

City of Rainier
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2021
6 p.m.
Rainier Masonic Lodge

Mayor Jerry Cole called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Budget Committee Members Present: Connie Budge, Jerry Cole, Scott Cooper, Robert duPlessis, Jeremy Howell, Jan Kenna, Mike Kreger, Dena Nordstrom, Ethan Pearson, Jan Rich

Staff Present: Sarah Blodgett, Debra Dudley, Gregg Griffith, W. Scott Jorgensen, Sue Lawrence

Selection of Budget Committee Chair: Mayor Jerry Cole suggested that Scott Cooper serve as chair. Cooper agreed to serve in that role. Kreger moved to appoint Cooper as the chair. That motion was seconded by Rich and adopted unanimously.

Public Testimony: There was no public testimony at this time.

2021/2022 Budget Message: City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen read the budget message into the record.

Presentation of Proposed 2021-2022 Budget: Finance Officer Debbie Dudley presented the proposed budget. The previous budget had conservative estimates, as there was uncertainty about how COVID would affect the city's revenues. There was little to no difference and some areas saw increases. Property tax revenues are up, and the city is receiving more money from state revenue sharing than was originally anticipated. Kenna requested that the machine used to purchase tickets for the boat launch be upgraded to have an electronic system allowing debit and credit cards to be used. Cole said that is in the works. Dudley said the materials and services line item had increased due to higher costs for IT services. Jorgensen said the city has a new provider that has served the city much better, but it has cost more. Dudley said a line item included an increase to fund iPads for councilors. The line item for repairs and maintenance has increased and a capital outlay line item has been reclassified to special projects. This will better enable projects to be tracked and kept separate from general operations. Rich asked about the senior center. Dudley confirmed that was included under special projects. duPlessis asked about court costs being lower. Dudley said the city is generating less in fines, and the state gets a portion of those. The city has also stopped doing misdemeanors through its court, only citations, so its related attorney fees are less. Public Works Director Sue Lawrence said that as part of the ticket machine upgrade, there will have to be security cameras and Wi-Fi installed at the vending station. That has been included in the proposed budget. There may also end up being cameras at the bathroom area by the boat launch. Dudley said the police department's budget includes funding for a new vehicle. During a discussion about the special projects portion of the budget, Jorgensen said that federal relief dollars were divided up equally among the state's legislative

districts. Rep. Brad Witt asked him what projects the city would like to see funded and Jorgensen suggested \$100,000 for the Fox Creek feasibility study. Cole said the city didn't get the ODOT grant for the third phase of the riverfront trail that it had applied for. Lawrence said that roof and gutter repairs at city hall and roof repairs at the senior center were included in a line item for building improvements. Upgrades to the SCADA system and for meeting DEQ requirements were included in the sewer capital budget. The water capital fund includes the anticipation of grant money to fund infrastructure work. Jorgensen said the city should be receiving a total of \$410,000 in federal dollars. It would come in two allotments, one of which would be sent sooner and the other in the next fiscal year. Staff took half of the \$410,000 and broke that into thirds, split evenly between water, sewer and streets. Council has stated a preference for putting those funds towards DEQ compliance. For the library budget, Dudley said the librarian requested more money for books. Ethan Pearson asked about the library's usage. Jorgensen said the library had been closed due to COVID, but so was city hall. Usage is up now that the library is open again and a summer reading program is set to start soon. Improvements have been made to the children's section and people use the computers at the library. duPlessis said he is happy with the library's direction.

Motion to approve the 2021/22 Budget by the Budget Committee: Cole moved to approve the budget. That motion was seconded by Kenna and adopted unanimously.

Motion to authorize a tax rate of \$5.2045 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, and \$503,333 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant debt payment General Obligation bond: duPlessis moved to make the authorization. That motion was seconded by Connie Budge and adopted unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Jerry Cole, Mayor

Attested by: _____
W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator