is excited about the pocket park and the bench could be an Eagle Scout project or high school wood shop. Mayor Cole commented Ken Neal of Triton Lawn has done a nice job at the project.

Vilardi – hearing good comments from the public regarding the park, appreciates public works and will be assisting with electrical issues for Days In The Park, and interesting to see the christening of the boat at Foss and their progress.

Nelson – attended the christening also and spoke to Senator Merkly about society and cities have so many restrictions for new development that if Foss was to come into Rainier today and we have this small piece of property and want to build tugboats there it would be difficult to accomplish with our current restrictions. Mayor Cole added they employ a lot of people. Nelson said sometimes we can be short sighted and Foss gets along with everybody. Nelson said he was emailed by a citizen with concerns regarding parking and Saturday Market, the market group told people they couldn't park in the parking lot unless they were market customers and they had expressed they were told it was okay by city council that only market customers could park there. Mayor Cole said he got the same email and he suggested some spots for some timed parking. Dudley said she will talk to them and tell them they can't restrict the area and Nelson suggested give them some space for timed parking.

Cooper – thanked the department heads for the budget work and everybody moving forward, commented positively on the electronic packets and Dudley will be ordering IPADS. Nelson requested we check with the local computer store to give them an opportunity for the sale and Dudley said she would check with Michael Carter to see what organization they used.

Butcher – nice article in paper on Riley Painter meeting President Obama, thanked the department heads for the good work on the budget.

Mayor Cole – Rainier Days In the Park coming along, five member board, and the way it is being set up is that after the five people are tired of doing it, it will be an organization that lives on as a non-profit 5013C, and on the public works side there will be minimal help as in the past. Mayor Cole said the organization has dreams and one of the things the park plan called for several years ago was a permanent stage fixture and the organization is hoping to have enough money to build that at no cost to the City and have some permanent power for not only Rainier Days In the Park but for other events also at no cost to the City.

City Calendar/Announcements:

Public Hearing – Curb Side Recycling June 4th at 6:00 PM.

City Council Work Session Meeting June 4th following the Public Hearing.

City Council Regular Meeting June 4th at 7:00 PM.

City/County Dinner Hosted by City of Clatskanie June 19, 2012.

Executive Session: Mayor Cole stated after executive session there will be general fund budget discussion in the regular meeting, there could or could not be action.

ORS 192.660(2)(h) Consult with counsel concerning legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

ORS 192.660(2)(d) To conduct deliberations with person designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

ORS 192.660(2)(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

The meeting reconvened, with Dudley identifying Council's recommendations; the proposed staff reductions include a reduction of the librarian's hours from 32 hours to 20 hours, a

reduction the police clerk's hours from 40 hours to 20 hours, a change to court where the judicial services are once per month and provided under a contracted services agreement. With the proposed changes and including the capital outlay expenses the City will use approximately \$64,527 from beginning cash. Dudley added the potential changes won't take effect until July 1 and after the contract negotiations there may be savings identified that preclude or reduce some of the reductions. Cooper clarified that the budget discussions started with approximately a negative \$130,000, with was just operations and the air conditioning and painting was on top of the \$130,000. Cooper complimented Dudley on an outstanding job. Dudley added that one of the things to remember with the police department budget is that the Teamster's insurance does not meet the statutory requirements so there is an additional cost in health insurance budgeted. Sills requested statistics on the library regarding patron usage and asked if dollars it cost is the best use of dollars, Dudley said she would get that information for him and added that people come in to the library to use the computers also. Cooper asked if we need the \$4,000 of books in the budget and Mayor Cole said they come out of the trust fund and Dudley said that is not a cost to the City. Dudley added the library offers a lot of benefits to a lot of citizens. Mayor Cole said he would like to see research on a Kendall program to promote the library and Dudley said that has been discussed and is being looked at and will make it happen. Dudley said this coming summer the library will be working with the school district to bring children to the library and the study island to the system. Mayor Cole instructed Dudley to bring the recommendation to the budget committee. Chief Griffith added that by cutting the police clerk's hours to 20 hours the officers will be pulled off the street to do half the job the clerk does. Dudley said if the changes are made we will work internally to minimize the effect to the departments and citizens. Cooper said he was sure that could be done. Mayor Cole said general calls could be forwarded upstairs and Dudley said it is hopeful this will not be necessary if the negotiations go well.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

Attested: _____
Debra Dudley, City Administrator, Finance
Director and City Recorder