

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 16, 2022

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, Bratton, Bryson, Rushton, Taylor and Woodhouse.

City Staff Members Present: Police Chief Cox, City Attorney Norton, City Planner Piercy and Administrative Assistant Siebert.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2022
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #21627-21661 in the amount of \$206,325.06
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26166-26167 in the amount of \$43,865.03
 - D. Progress Estimate 1, Phase I City Hall Remodel City of Soap Lake, Grant County, Wahington G&O #21829
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Recommendation to the City Council Regarding the City's Mineral Water Residential Utility System
 - B. Solid Waste Advisory Committee Member Application
 - C. SAKI Cold Storage Refrigeration Grant Award
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** -Performance of a Public Employee RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1326; NEXT RESOLUTION #975**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mayor Kovach asked to add an executive session to the agenda. **M/Arnold, S/Rushton;** to add an executive session for performance of a public employee RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). **Motion carried unanimously.**

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Construction project along alleyways on Daisy St. is finishing up and starting near Smokiam Park. The extension for the RV Park will begin soon.

Cold patch for the pot holes is not a good option. Public works will wait for construction equipment to be done in the area and then price hot patch. The material is 30-40% more expensive right now. A priority list will be made to address potholes located near the center of streets and their size.

Mayor Kovach will be on vacation during the next meeting, so Councilmember Agliano will be acting Mayor Pro Tempore.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Keith Moore-House, 718 1st Ave SE: construction in the area has not included last lot at the end of the street for sewer replacement. He had laid gravel on the street and the construction has disturbed this and left the area dusty and in worse condition.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recommendation to the City Council Regarding the City's Mineral Water Residential Utility System – Ms. Judith Gorman gave a presentation as representative of the City of Soap Lake & Soap Lake Conservancy Joint Lake Liaison Committee. The Committee recommended the following: "Stop any and all plans for reinstating or continuing a residential mineral water utility system. Whether this be 1) via below ground infrastructure, new or repaired, or 2) via pumper truck delivery, or 3) any other means of delivery, as soon as is possible." She explained that much research has been done by members of this committee to come to this recommendation. She would also like the City to withdraw publicizing residential mineral water service availability on the City's website and to amend the ordinances that provide residential mineral water utility service. **M/Arnold, S/Agliano**; to adopt the recommendation from the Lake Liaison Committee. After discussion with the City Attorney, Councilmember Arnold withdrew his motion. **M/Arnold, S/Agliano**; to authorize the City Attorney to draft by the next Council meeting, an ordinance amending the City's mineral water code by removing residential service, to reflect the council's approval of the Soap Lake conservancy and lake Liaison Committee recommendation. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Solid Waste Advisory Committee Member Application – the City received an invitation for a councilmember to serve on the Grant County Solid Waste

Advisory Committee. An application form was provided for those who may be interested.

- C. SAKI Cold Storage Refrigeration Grant Award – The Soap Lake Police Department applied for and received a grant for the purchase of a refrigeration unit in the amount of \$1800.00. **M/Rushton, S/Bratton**; to accept the SAKI 2017-AK-BX-0016 Grant in the amount of \$1800.00 for the purchase of a refrigeration unit for the Soap Lake Police Department’s Evidence Room. **Motion carried unanimously.** This unit is used to store sexual assault kits and other evidence items requiring a cool climate-controlled storage area.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Police Chief Cox – Chief has applied for a \$500.00 grant for bicycle helmets. This will allow the department to hand out helmets to local kids in need.

New signs will be installed in the School Zone areas to include the language “When Children are Present” instead of “when flashing”.

SLPD has recovered 4 stolen vehicles in the last two weeks. Just a reminder to not leave your car running unattended to warm up or leave your keys in your vehicle.

Officer Geates will be attending EVOG Instructor Class.

The School District is interested in an SRO (School Resource Officer). Chief will attend next board meeting and discuss options.

And the most exciting news Municipal Court for the City of Soap Lake is running again. Everything will be processed through Grant County District Court in Ephrata. Chief Cox gave residents a reminder to clean up piled trash, abandoned vehicles and excessive weeds as Officers will be citing for these infractions now.

City Planner Piercy – The City is continuing to see permits submitted for single residence homes. Many vacant lots are also being developed. The six-lot area across from the school was purchased. It will be cleared of old, run-down buildings and six new homes will be constructed. Planner Piercy was interested in the recommendation from the Lake Liaison Committee and is glad to see council’s action on this agenda item.

There was discussion about the requirement for sidewalks along new construction. Planner Piercy explained that this is a requirement and is the homeowner’s responsibility. However, this is usually not done at the time of construction, but rather once the street is improved to allow for the correct (engineered) variances for the sidewalk installment. Once an area is developed and the street is ready for improvement, the City may seek grant monies to help homeowners off-set some of the cost for sidewalk construction/installation.

Next Ordinance #1326; Next Resolution #975 (not noted by Mayor Kovach, but is correct as no ordinance/resolution was on this agenda)

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Performance of a Public Employee RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Start 6:31 PM for five minutes

End 6:36 PM

No action taken

COMMENTS

Councilmember Arnold – would like the ordinance addressing the penalty for bicycle helmets required to be addressed. This will be brought back as an agenda item to change the C-schedule fine.

Councilmember Rushton – would like to thank Randy Martin and Gina Barnett for picking up garbage along the streets on Soap Lake. They have been doing this for the past two years and their effort is greatly appreciated.

Councilmember Arnold and Mayor Kovach would like to coordinate with City Staff and residence a dumpster voucher program, where residents will receive a voucher form dumping waste at the City’s dumpster site and discourage non-residents from using this site.

Councilmember Bryson – asked about scheduling a retreat. It was decided that a retreat on Friday, April 22 at 1:00 would be arranged with a location announced later.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Arnold, S/Rushton; move to adjourn at 6:50 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Alex Kovach, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant