

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 2, 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, Fire Chief Sheppard, City Administrator Nic Tijerina, City Attorney Norton (by phone), City Planner Piercy, and Administrative Assistant Siebert.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2021
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #20984-21015 in the amount of \$147,992.23
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26091-26094 in the amount of \$23,437.34
- **PUBLIC HEARING** – Prioritizing Street Improvements/Repairs
- **MAYOR’S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Planning Agency Recommendation, Rock Crusher CUP
 - B. Allowing Fireworks within City Limits
 - C. City Hall Operations and Cash Handling
 - D. An Ordinance of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Amending Section 9.28.020 of the Soap Lake Municipal Code to Prohibit the Sale of Fireworks in the City; Containing a Severability Provision; and Setting an Effective Date
 - E. An Ordinance Changing the Name of Canna Street North to Marinas Drive
 - F. Consideration of Accepting Donation of Parcel of Land
 - G. Discussion to Update Soap Lake Welcome Signage
 - H. Review of Transportation Improvement Plan
 - I. Tourism Funding Distribution
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1317; NEXT RESOLUTION #960**
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Evaluation of Complaint Against a Public Official, RCW 42.30.110(1)(f)
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

M/Rushton, S/Sanderson; to add item (I) Tourism Funding Distribution to the agenda under New Business. **Motion carried unanimously.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

PUBLIC HEARING – Prioritizing Street Improvements/Repairs

Start: 5:35 pm

In person: Kayleen Bryson, 212 Lakeshore Dr.: Wanted to ask if the improvements were for both sides of the roadway

Written comments: Keith and Bonnie Morehouse, 718 1st Ave SE: would like to see dusty and poor air quality conditions addressed in the area of their residence.

Joanne Rushton, 623 S. Canna St: would like to see paved street continue to 7th Ave SE

On-line: Yana Stundivant, would like Elder, Fern, Gladiola and 2nd Ave addressed

Close: 5:42 pm

MAYOR’S MESSAGE

Would like to thank volunteers Allison Gooding, Kayleen Bryson and Mona Kaiser for helping clean public bathrooms and check on them throughout the past holiday weekend. Soap Lake has been nominated by Soap Lake Conservatory and Colville Tribe for Outstanding Resource Water with a tier 3B designation. If accepted, a review would be done by the Department of Ecology. Mayor Kovach is doing follow-up and will have more details about the process to share at a later date. More information can be found on the Department of Ecology’s web page.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Written comment: Ella Rowan, 213 Lakeshore Dr: Concerned that public council meetings could spread COVID-19 and would like to see attendance of council meetings stay available by web-meetings in the future.

In person: Truly Elliot, Wilber: A student from RISE Academy asking the City Council to approve their permit to sell fireworks in the City.

Burr Beckwith, 33 N Dogwood: Asked Council to consider using tourism funds to pay for maintenance of public bathrooms and possibly salary to employ a person to maintain bathrooms. Expressed relationship between clean bathrooms and tourism.

Susan Carson, 114 Gladiola St: Asked if park dumpsters could be emptied before a holiday weekend to help with dumpsters being over-filled. Also commented on need for clean public bathrooms and said she would volunteer if asked to help out.

OLD BUSINESS N/A

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Planning Agency Recommendation, Rock Crusher CUP – Planner Piercy explained that this was a time for closed hearing for Council to make a decision on the conditional use permit. A public hearing was held on April 29, 2021 and left open for one week for additional comments. It was closed on May 6th. Comments were received from the Department of Ecology and several residents. Upon review of the permit, two criteria were not met. The first, listed under section 17.51.010 Conditional uses of the report, item (C): the use will not be detrimental to surrounding properties or their uses because of appearances, noise, use, or other undesirable features. The second, item (D): the use will meet all standards and regulations for the zone in which it is to be located. The Planning Agency recommends denial of the application. **M/Sanderson, S/Arnold**; to deny the application for the rock crusher conditional use permit. **Motion carried unanimously**. The applicant may reapply at a later date with changes to the application to meet all requirements.
- B. Allowing Fireworks Within City Limits – After much discussion, this item was tabled by Council Member Agliano. Chief Cox may set up a Facebook poll to ask public their opinion.
- C. City Hall Operations and Cash Handling – Discussion between Council Members and City Administrator Tijerina on reasons for closure of City Hall and not accepting cash payments. City Administrator explained that Council had approved closure of City Hall for COVID-19 restrictions and health concerns last year. Also, it is discretionary decision to not accept cash at this time, as many businesses only take payments by credit or debit card. City Administrator will work on a schedule for opening City Hall and bring back at later council meeting. Further discussion was tabled.
- D. An Ordinance of the City of Soap lake, Washington, Amending Section 9.28.020 of the Soap Lake Municipal Code to Prohibit the Sale of Fireworks in the City; Containing a Severability Provision; and Setting an Effective Date – much discussion between Council Members. First vote to pass ordinance failed with Council Members Bratton, Sanderson, Agliano and Arnold all voting Nay. Discussion continued and City Attorney Norton was asked to explain options for the City and Fire Chief Sheppard on permitting and denying the sale of fireworks. **M/Agliano, S/Tweedy**; to approve the ordinance of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, amending section 9.28.020 of the Soap Lake Municipal Code to prohibit the sale of fireworks in the City; containing a severability provision; and setting an effective date. **Motion passed**. Council Members Bratton, Sanderson and Arnold voted Nay. The Fire Chief will have the authority to deny any permits until the ordinance goes into effect next year.
- E. An Ordinance Changing the Name of Canna Street North to Marinas Drive – **M/Bratton, S/Tweedy**; move to approve the ordinance changing the name of Canna Street North to Marinas Drive. **Motion carried unanimously**.

- F. Consideration of Accepting Donation of Parcel of Land – **M/Tweedy, S/Bratton**; to accept donation of parcel of land at corner of Buttercup St S and Lakemoor Dr SE. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- G. Discussion to Update Soap Lake Welcome Signage – **M/Still, S/Agliano**; to enter into a contract with Marshall Signs to redo Soap Lake Welcome sign with funds from the tourism budget. **Motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Marshall explained that he did an inspection of the sign and surrounding foundation. His quote for \$955.80 would include new sign and foundation repair.
- H. Review of Transportation Improvement Plan- Mayor would like to plan a Special Meeting for Council to discuss prioritizing road repair/improvements. The date will be announced later.
- I. Tourism Funding Distribution – **M/Arnold, S/Sanderson**; to accept the proposed budget and include the cost of new Soap Lake Welcome Sign, up to \$1000.00. **Motion carried unanimously.** A proposed budget was presented by the Tourism Committee: \$7500.00 to Visitor Information Center Staffing, \$2500.00 to Suds n Sun, \$2000.00 to Lake Race, \$2500.00 to Winterfest, \$3000.00 to Masquers, \$5000.00 to City of Soap Lake restroom maintenance, \$5000.00 for grant matching basketball court, \$4000.00 Hydros, \$1500.00 Abate Motorcycle Rally, and addition of \$1000.00 for new Soap Lake Welcome Sign for a total of \$34,000.00. All recipients will be reimbursed upon submittal of receipts.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

City Administrator Tijerina – Would like to schedule a budget retreat soon and discuss monies that the City will receive through the American Rescue Funding.

He has conducted a couple of phone interviews and will be having a couple more through next week for the public works position. There were 5 qualified applicants that applied.

Chief Cox – New officer will start tomorrow and will be on FTO until mid-August. She will be sworn in at next council meeting.

Officers were involved in a couple of arrests this past week. One arrest for assault 4 DV that the suspect fled from police and ended up in a home where residents were at. The other arrest was for a suspect brandishing a machete at four juveniles.

Sgt. Nulph is still training with K-9 Billy for tracking certification.

Fire Chief Sheppard – 47 calls for service this last month with 11 over the holiday weekend. 18 EMS calls in town and 2 fire alarms.

City Planner Piercy – Received an email requesting withdrawal of annexation process. Property owner will be working with the county with any proceeding requests.

Next Ordinance #1319; Next Resolution #960

Executive Session – Evaluation of Complaint Against a Public Official RCW 42.30.110(10(f) –

Started at 7:43 pm for 3 minutes to decide if meeting would be closed or public.
Extended 15 minutes for closed session
Ended at 8:02 pm

M/Still, S/Arnold; move to begin search for and hiring of office staff member at City Hall.
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS N/A

ADJOURNMENT

M/Sanderson, S/Bratton; move to adjourn at 8:03 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Alex Kovach, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant