

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DuPuy called the regular council meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor DuPuy and Councilmembers Taylor, Carlson, Carson, Sharp and Gorman were sworn in for 4 year terms.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Bryson, Carlson, Carson, Gorman, Sharp, Taylor and Woodhouse.

City Staff Members Present: Police Chief Cox, Fire Chief Baker, City Planner Kovach, Deputy Clerk Olson and Administrative Assistant Siebert.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – December 20, 2023
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #22939-22970 in the amount of \$55,594.51
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #22924, 26399-26402 in the amount of \$35,323.86
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Weekend Vendor Fees
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Legal Services Agreement
 - B. Nomination and Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore
 - C. Authorizing Signature of Agreement between the City of Soap Lake and Connetix Engineering, Inc.
 - D. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Declaring Surplus Certain Real Property Located Along Main Street, Authorizing the Transfer thereof to Soap Lake natural Spa & Resort LLC, and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effect the Transfer
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1343; NEXT RESOLUTION #1006**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

CONSENT AGENDA

M/Bryson, S/Woodhouse; to accept the consent agenda as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor DuPuy summarized a letter received from a resident expressing their appreciation of the City Hall Staff and Public Works Staff for their quick and professional response for a recent inquiry. They were also please with the Code Enforcement efforts and liked the clean up of areas around town.

Councilmember Sharp will take the open position with Grant County Transit Association Board. He was also recognized by Mayor DuPuy for completion of the Association of Washington Cities Municipal Leadership Course and was presented a Certificate.

The Mayor recognized recent Best of the Basin 2023 Civil Servant Awards. Chief Cox was an honorable mention and Officer Rowland received 2nd place.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Fire Chief Baker – shared the Departments Annual Report. Over the previous year, the call volume was up 25% but the response time was down 25%. Last month the department had 42 incidents of which 25 were in the City.

City Planner Kovach – received two new residential permits last month. He has received notice from the Department of Ecology relating to the SMP. This notice will start the 14 day waiting period. He also mentioned that there have been cargo containers spotted at some locations. According to the SLMC, cargo containers are not allowed in residential areas and very limited in commercial areas.

Police Chief Cox – the 2023 year generated 1546 calls for service. The PD's Facebook page is not monitored and should not be used to report any crime and/or complaint. If residents need to report a crime or have a complaint, please contact the PD directly and speak with an Officer.

Deputy Clerk Olson – had nothing to report.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Councilmember Carlson for the Utilities Committee: There will be a public meeting on January 25th at the Community Center at 5:30 PM

Councilmember Bryson for the Creative District: there will be a meeting on January 18th from 6-7:30 PM. This is a combined meeting with the Economic Development group and will include the official launch of the Community Calander. She also thanked everyone that helped with the Ad Hoc Decorating Committee. Some lights have been taken down and the rest will remain, weather permitting, until mid-February.

Councilmember Taylor for the Policy Committee: they will start meeting again this month.

Councilmember Gorman for the LLC: they meet this Friday at the Community Center at 1:00 PM and the meeting is open to the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Aaron Chavez, School Superintendent- asked the community to support the levy coming up in February. This levy funds athletic, art and music programs in the school district. The proposed levy rate is remaining the same as current one. He also talked about the available vocational focus available at the school to prepare students for the workforce.

Kim Anderson, organizer of upcoming music festival- expressed her concern over the current vendor fees. She understands the City's need for the fees but would like to see a tiered system and lower fees overall to draw vendors in to City held events.

Susan Carson on behalf of the Chamber – they appreciate all the local support and have upcoming events listed on their website.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Weekend Vendor Fees – Mayor DuPuy and Councilmember Carson began a discussion of needed changes to the fee schedule. This item was tabled by Mayor DuPuy and will be brought back at a later time with a fee schedule for Councilmember review and approval.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Legal Services Agreement – **M/Bryson, S/Gorman**; to approve the Legal Services Agreement between the City of Soap Lake and Clifford R. Sears and the Sears Law Firm. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Nomination and Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore – **M/Gorman, S/Sharp**; to nominate and appoint Councilmember Taylor as Mayor Pro Tempore for the 2024 year. **Motion carried unanimously** and Councilmember Taylor abstained from voting. Several Councilmembers shared their appreciation for the work that Councilmember Taylor has done as the current Mayor Pro Tempore and consensus was that she should continue working on current City matters and could most effectively serve as Mayor Pro Tempore for another year.
- C. Authorizing Signature of Agreement between the City of Soap Lake and Connetix Engineering, Inc.- **M/Bryson, S/Carlson**; to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement between the City of Soap Lake and Connetix Engineering, Inc for professional services. **Motion carried unanimously.** This service is for the Public Works on-call IT support for water system and computers.
- D. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Declaring Surplus Certain Real Property Located Along Main Street, Authorizing the Transfer Thereof to Soap Lake Natural Spa & Resort LLC, and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effect the Transfer- **M/Sharp, S/Gorman**; to authorize the Mayor to sign a resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, declaring surplus certain real property located along Main Street, authorizing the transfer thereof to Soap Lake Natural Spa & Resort, LLC, and authorizing the Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to affect the transfer. **Motion carried unanimously.** This Resolution is numbered 2024-1006

Next Ordinance #1343; Next Resolution #1007

COMMENTS

Councilmember Woodhouse asked City Planner Kovach to check on recent Grant County discussion about Air B&B’s regulations/restrictions and how it may affect Soap Lake’s codes.

Councilmember Bryson wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Sharp thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked City Hall Staff polite and happy countenance.

Councilmember Taylor expressed her thanks to Council for allowing her to continue as Mayor Pro Tempore. She knows there are some difficult discussions and decisions to be made, but she is confident that Council will make these decisions with their best intentions as representatives of the local residents.

Councilmember Carson recognized Fire Chief Baker for also being nominated for the Best of the Basin Public Service awards.

Councilmember Gorman encouraged the community to stay engaged in local meetings concerning the Lake and it’s current and future health.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Bryson, S/Sharp; move to adjourn at 6:14 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Allen DuPuy, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant