

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 21, 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, City Planner Piercy, City Attorney Norton and Administrative Assistant Siebert.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – July 7, 2021
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #21076-21120 in the amount of \$84,759.51
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26103-26104 in the amount of \$27,298.19
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. RV Campground Lease Agreement
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Contract Award for the West Beach Park Access Improvements
 - B. Agreement with Grant County Economic Development Council
 - C. Teamsters Negotiating Team
 - D. Park Bathroom & Garbage Discussion
 - E. 2021 Legislative Updates
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1319; NEXT RESOLUTION #963**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor has been assisting Councilmember Still with the Community Volunteer Facebook Page. Once the page is working, volunteers will be able to sign up for needs in the City and special events. The page will help track volunteer hours which allows the City to apply for grant funds.

Plans for the remodeled City Hall will be submitted tomorrow and a pre-bid walk through will be done next week. Bids will be accepted until August 10th and a contract should be brought to Council for approval by August 18.

As new construction developments are completed around town, some sidewalks and curb cuts for driveways are not being brought up to City standards due to constraints from existing conditions. These sites are being reviewed and the permitting process is being reviewed as well to prevent future complications.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mona Keiser, 122 Main Ave W: Addressed the restroom and garbage issue behind her residence. She is hoping for the City to take action to keep this area clean.

Steve Wellin, 126 Ginkgo St N: Gave an update on McKay's: they received grant monies from the Columbia Basin Foundation and Lauzier Foundation to finish roof repairs, paint the building, and purchase an emergency use generator. Future plans for expansion will include dementia care wing. The board is looking for people and volunteers are also appreciated.

Susan Carson, 114 Gladiola: Addressed bathroom issues in the park. She would like to see them open everyday for visitors at all times of the week.

Peggy Coleman, 523 Elder St S: has been approached by residence wondering why bathrooms in the park are not open. Would like them to be opened to prevent any contamination in the Lake.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. RV Campground Lease Agreement – **M/Tweedy, S/Agliano**; motion to allow the Mayor and City Attorney to negotiate and settle the RV Campground Lease Agreement. **Motion carried unanimously**. Discussion involved rate structure and possible uses for the Ventek machine.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Contract Award for the West Beach Park Access Improvements – **M/Rushton, S/Sanderson**; move to accept contract from Wheeler Excavation in the amount of \$444,747.00. **Motion carried unanimously**. This project will cover construction street improvements on 1st Ave NW, Division Ave N and Ash St NW.
- B. Agreement with Grant County Economic Development Council – **M/Tweedy, S/Agliano**; to accept the agreement between the City and Grant County Economic Development. **Motion carried unanimously**. Cost is \$600. annually.

- C. Teamsters Negotiating Team- **M/Arnold, S/Sanderson**; to appoint the Mayor, City Administrator Tijerina and Public Works Supervisor Fronsman to negotiate a contract between the City and Teamster’s Union for Public Works Staff and City Staff. **Motion carried unanimously.** The City Attorney and Council Members Bratton and Agliano will be available for review of the draft agreement.
- D. Park Bathroom & Garbage Discussion- Mayor provided an explanation of the City’s efforts to have the park bathrooms open and ongoing issues with piling garbage in the dumpsters. Since a new public work’s employee has been hired, the bathroom maintenance will begin daily for the contracted custodian. Bathrooms will be opened daily and locked each evening. The \$5000.00 in tourism funds will be used to replace bathroom fixtures with vandalism resistant stainless steel design. Future funding will provide for more fixtures to be replaced until all are upgraded. The garbage bins in the park areas are being filled to overcapacity. People (both visitors and residence) are placing household waste, yard waste and cardboard boxes into these receptacles. The bins are for park waste only. Signage will be placed to notify park visitors of the intended use for the bins and any related SLMC violations. Camaras will also be added to the area to monitor unauthorized dumping. Citizens are encouraged to photograph and report violators to the Police Department.
- E. 2021 Legislative Updates- Chief Cox and Sergeant Nulph gave a presentation on recent state legislative bills that directly affect law enforcement and their response to local calls for service. Review HB1054, HB1310, SB5066, HB1223, HB1140, HB1267, SB1051, SB5476, and SB5263.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

City Administrator Tijerina – One new staff (part-time) started on Monday for City Hall and one new public works employee also started on Monday.

Chief Cox – Officer Peek should be off of FTO by end of August.
 Officer Gallaher completed FAA107 course and BBCC donated a drone to the department.
 K-9 Billie will soon begin to complete his tracking certification.
 The department is waiting for an interlocal agreement from District Court for Municipal Court services.
 The dispatch center (MACC) will soon be choosing a new Records Management System because the current system (Spillman) will not be upgraded by the vendor.
 All departments, countywide, will be upgraded to new portable radios.
 A \$1000. 00 grant was received from the Columbia Basin Foundation to fix the drainage issue at the dog impound. Although \$3500.00 was requested to change septic tank and add an exhaust fan, the thousand dollars will get the project started.

City Planner Piercy – presented a yearly permit activity report showing building permits issued by the City.

Next Ordinance #1319; Next Resolution #963

COMMENTS

Councilmember Tweedy announced that he will be resigning his council position at the end of the month due to health issues.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Rushton, S/Arnold; move to adjourn at 8:16 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Alex Kovach, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant