

City of Rainier
Regular City Council Meeting
January 4, 2021
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall

Mayor Jerry Cole called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Council Present: Connie Budge, Robert duPlessis, Mike Kreger, Levi Richardson, Richard Sanders, Brenda Tschida

Council Absent: None

City Attorney Present: No

City Staff Present: Sarah Blodgett, City Recorder; Gregg Griffith, Police Chief; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Sue Lawrence, Public Works Director

New Business

- a. Swearing in Mayor Jerry Cole and Councilors Mike Kreger, Levi Richardson and Jenna Weaver—Police Chief Gregg Griffith sworn in Mayor Cole and Councilors Kreger, Richardson and Weaver.

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda: Councilor Connie Budge Council President Mike Kreger moved to add that item to the agenda. That motion was seconded by Councilor Levi Richardson and adopted unanimously.

Mayor's Address: Cole said the following day was the 10-year anniversary of Police Chief Ralph Painter's death in the line of duty. A moment of silence was observed to honor Painter's memory. Cole said he will never forget Painter, thinks about him every day and he was a very good friend. The mayor also thanked the new members of the council for their willingness to serve the city.

Visitor Comments: There were no visitor comments at this time.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Consider Approval of the December 7, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes—Council President Mike Kreger moved to approve the minutes. That motion was seconded by Councilor Brenda Tschida and adopted

unanimously.

6. Unfinished Business:

- a. Riverfront Trail Update—Public Works Director Sue Lawrence said construction on the trail should start at the end of the month and will take six to eight weeks. She may have to bring a cost adjustment back to council for the zigzag that was added to the project. Cole said he can authorize it if the cost is reasonable and bring it back to council in February.
- b. Fox Creek Update—Lawrence said that regular inspections are being done. Jorgensen said that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Oregon Rural Development Office was going to have a meeting in December about possibly providing some funding for the feasibility study. Senator Betsy Johnson gave him a list of entities to call for smaller grant amounts and he spoke with officials at the League of Oregon Cities about further funding options. He can follow up with all those once he hears back from USDA. For the riverfront trail, the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments should be doing a call for projects soon. Once it does, he can apply for funding for the project's second phase.
- c. Senior Housing—Jorgensen said he had a meeting with the owners of a property by Teevin Brothers. They are proposing a 150-unit RV park for seniors and he did a site visit afterwards.

7. New Business

- b. Planning Commission Recommendation on New Member—Cole said that Nina Phillips applied. She owns Hometown Pizza, has been an active volunteer for community events and wants to get more involved with the city. The Planning Commission reviewed her application and recommended her appointment. Councilor Richard Sanders moved to appoint Phillips to the Planning Commission. That motion was seconded by Tschida and adopted unanimously.
- c. First Reading of Ordinance 1078—Establishing Business License Regulations for Food Carts—Jorgensen said the draft ordinance was prepared based on the Planning Commission's recommendations and input from the city attorney. It includes parts of a model ordinance and one from the City of Scappoose. Budge has a series of changes she would like to see made to it. Cole suggested that Budge and Kreger work with Jorgensen to refine the ordinance. Jorgensen said he would like some feedback from the Planning Commission. Budge asked about the timeline and if there needed to be another meeting. Cole said an applicant is waiting, so he would like to have it done by the next council

- meeting. It can be put on the agenda under Unfinished Business after Budge and Kreger meet with Jorgensen to make edits to the ordinance.
- d. Tree Ordinance-Jorgensen said this was a continuation of a discussion at the last council meeting. The current ordinance is included in the packet. Budge asked that the state statues about utility company liability for maintenance in public rights of way also be included. Jorgensen put those in the packet to inform the council discussion. Lawrence said she got a question about the city's responsibility for trees in the right of way. That homeowner is requesting assistance for removal and the cost is around \$2700. Cole suggested that the city establish a grant program and establish how much total funding to give it. The council can review requests on an individual basis according to factors like financial need. Jorgensen asked if council wanted him to prepare a resolution. Budge said the responsible party would need to be identified. She suggested that some of the money in the timber fund be used for the grant program. Cole said the program could also be used to encourage and fund the planting of new trees. Weaver said it could give clarity as to which trees are the property owner's responsibility and which are the city's. The program has to be able to help the property owners. Cole said changing the existing tree ordinance would cause the city too much liability. The easiest thing to do would be to create the grant program.
 - e. Tree City USA-Cole said it's always been a dream of his for Rainier to be a Tree City. Lawrence said there are four standards for being a tree city. Cole said having the \$5,000 grant program would help the city meet those standards. A committee can be formed to help administer the program. Lawrence said it could be a subcommittee of a potential parks committee. Jorgensen said he had enough input to draft a resolution. Cole said the subcommittee's first assignment could be evaluating the request for assistance that has already been made.
 - f. Parks Committee Formation-Cole said there are city properties that could potentially be developed into parks. There are also its existing pocket parks and the plaza area. A parks committee could give input to the council and Planning Commission. Jorgensen said people have expressed interest to him about being on a parks committee. He asked if there should be a minimum and maximum number of members, if there should be a residency requirement and how often the body should meet. Cole said the members can be appointed by the mayor and approved by council. The positions should be advertised. There should be a minimum of seven members, with two positions being available to people who live outside of city limits, and a maximum of 10 members. Two members can be councilors, with one as a liaison. Jorgensen asked if the council wanted a resolution for forming the committee for its February meeting. Councilors agreed by consensus. Sanders said that a councilor chair the committee and another councilor be a member at large. He suggested that Councilor Richardson chair the committee.

Councilors, including Richardson, agreed by consensus. Jorgensen said he could ask the members of the Planning Commission if one of them would like to represent that body on the Parks Committee.

- g. Public Works Shop-Lawrence said she received a quote from the company that built the public works storage building to upgrade it to a shop. The condition of the current shop was brought up in Safety Committee, and the cost of doing the upgrade is \$21,197. Cole asked if it had been specifically budgeted for. Lawrence said it was not. Cole asked if there was a line item that could be used. Lawrence said \$5,000 could be taken out of funds for parks, water, sewer and streets, and possibly some in capital expenditures. She can get more specific information and bring it back to council in February. Cole said council could approve it now and make it contingent upon financial and administrative approval. Councilor Jenna Weaver asked if there were any other quotes. Lawrence said the same firm did the original building and this work would be considered an addition to that. The improvements would include security enhancements because the current shop has been broken into. That raises the cost to \$30,347. Budge moved to approve the upgrade to the public works shop, pending administrative, public works and financial approval. That motion was seconded by Richardson and adopted unanimously.
- h. Council Goal Setting Workshop Scheduling-Budge suggested that the workshop be held at the Masonic Lodge. Cole said he would prefer to have it in the evening, starting at 5:30 p.m. Meals can be provided. Having it at the Lodge would enable everyone to be spread out. Budge asked if it could be held in early March. Cole asked if March 10 would work for everyone. Council agreed by consensus. Budge said she would like to have information about the library, senior center and museum and a discussion about the 100-year anniversary of city hall, which will be April 13.

8. Staff Report- Lawrence said she's been working on plans for the riverfront trail and dealing with stormwater issues, sinkholes and a plugged line. The new doors at city hall are scheduled to be done in mid-January and the break room project is still underway. Two stop signs have been installed on C Street and the sewer line for the 4th Street loop has been done. Jorgensen said he participated in the interview panel for the new Columbia River Fire and Rescue chief on December 11. The Planning Commission's December meeting went well. He participated in a League of Oregon Cities conference call about potential funding sources for cities. The city's new IT provider is in the process of onboarding. He's dealt with personnel issues and has been out of the office due to a family health emergency. The issue of adding more security cameras around city facilities came up during a recent staff meeting. He asked council if they wanted to have a discussion about it during the February meeting. Councilors agreed by consensus. Cole said a camera could be set up to

create a safe internet exchange area. Lawrence suggested the plaza as a possible location. Budge said the transportation center may also be a suitable area.

9. Council Reports

10. City Calendar/Announcements

Cole adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

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