

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Bryson, Carlson, Carson, Rushton, 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 6, 2023
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #22906-22935 in the amount of \$123,280.15
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26399-26400 in the amount of \$34,142.36
 - D. A Resolution Declaring Certain Personal Property Surplus and Authorizing the Sale and or Disposal Thereof- Maverick
 - E. A Resolution Declaring Certain Personal Property Surplus and Authorizing the Sale and or Disposal Thereof- Kawasaki and Branson Tractor
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. An Ordinance of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Adopting the 2024 Annual Budget Providing Estimated Revenues and Appropriated Expenditures for the Operation of the City
 - B. Bids for Public Works Skid Steer
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1342; NEXT RESOLUTION #1004**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

CONSENT AGENDA

M/Rushton, S/Taylor; to accept the consent agenda as presented with items under New Business added. **Motion carried unanimously.** Resolutions are numbered 2023-1004 for the Maverick and 2023-1005 for the Kawasaki and Branson Tractor.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor DuPuy read a letter received from Grant County Transit Authority. They have an opening for a board member. This could be filled by a City Councilmember, but none were interested at this time.

A proposal for electrical engineering services from Connetix was passed around for Councilmembers to view. This company assists Public Works and they are now requesting an agreement.

The Mayor asked for Councilmembers to authorize him to draft a resolution to trade a small amount the City owes to the Soap Lake Natural Spa and Resort, \$4630.00, for a quit claim deed to a parcel lot located under the Spa's building that is currently owned by the City. A resolution will be drafted and brought back at the next Council Meeting.

The Mayor is meeting with contractors tomorrow to get an idea of the amount of work needed and associated cost to finish the City Hall remodel. Once an estimated cost is determined, a grant will be sought for this expense.

He offered congratulations to the City for it's help in getting Soap Lake designated as an Outstanding Resource Water.

Discussion was had about the gardening area located at Smokiam Park. Currently, the Master Gardeners in the area, under an MOU, tend the area and advise locals on native planting. It was decided that and MOU would not be extended and the local Soap Lake Gardening Club would tend the area and possibly allow local farmers to plant a vegetable garden for the community.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Fire Chief Baker – had nothing to report, but wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

Police Chief Cox – the new Officer started on Monday and will attend the academy in early January. The department has surpassed 1500 calls for the year to date.

Deputy Clerk Olson – City Hall staff moral and work productivity are continuing on a positive note. Karen Dillion, former City employee, will be helping her once a week to reconcile accounts and bring records current. This process will probably take a year.

City Planner Kovach – will bring a detailed report for the 2023 year permits to the next meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Councilmember Rushton will be reviewing tourism fund requests along with other Tourism Committee members next week.

Judith Gorman, representing the Lake Liaison Committee, wanted to thank the Soap Lake Community and Councilmembers for their support getting the Lake designated as an ORW. It was a long process and many organizations were involved.

Councilmember Carlson along with Councilmember Taylor, Judith Gorman, Nels Borg and Fred Slipper have organized the Soap Lake Utilities Committee. They will be reviewing the Gray & Osborne report for recommendations of fee options for the Water/Sewer/Garbage rates that would provide revenues for services and future upgrades/repairs. They will bring a recommendation to the Council soon.

Councilmember Bryson for the Economic Development Committee and the Creative Arts District would like to invite the community to the next meeting on January 18, 2024. The meeting will be at the Senior and Community Center from 6:00-7:30 PM. Discussion will include the community calendar and networking with local groups that support common goals. Door prizes and food will be available at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Page, 636 Aster St- encouraged the City to purchase the skid steer as many side streets are in need of grading. He also thanked Councilmember Rushton for her long-time service to the community and Councilmember Carson for her concern over utility rate increases to local residents.

Nel Kovach, 913 3rd Ave NW- she wanted to remind Council that the discussion around weekend vendor fees was tabled a while back and should be brought back for Council to review.

Mayor Dupuy presented Councilmember Rushton with a Key to the City for her dedication and service to the City of Soap Lake for over 20 years. A standing round of applause was received by Councilmember Rushton.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. An Ordinance of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Adopting the 2024 Annual Budget Providing Estimated Revenues and Appropriated Expenditures for the Operation of the City- **M/Sharp, S/Carlson**; move to adopt the ordinance of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, adopting the 2024 annual budget providing estimated revenues and appropriated expenditures for the operation of the City. **Motion carried unanimously.** Ordinance is numbered 2023-1342.
- B. Bids for Public Works Skid Steer – **M/Sharp, S/Bryson**; move to accept the seven (7) year financing option, to finance the amount of \$51,052.31, for 84 monthly payments of \$869.00 at a fixed rate of 5.99%, to purchase the John Deere 325G with bucket and forks. **Motion carried unanimously.** City will put a down payment of \$50,000.00 from sales of surplus items.

Next Ordinance #1343; Next Resolution #1006

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Current or Potential Litigation RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

Start: 6:21 PM for 15 minutes

End: 6:36 PM

No action taken.

COMMENTS

Councilmember Bryson would like G & O to review street lighting. Some areas that are popular walking routes are not well lit for the winter evenings.

Councilmember Sharp will be updating the City's website with information on meeting times and locations for the committees. Also, a link to view recorded meetings will be added.

Councilmember Carson stated that Chamber meetings will become public meetings since many of the Chamber members are also City Councilmembers.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Bryson, S/Taylor; move to adjourn at 6:42 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Allen DuPuy, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant