

City of Rainier
REDCO Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2022
5 p.m.
Rainier City Hall

City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m.

REDCO Budget Committee Members Present: Connie Budge, Terry Deaton, Candis Forrest, Kris Guist, Jeremy Howell, Mike Kreger, Jan Rich

Staff Present: Sarah Blodgett, W. Scott Jorgensen, Sue Lawrence, Summer Sears

- A. Introductions**
- B. Selection of Budget Committee Chair**—Candis Forrest nominated Terry Deaton to serve as committee chair. That motion was seconded by Jan Rich and adopted unanimously.
- C. Public Testimony**—Fred Forrest asked about how the figures for the general fund were arrived at. City CPA Summer Sears said the 2021-22 fiscal year had an ending fund balance of \$492,000, which was carried over. Jorgensen said the committee voted last year to put the remainder of the funds that did not go towards debt service into contingency.
- D. 2021/2022 Budget Message**—Jorgensen recited the budget message that was included in the meeting materials. He added that Deaton brought up whether or not the proposed contribution to Columbia Economic Team’s Small Business Development Center would be an allowable use of urban renewal funds. After conferring with Sears, it was confirmed that it is not. He also conferred with the city attorney about whether anything in the settlement agreement with US Gypsum would preclude REDCO from paying that debt off early. Nothing in that agreement would prohibit that.
- E. Presentation of Proposed 2021/2022 Budget**—Jorgensen gave an overview of the proposed budget. The line item for audit services was increased because the board directed staff to do a full audit instead of a review. Candis Forrest asked about the auditing firm’s performance. Jorgensen said the city was contacted by the state because the audits had not been done in time to meet the required deadline. He called the head of the auditing firm and it was taken care of. The auditing firm apparently had some staffing shortages that caused a delay. Jorgensen said city staff provided all the information to the auditing firm and checked in to see if they had everything they needed to get it done. The state can grant extensions, but the firm never requested one. Deaton asked about the narratives. Jorgensen said that for both the REDCO budget and the city budget, staff removed line items that had not been used for many years, to clean up the document. The line item descriptions typically included needed to be updated to reflect that change, but that document wasn’t completed in time for the budget to be released by its deadline. Next year’s budgets will include those line item descriptions again. REDCO President Mike Kreger

moved to transfer the \$15,000 from the economic development line item to contingency. That motion was seconded by Connie Budge and adopted unanimously. Candis Forrest asked if the line item for membership dues would be sufficient to cover those. She moved to increase that line item to \$500. That motion was seconded by Budge and adopted unanimously.

F. *Motion to approve the 2021/2022 Budget by the Budget Committee—Budge moved to approve the budget as amended. That motion was seconded by Kris Guist and adopted unanimously.

G. *Motion to authorize Option 3 (Standard Rate) Amount From Division of Tax

H. \$300,000—Kreger moved to authorize the standard rate amount from the division of tax. That motion was seconded by Budge and adopted unanimously.

I. If needed, announce time and date to reconvene next budget meeting (May 18, 2021, starting at 5:00 pm)

Or, *Motion to adjourn if budget is approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Mike Kreger, President

Attested by: _____
W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator