

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 3, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Council members present: Mayor Kovach, Agliano, Arnold, Rushton, Sanderson, Still and Tweedy.

City Staff Members Present: Police Chief Cox, City Administrator Tijerina, City Attorney Norton, City Planner Piercy, Fire Chief Sheppard and Administrative Assistant Siebert

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2021
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #20806-20837 in the amount of \$59,360.00
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26070 & #26113-26116 in the amount of \$53,152.15
- **PUBLIC HEARING** – Continued, Request for Annexation
- **MAYOR’S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Resolution for Parks and Recreation Plan Update
 - B. Community and Senior Center Lease Agreement
 - C. Municipal Court Clerk Inter Local Agreement
 - D. Soap Lake City Hall Update
 - E. An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake Amending Sections in Chapter 8.06 of the Soap Lake Municipal Code Remove Appendix G (Including References Thereto) and Provide that Rates will be Established by Separate Resolution; Including a Severability Provision; and Setting an Effective Date
 - F. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake Amending Garbage Collection and Disposal Rates
 - G. Tommer Request to Remove Lands from Urban Growth Area
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Interagency Agreement Between the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and Soap Lake Police Department
 - B. WASPC Traffic Safety Grant
 - C. Contract Waste Water Operation Service
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1316; NEXT RESOLUTION #951**
- **COMMENTS**

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

M/Agliano, S/Sanderson; to excuse Councilmember Bratton from this evening's meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

M/Sanderson, S/Tweedy; to add New Business item (C) to the agenda: Contract Waste Water Operation Service. **Motion carried unanimously.** Request was from Mayor Kovach.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

PUBLIC HEARING – Continued, Request for Annexation

Start: 5:40pm

City Planner Piercy said four public comments were received:

1. Ella Rowan
2. Dodi Mendenhall
3. Brenda Thomas
4. Robert Edwards

In summary, all four individuals are against annexation. Their comments will be added to the other nine comments for the official record for this public hearing. Comments in full are available to view on the City's website. <https://www.soaplakewa.gov/news/public-hearing-feb-3rd> City Planner Piercy asked that the public hearing record be left open for an additional seven days to allow the applicant time for rebuttal. He also asked Council that no action be taken prior to the City Council Meeting on April 7, 2021.

Mayor Kovach then asked for any public comment from anyone in person at the meeting.

Marsha Neihart, 419 W. Main: asked where the proposed property was located.

Mayor Kovach then asked for any public comment from anyone attending the meeting via video conference. There were no additional comments.

City Planner Piercy asked the Mayor to go through the call-in users one-by-one so no one would be overlooked. There were no additional comments.

Recording was stopped at: 5:46pm

MAYOR'S MESSAGE Mayor welcomed everyone that was attending the meeting in person and asked for patience as he ran tonight's meeting both in person and via web video conference.

He thanked Chief Cox for his transparency dealing with the recent incident involving a Soap Lake Reserve Officer. The Policy Committee will be reviewing hiring and vetting processes.

A public works employee is currently on administrative leave.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Policy Committee – will be meeting on Wednesday at 5:30 pm at Councilmember Agliano's residence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None in person.

Via video: Susan Carson, with ABATE, would like to hold the Run to the Desert event again in Soap Lake the weekend before Labor Day.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Resolution for Parks and Recreation Plan Update – **M/Arnold, S/Sanderson**; to approve a resolution updating the City of Soap Lake Parks and Recreation Plan. **Motion carried unanimously.** This was a formality, as the Council had approved the plan by motion, but a resolution was needed. The Parks and Recreation Plan is available at the City Hall and on-line at the City's website. This is numbered as Resolution 2021-951.
- B. Community and Senior Center Lease Agreement – **M/Tweedy, S/Agliano**; to accept the Building Lease Agreement between the Senior Opportunity Association, Inc. and the City of Soap Lake with a corrected agreement date of January 2021 and the option to extend at the end of lease changed from a 60 day to a 90 day notice. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. Municipal Court Clerk Inter Local Agreement – no update
- D. Soap Lake City Hall Update – City Administrator Tijerina shared a rough quote for a modular building with the Council. The modular building would provide four office spaces, two restrooms and a conference room with separate space for a break area. Council discussed cost of modular and extra cost for any stairs, ramps, paint, utility hook ups and demolition of existing building. Council also discussed the option of keeping existing Council Chamber area in old building for possible future use to keep cost down. Mayor Kovach asked City Administrator Tijerina to get firm quotes on modular building and extra presumed expenses as discussed by Council for a presentation at next Council Meeting if possible.
- E. An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake Amending Sections in Chapter 8.06 of the Soap Lake Municipal Code Remove Appendix G (Including References Thereto) and Provide that Rates will be Established by Separate Resolution; Including a Severability Provision; and Setting an Effective Date – **M/Tweedy, S/Agliano**; to approve an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake amending sections in Chapter 8.06 of the Soap Lake Municipal Code remove Appendix G (including references thereto) and provide that rates will be established by separate resolution; including a severability provision; and setting an effective date. **Motion carried unanimously.** This becomes Ordinance 2021-1316.
- F. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake Amending Garbage Collection and Disposal Rates – **M/Arnold, S/Tweedy**; to adopt a resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake amending garbage collection and disposal rates. **Motion carried unanimously.** The county dumping fee to the City increased by \$1600.00 per month and this increase is reflected in the new rates. This is numbered Resolution 2021-952.

- G. Tommer Request to Remove Lands from Urban Growth Area – **M/Tweedy, S/Sanderson**; to approve resolution supporting the application of Mr. Tommer to remove approximately 95 acres from the City of Soap Lake Urban Growth Area. **Motion carried unanimously.** City Planner Piercy summarized the problems encountered over the last few years as this land was considered to be developed. With the existing topography of the land and the requirement of private water system development, the original plan to develop this area by the City was determined to be unfeasible. The resolution is numbered 2021-953.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Interagency Agreement Between the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and Soap Lake Police Department – **M/Agliano, S/Rushton**; to approve the interagency agreement between the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and the Soap Lake Police Department. **Motion carried unanimously.** This agreement allows the City to be reimbursed up to \$1500.00 to cover any expenses incurred as the Department participates in WTSC programs and is in effect until September 30, 2021.
- B. WASPC Traffic Safety Grant – **M/Tweedy, S/Sanderson**; to accept the grant in the amount of \$4,110.00 for the purchase of two radars, two scanners and two printers. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. Contract Waste Water Operation Services – **M/Tweedy, S/Rushton**; to accept the consultant agreement for Waste Water Operation Services between Travis Clark and the City of Soap Lake. **Motion carried unanimously.** With the public works employee on administrative leave and the need for the day-to-day fulfillment of operations of the waste water system, the City is in need of a Certified Waste Water Operator III. This contract will allow Mr. Clark to perform these maintenance duties. The proposed contract is for the fee of \$1000.00 per month and allows for additional payment for work done outside of the normal work period.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

City Administrator Tijerina – As needed, administratively, he is keeping track of the waste treatment management and that any operational issues are taken care of in a timely manner. The audit should be concluding soon as the state requested additional documents so they can finish up on their end.

Chief Cox – Monies from the sale of surplus items has been used to pay off one vehicle loan and soon to be another vehicle loan. As a replacement vehicle is due to be purchased this year, during the budget planning, it was requested that these vehicle loans be paid down before another vehicle purchase was made. He also addressed the recent St. Supreme Court ruling decriminalizing simple controlled substance possession.

Fire Chief Sheppard - Gave an overview of yearly calls: in 2020 there were 344 calls compared to 504 calls for service in 2019. Forty-one percent of those calls were in the City. They were also able to install 48 smoke detectors. There were 10 fire alarm calls, 6 structure fires and some outside fire calls. This year there have been 20 EMS calls and one fire alarm call. He has been busy working on a grant from FEMA for \$142,000.00. The department will be re-rated on March 16th and he is hoping that their rating will improve. He asked the City if they would like to be notified about structure fires that occur in the City. The Mayor agreed that this would be helpful information to double check that any structure damage is repaired to City Code and proper permits are acquired. The department currently has 20 volunteers and 12 certified EMT's. He asked Council on their thoughts about the 4th of July celebrations. Council discussed different options and may address at future Council Meeting as any changes made to the current ordinance need to be passed in advance of one year before they become effective.

City Planner Piercy – The City has received 13 single family building permits. At the old school site, 6 homes have been started. Two permits are to develop waterfront properties and should start soon. Development will be monitored, and developers are aware of permits/requirements to meet code. A conditional use permit has been received on the proposed RV site to temporarily extract gravel that would be used for the development. The application will go through a public hearing and then come before Council. This process could take 3-4 months.

Next Ordinance #1317; Next Resolution #954

COMMENTS

Councilmember Arnold commended City Planner Piercy for his continued work in helping develop the community. He was also please with the way Chief Cox handled the recent incident involving the reserve officer. Councilmember Sanderson seconded his comments.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Agliano, S/Tweedy; move to adjourn at 7:11 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Alex Kovach, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant