

## MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 16, 2021

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### ROLL CALL

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

City Staff Members Present: Police Chief Cox, City Administrator Nic Tijerina, City Planner Piercy, and Administrative Assistant Siebert.

### AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2021
  - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #21016-21045 in the amount of \$107,286.37
  - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26095-26097 in the amount of \$52,780.85
- **OATH OF OFFICE – Officer Peek**
- **MAYOR’S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. Resolution for Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan Update
- **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Special Event Permit – Suds n Sun
  - B. Special Event Permit – Soap Lake Hydro Regatta
  - C. State Plan of Operation (SPO) between: The State of Washington and the Soap Lake Police Department
  - D. City RV Park Lease
  - E. American Recovery Plan Act Terms, Conditions, and Assurances
  - F. WSDOT – Daisy Street Improvement Letter of Understanding
  - G. Discuss Firework Social Media Poll
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1319; NEXT RESOLUTION #960**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**M/Arnold, S/Bratton;** to add item (G) Discuss Firework Social Media Poll to the agenda under New Business. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

#### **OATH OF OFFICE**

Officer Peek was sworn in by Mayor Kovach

#### **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

Public Works employee will be maintaining park bathrooms to be open on weekends and for special events/holidays.

The school district did receive the grant that will provide coalition coordinators for substance abuse prevention in the community.

The moratorium for utility payments is scheduled to end on July 31<sup>st</sup>. If residents need help paying utility bills, OIC may be able to help. Please check on the City's website for more information.

#### **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Written comment: none

In person: Cindy Rang, 410 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE – Even though an ordinance was passed to help with parking problems along business section of Daisy St., the semi-trucks are still parking there overnight. She wanted to know if signage could be added to help inform where/when parking is permitted.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Resolution for Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan Update – **M/Tweedy, S/Still;** move to adopt a resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, amending and updating the six-year transportation improvement plan and directing the public works director (or designee) to file the six-year transportation plan and this resolution with the Secretary of Transportation and the Transportation Improvement Board for the State of Washington. **Motion carried unanimously.** Mayor said that public comments were taken into consideration as plan was developed. Mike Meskimen, from Gray & Osborne discussed State requirements that the City must meet. This plan does not provide for maintenance of roadways. This is numbered Resolution 2021-960.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Special Event Permit – Suds n Sun – **M/Still, S/Tweedy;** to approve the special event permit for Suds n Sun event on July 3, 2021. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Special Event Permit – Soap Lake Hydro Regatta – **M/Sanderson, S/Bratton**; to approve the special event permit for Soap Lake Hydro Regatta event on Sept. 11-12, 2021. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. State Plan of Operation (SPO) between: The State of Washington and the Soap Lake Police Department – **M/Tweedy, S/Bratton**; to approve the agreement between the State of Washington and Soap Lake Police Department. **Motion carried unanimously.** Chief Cox explained that this agreement allows purchases of military surplus items by the City. Annual cost of membership is \$400.00.
- D. City RV Park Lease – **M/Tweedy, S/Bratton**; motion to authorize Mayor to negotiate an agreement between the Soap Lake Natural Spa & Resort and the City of Soap Lake for a lease of the RV park. **Motion carried unanimously.** A letter of intent to lease the property was discussed. Lessee proposed to pay an annual fee of \$25,000.00 to lease property and maintain/operate the RV park. Lessee’s intent is to improve the property and promote tourism to the City of Soap Lake.
- E. American Recovery Plan Act Terms, Conditions, and Assurances – **M/Tweedy, S/Rushton**; to approve the acceptance of US Department of the Treasury coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. **Motion carried unanimously.** City Administrator Tijerina explained that the City would be receiving funds but spending of the funds needs to be directly related to COVID recovery. Diligent accounting is required to keep track of all funding records for audit purposes. Residential delinquent utility bills can be paid using these funds.
- F. WSDOT – Daisy Street Improvement Letter of Understanding – **M/Rushton, S/Tweedy**; to accept the awarding of federal funds for the Daisy Street (SR 17) Sidewalk Improvements, Phase I. **Motion carried unanimously.** The grant was received, and this is the follow-up paperwork to complete the agreement. Sidewalk improvements will continue along the east side of Daisy St from Main to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.
- G. Discuss Fireworks Social Media Poll – poll showed support for keeping lighting of fireworks limited to the East Beach Park. After discussion from Council Members, it was agreed to keep the lighting of fireworks within the City contained to East Beach Park. Many Councilmembers are concerned with creating a safe environment for this activity. City would like to work with the Chamber of Commerce to organize a public show event for next year.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

**City Administrator Tijerina** – the City has received 40 applications for the part-time assistant position. He is currently reviewing applications and making a list for interviews. A letter of employment was offered to a candidate for a public works position, and he is just waiting to hear back. Employee should be able to start soon. There will be information posted on the City’s website with information for those who may need assistance in paying past-due utility bills.

**Chief Cox** – Addressed the semi-truck parking along Daisy Street: currently working on signage for this area.

Officer Peek will be on FTO until late August. She will be assisting with calls outside of the City to gain experience with/ exposure to different situations for her training period.

Discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with Council and asked if they would like extra officers to be available.

**M/Arnold, S/Bratton**; to allow two extra officers for patrol during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

The Traffic Safety Unit will be conducting additional emphasis during upcoming concerts at the Gorge and during the local Hydro Regatta and Run to the Desert events.

Code Enforcement Officer Ross gave an update on current open cases for code enforcement issues. Current case load is 30 open cases which includes carry-over from 2020 due to the unavailability of municipal court proceedings. He is also helping City Hall contact residents with dogs to update dog license status.

**City Planner Piercy** – Continued permit process for the Purple Sage RV Park is ongoing, some plans have been sent back for corrections. Final review will be done by the City Engineers and development could start later this year. Building permit activity has flattened due to lumber prices, but prices have started to come down and permitting should pick back up at that point.

**Next Ordinance #1319; Next Resolution #961**

#### **COMMENTS**

Councilmember Still showed a drawing of proposed new sign for the library. Funding for the sign is provided by the NCWL.

Councilmember Arnold commended City Administrator Tijerina and Mayor Kovach on the hiring of new employees.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**M/Tweedy, S/Arnold**; move to adjourn at 6:44 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

---

Alex Kovach, Mayor

---

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant