

## MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 20, 2023

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Bryson, DuPuy, Rushton, Slipper, Taylor, Wellein and Woodhouse.

City Staff Members Present: Police Chief Cox, City Planner Kovach, City Attorney Norton, Clerk Treasurer- Finance Director Wade and Administrative Assistant Siebert.

### AGENDA ITEMS

- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2023
  - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #22630-22713 in the amount of \$130,145.55
  - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26377-26382, and #22675 in the amount of \$34,366.16
- **MAYOR’S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. An Ordinance of the City Council of Soap Lake, Washington, Amending Section 2.16.010 of the Soap Lake Municipal Code to Modify the Hours that City Hall is Open to the Public; Containing a Severability Provision; and Setting an Effective Date
  - B. ORW Support Letter
- **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Soap Lake Dog Park
  - B. Local Parks Maintenance Program Resolution
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1339; NEXT RESOLUTION #1001**
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) Current or potential litigation
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

### REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS

**Police Chief Cox** – an applicant is in the background process and should be complete within the month. Officer Leenhouts should complete FTO next month. Please slow down in the School Zone, the speed limit is 20 MPH When Children Are Present.

**City Planner Kovach** – submitted printed report to council. Notified Council that the state building code update has been delayed again until March 2024. He is continuing to work with other jurisdictions to keep the Comprehensive Plan updated.

**Finance Clerk Treasurer Wade** – had nothing to report

**Public Works** – Mayor Agliano gave a report that the Public Works employees have been busy getting ready for winter months ahead. The park restrooms will be closed October 1<sup>st</sup>. Grant County Public Works completed crack sealing. And P.W. fixed sidewalk by Fire on Main.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Mayor Agliano asked that Old Business (B) ORW Support Letter and New Business (B) Local Parks Maintenance Program Resolution be added to the agenda. Attorney Norton asked that an Executive Session be added for possible litigation.

### **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

Mayor Agliano commended the Public Works employees for cleaning up the sewer overflow, working on street sweeping and cleaning weeds around the Police Department.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Policy Committee – Councilmember Taylor asked Mayor for clarification about what policies should be prioritized. A discussion about bulk mineral water sales policy and a possible deadline for this policy being done. Attorney Norton stated that there was no deadline and this policy could take time to develop. Attorney Norton then commented that Committees should state goals clearly and adopt by-laws for bringing reports back to Council. This process should streamline the Committee reporting process.

Councilmember Bryson- the Creative District will meet tomorrow, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-7:30 PM at the Community and Senior Center. The Creative District Director from the state will be attending.

Lake Liaison Committee – Councilmember Taylor reported that there was good participation for the Department of Ecology presentation last night. She thanked the Mayor for writing a letter of support. The resolution passed in 2016 showing Council support for the Lake Liaison's recommendations is posted on thelake.org website.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Sharp, 625 2<sup>nd</sup> Place SE- he questioned why his water bill showed 500 gal more usage this last month, when he had been gone from his residence. He took his inquiry to City Hall Staff and he said at that meeting he was confronted by the Mayor and felt intimidated by her response. He asked City Council to look into this issue.

Susan Carson – on behalf of the Chamber, she listed upcoming events: Shop-About in October, Small Business Saturday in November and Winterfest in December.

Susan Carson, 114 Gladiola St – she questioned the actions of City Staff shutting off residential and business water. She believes Council should look at other City's policies for accepting partial payments and notifying residents of cut-off times. She is aware of one business that paid the water payment, but the water is still not turned back on.

Rebecca Pettingill, 318 6<sup>th</sup> Ave SE – she expressed her disappointment with the Mayor’s recent comments about utility payments. She believes other City’s are willing to work with accepting payments and Soap Lake should also. She encouraged City Council Members to attend other City’s Council Meetings and see how their meetings are conducted.

Thomas Paine, 626 Aster St S – thanked the Fire Chief for a quick response to the fire near Yenny Storage. He believes that Councilmembers should concentrate their efforts on Soap Lake City issues and what makes Soap Lake unique.

Victor Odiakosa, McKay’s Healthcare- he gave an update to Council about the development of the 22 acres of land between McKay’s and the School District. This development plan will be over the next 3-5 years.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. An Ordinance of the City Council of Soap Lake, Washington, Amending Section 2.16.010 of the Soap Lake Municipal Code to Modify the Hours that City Hall is Open to the Public; Containing a Severability Provision; and Setting an Effective Date – **M/Rushton, S/Slipper**; move to accept the ordinance of the City Council of Soap Lake, Washington, amending section 2.16.010 of the Soap Lake Municipal Code to modify the hours that City Hall is open to the public; containing a severability provision; and setting an effective date. **Motion Passed.** Councilmembers Woodhouse, Wellein and DuPuy voted Nay. Councilmembers and the Mayor discussed the history of City Hall’s business hours and the need for the 2 hours everyday for reconciling. Attorney Norton stated that the ordinance could be modified again in the future to fit the needs of the City. She also noted that the current utility payment policy states that payment cut-off time is daily at 4 PM. This ordinance is numbered 2023-1339.
- B. ORW Support Letter – **M/Taylor, S/Woodhouse**; to approve the letter that Mayor Agliano wrote showing support of the designation of Soap Lake as an Outstanding Resource Water – Tier III. Councilmember Rushton abstained. **Motion Passed.** The letter will be signed by Councilmembers and submitted to the Department of Ecology.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Soap Lake Dog Park – a presentation was given by Mr. Barney Berg. He is holding a continuous yard sale at his residence, 228 Moses Lake Ave., to raise funds for further development and improvement of the City’s dog park. The plan would include a separate area for small dogs and large dogs, fencing to divide the areas, weed spraying, clover/grass planting, irrigation and tree planting for shade. He is asking for volunteers to help with this process. The Mayor will add to the volunteer section of the City’s website. The Councilmembers all gave their support for his continued efforts to raise funds to be used for this project.
- B. Local Parks Maintenance Program Resolution – **M/Rushton, S/Taylor**; to approve the Mayor’s signing of the Local Parks Maintenance Program Resolution. **Motion carried unanimously.** This resolution authorizes the City to apply for grant

funding for park maintenance. The award could be \$99,000.00 to use toward park maintenance. The resolution is numbered 2023-1001.

**Next Ordinance #1340; Next Resolution #1002**

**Executive Session:**

- A. RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)- Current or potential litigation
  - Start: 6:38 PM for 10 minutes
  - Extended 10 minutes
  - Stop: 6:58 Pm
  - No action taken

**COMMENTS**

Councilmember Bryson announced that there will be a Halloween event at the Community and Senior Center on October 31<sup>st</sup> right before the Trunk or Treat Event.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M/Rushton, S/Wellein; move to adjourn at 7:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Michelle Agliano, Mayor

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Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant