

City Council Goal Setting Work Session Agenda
March 9, 2021
Rainier Masonic Lodge, 304 E 3rd St
6 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole called the Council Goal Setting Work Session to order at 6:12 p.m.

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

Council Absent: Brenda Tschida, Jenna Weaver

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

1. Flag Salute

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

3. New Business

- a. Rainier City Council Goal Setting Discussion—Cole said the council hasn't had a goal setting session in a long time. This also give staff the opportunity to discuss some of their plans. Council President Mike Kreger said he would like to see upgraded electrical and water services at the city park. That would help with events there. Councilor Richard Sanders said he would like to resolve situations with zombie light poles that have no ownership. The City should reexamine its franchise agreement with the utility company around this issue. He would also like the City to work on side streets that are in a state of disrepair. There may have to be some new paving or chip seal work, but this may be hard to do without revenue streams. The City could appoint a committee and get some input from the police department about which streets to prioritize. He wants to keep the police department vehicles in good working order. That's better than spending money on repairs or having the vehicles fail. Cole identified a stoplight on Veterans Way as a longtime priority. Councilor Levi Richardson said he's received some input from community members. They would like to see a Saturday Market in the A Street Plaza area once a month and a roundabout on Highway 30 by the park. Cole said a roundabout may be a good alternative to a stoplight there. Richardson said citizens would like to see a pedestrian bridge of some sort over Highway 30 by Fox Creek, a pier for handicapped fishing at the Plaza and more music and festivals at the park. A beautification program would also be nice. Councilor Robert duPlessis said cruise ships used to come to town and that was a big tourism draw. Those ships stopped coming because the city's dock isn't rated for them. He would also like to find ways to bring the city's reservoir online, replace the bathrooms at the park, update the skate park and have new banners on Highway 30. Councilor Connie Budge said she would like to see them on A Street and at the plaza too. duPlessis said the city needs an updated ordinance regulating RVs on private property. Cole said he wants the city to be in full compliance with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) mandates. Budge said

the city's current comprehensive plan was put together by interns from the University of Oregon. The City could contract with Portland State University to have interns put together an updated plan with community input and do the same for its master plans. The Oregon Department of Transportation's traffic safety commission had previously identified the Veterans Way stoplight as a priority. Other cities don't pay for stoplights on their main streets, so she sees no reason why Rainier should have to. She would like to see the city's budget be more of a policy manual and a community communications tool. Sanders agreed. He wants more budget transparency and detail. Budge said she wants the council to receive monthly check registers in their packets. Cole said the City used to do that. He wants to explore financial administration possibilities and evaluate if the City's current system can be improved. Budge said her other priorities include staff development, identifying financial resources, having a contingency plan for equipment and systems, improving the services offered to the community and evaluating the city's operations for accountability. Cole suggested setting goals for the Parks Advisory Committee to get that group started. He wants ideas for city-owned properties and pocket parks. Kreger said he would like to see a dog park at the City property under the C Street bridge. Cole said the committee could come up with rules and regulations for memorial benches. duPlessis agreed and said the benches should be standardized. Sanders said he would like to see better utilization of the old Bank of America building. Maybe it could be used for indoor dining. It's just sitting empty right now and parking is underutilized in that area. Richardson said he would like to see a map of city-owned properties and more promotion of events at the park. duPlessis said the city could make improvements at its RV park. There was a discussion about community gardens. Police Chief Greg Griffith said he wants to build his department's reserve program back up. Cole asked about code enforcement and there was a discussion about burning regulations and having a citywide clean up day. Public Works Director Sue Lawrence said she wants the city's infrastructure to be more sustainable, with an emphasis on maintenance instead of repair. Many master plans need to be updated and there is 14,000 feet of two-inch galvanized pipe in the city that should be replaced. She would like to look into developing a splash park by the water plant. Her staff is working on obtaining more certifications for water, sewer and spray licenses. The city has aging infrastructure and DEQ issues have resulted from that. Cole suggested that Lawrence identify 10 streets that are in need of repair. That list can be given to councilors so they can prioritize them. He wants a plan for resolving the DEQ issues. Council then began to prioritize the previously stated goals and assign responsibility for reaching them. Parks Committee will look at electrical and water services at the park. The street light issue is currently being worked on. Cole suggested having it under unfinished business on upcoming council agendas. The side street maintenance is being addressed. Veterans Way is a priority. The vehicle replacement for the police department is a priority. City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen will discuss it with Finance Officer Debbie Dudley. Parks Committee will discuss the Saturday Market. Jorgensen will mention it at the next Chamber of Commerce meeting. Parks Committee will also discuss festivals and music at the park and the handicapped fishing pier at the Plaza. Staff will have to reach out to the Marine Board about possible improvements to the dock. Cole said the sea lions are a draw and maybe the City should have a dock specifically for them. Lawrence said bringing the reservoir online is being evaluated right now and that will be included in

the water master plan. Parks Committee can take on the park bathroom replacement and skate park update. Council can take on the new banners on Highway 30 and A Street. Cole suggested sponsorships for those. Budge suggested having memorial banners. An updated RV ordinance was identified as a council priority. Lawrence will handle DEQ compliance. Planning Commission and Jorgensen will work on the comprehensive plan update. Jorgensen will work on the changes to the budget. Budge said the plans for the public works department projects should be included in the budget as well. Jorgensen and Dudley will work on adding more financial information in the council packets. Cole said the council may want iPads. City Recorder Sarah Blodgett said tablets may be a better option. Cole said the council should review the city's existing contracts. Blodgett said the franchise agreements can be included in that. Griffith suggested a periodic review of the city's Emergency Action Plan. Budge would like the new fire marshall to present to council at some point.

Cole adjourned the goal setting work session at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator