

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 05, 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, Bratton, Rushton, Sanderson, Still and Tweedy.

City Staff Members Present: Police Chief Cox, City Administrator Tijerina, Fire Chief Sheppard and Administrative Assistant Siebert. City Attorney Norton attended executive session.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2021
 - B. Minutes Special Meeting – Council Retreat April 21, 2021
 - C. Claim EFTs & Claims #20923-20962 in the amount of \$181,763.88
 - D. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26081-26087 in the amount of \$35,270.51
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Marina Romary Street Naming
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Poppy Days 2021
 - B. Soap Lake Park Bathrooms & Tourism Funding
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1317; NEXT RESOLUTION #960**
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Consideration of Sale of Real Estate, RCW 42.30.110(1)(b)**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MAYOR'S MESSAGE Policy Committee needs a new Chair. If interested, please submit a letter of interest. More information is on the City's website. The Mayor will review all applicants and make a recommendation to the Council at the next Council Meeting on May 19th.

Deadline for filling for elections is soon. There are three positions that have their terms ending. Position 1 currently held by Kat Sanderson, Position 3 currently held by Dave Tweedy, and Position 4 currently held by Deb Still.

Mayor encouraged everyone to continue COVID-19 precautions as the Governor has paused the state for the next two weeks to reevaluate infection and vaccination rates.

The funding request for City Hall has been approved by both the House and Senate. Gray & Osborne will start construction and bidding process. Mayor is hopeful that construction can start in August.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

A thank you letter was shared by Council Member Still from the Ball Family thanking the Council. The family recently used the park for a memorial service and appreciated the newly refinished and painted benches.

Ella Rowan, 213 Lakeshore Dr.: 1. Concerns Tourism Committee: should not contradict the vision/mission statements for the City of Soap Lake. Should allow anonymous voting by local businesses to show their support for funding of local events. 2. Selling of City land to developers: Park Plan is not being followed and park areas should preserve natural features. 3. Concerning misleading/false information by officials: cost benefit analysis of planned projects/events should be presented to public at least a month before council meetings to allow for public to be informed.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Marina Romary Street Naming – Mayor has reviewed the process for renaming street and there is no wait time requirement, but a public hearing should be held. **M/Bratton, S/Sanderson**; move forward with a public hearing to rename Canna St N from E Main to the Beach. **Motion carried unanimously.** The Public Hearing will be scheduled for the next council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Poppy Days 2021 – Two little Poppy Girls presented Council Members with Poppies. **M/Agliano, S/Bratton**; move to declare Poppy Days for the Soap Lake area from May 15-May 31, 2021. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Soap Lake Park Bathrooms & Tourism Funding – Presentation given by Ella Rowan. Ms. Rowan summarized her concerns about Public Park Bathroom problems: health concerns, cleanliness of the bathrooms, access to changing rooms and the City's ability to maintain park bathrooms. Because the City draws tourist from all over that want access to the Soap Lake water for therapeutic reasons, the City should provide open, clean, and maintained bathrooms. She proposed that the Tourism Committee use the tourism funding for maintaining bathrooms and parks. Any leftover funding could be directed to the library or Senior Center. She believes that events held in the City do not promote the

City's vision/mission statement. She also discussed the possibility of the City hiring a part-time Public Works employee to maintain the bathrooms. She then presented two motions for the Council to consider.

The Mayor and City Administrator Tijerina will give answers to questions that were discussed at the next council meeting.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

City Administrator Tijerina – a reminder that City Hall is still closed to the public. Please contact City Staff by phone or email.

Fire Chief Sheppard – Cautioned everyone that COVID-19 is still infecting people in the Soap Lake area. They responded to 42 calls for service this last month, 9 in the City. There were 3 structure fires. The Survey & Rating has been completed and they have received a 7 for outside of City limits and a 6 for inside City limits. Chief is concerned about some of the addresses in the City that are not easily identifiable or lots that have multiple apartment units with only one address.

Chief Cox – Call volume is up. Sgt. Nulph and K-9 Billy were able to agency assist on local drug search warrants being conducted in the area. One candidate is going through back-ground phase for hiring as officer.

Next Ordinance #1317; Next Resolution #960

Executive Session – Consideration of Sale of Real Estate, RCW 42.30.10(1)(b)

Start: 7:14 for 15 minutes

Extended for 5 minutes

End: 7:33

M/Arnold, S/Sanderson; to authorize the Mayor to work on negotiation and sale agreement of the High Hill property. **Motion carried unanimously.**

COMMENTS

Council Member Sanderson would like the City to consider sponsoring the hydro races this year that would be held in September. After discussion, it was decided to bring this as an item added to the next agenda.

She also suggested that the City could send out questionnaire to local businesses to reach all businesses, not just the members of the Chamber.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Bratton, S/Tweedy; move to adjourn at 7:45 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Alex Kovach, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant