

## MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 17, 2022

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Bratton, Bryson, Sanderson, Taylor and Woodhouse. Later sworn in Councilmember DuPuy.

City Staff Members Present: Police Chief Cox, City Planner Kovach and Administrative Assistant Siebert.

### AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2022
  - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #21911, #26221-26230 in the amount of \$606,251.71
  - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26221-26222 in the amount of \$40,753.11
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. Public Works Grader
- **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Update on McKay
  - B. Soap Lake Prevention Coalition Office Space
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1334; NEXT RESOLUTION #985**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

**OATH OF OFFICE** – Allen DuPuy – Mayor Agliano swore in Councilmember Allen DuPuy. He has been appointed to serve Position #5.

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

## **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

An update on City Hall: on Monday there will be an inspection on the roof membrane. On the inside, all the outlets are working. City Planner added that he will be meeting with the electrician on Friday and an occupancy approval should be granted soon.

A part-time seasonal Public Works employee has been hired. This person could become full-time and train under the Public Works Supervisor.

The Mayor has asked Chief Cox to look for stainless steel fixtures for the park bathrooms. With all the monies that have been spent on replacements over the last 5 years, it would be better to invest in stainless steel for the future.

The Paddle Event was very fun this last weekend.

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

- A. Lake Liaison Committee- Councilmember Bryson said that the committee reviewed their May/June meeting notes and that the Department of Ecology is forming a committee to work on the outstanding water project and they should know more by the end of August.
- B. Economic Development Committee – Councilmember Bryson said they met briefly this month and will meet again next month. They are looking at opportunities for vacant buildings to be used for businesses.
- C. Emergency Management – Councilmember Taylor looked at the comprehensive plan from Ephrata and Soap Lake is part of this. The whole plan will be reviewed in 2023.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No written comments received.

Cindi Rang, presented a summary of the Moonlight Paddle and the Suds n Sun Events to Councilmembers. She also shared information for an Iceland Tour that the Chamber is organizing. She is please with the turnout for both events. Some minor changes will be made for the Paddle event for next year to address some safety concerns. She also said that the porta potties and dumpsters were not put out according to the map.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Public Works Grader – there will be a Public Hearing for the surplus of the Public Works grader at the next Council Meeting on Sept. 7, 2022.  
Chief Cox has been checking different options. To rent a grader from the Moses Lake area would cost \$12,000.00 per month. He has also asked Grant County about a possible contract to grade the gravel roads twice a year and is waiting to hear back. Councilmember Bratton said there may be some purchasing options on the internet, and he will forward the information to Chief Cox.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Update on McKay – Erica Gaertner, the facility's administrator, provided Council with an overview of several events that have impacted McKays. First, she talked about receiving the SIP Grant to purchase the emergency generator to replace the old diesel generator. The new generator and all the cost to install total over

\$902,000.00. The generator will be arriving in January and a switch that is needed for install will not be available until June. She is hopeful, that not to long after this the generator will be completely installed and operational.

ARPA funds in the amount of \$1.4 million were received from Grant County. This money will be used for feasibility studies now and in the future, the facility would like to expand or remodel parts of the existing facility and build new outbuildings. The expansion would allow for services such as senior living, assisted living/memory care and/or a skilled nursing facility. Another need found through the study is more low-income senior living housing, which could be built on the facility's property in the future.

She thanked the community for their support and appreciated everyone who participated in the Luau that was held last week.

- B. Soap Lake Prevention Coalition Office Space – Kayla Isaacson, the local Soap Lake Prevention Coalition Coordinator, has concern over the City being able to provide office space for her. The Mayor is unsure if there will be room in the City Hall building once staff move in and start to operate out of it. Soap Lake School District Superintendent Casey was in attendance and said she would reach out to Ms. Isaacson and let her know that an office space at the School Administration Building could be used. Councilmembers thanked Ms. Casey for her help with this situation.

#### **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

**City Planner Kovach** – The City has received a remodel application for a home, and application for a mobile home with garage, a single-family home and a lot division. Planner Kovach also commented on the Purple Sage RV Park sign. He assured the Council that the developer is still pursuing the RV Park and will be following up with the grading permit next week.

**Volunteer Code Enforcement Officer Ross** – provided Council with an update on open/closed code enforcement cases.

**Police Chief Cox** – last couple of weeks have been very busy with over 100 calls for service. There were a few fires in the area which could be arson related. So, Chief encouraged everyone to call in suspicious activities. The sign tailor has arrived and he will be doing training tomorrow to learn how it works. The sign will be used to notify traffic of any need to re-route due to accidents and to announce any emergencies. He has contacted the Fire Marshall in Ephrata for a possible contract with the City to investigate fires. The City currently contracts with Q-global out of Spokane area. He will be contacting the Soap Lake Resort about a recent curb that was installed. The curb does not allow access to the area. Tomorrow, the Police Department will partner with the School District and purchase needed school supplies to support local teachers. The Benevolent Fund will be used. This Fund is used to purchase items throughout the year during events like Shop with a Cop and Trunk r Treat.

**Next Ordinance #1334; Next Resolution #985**

**COMMENTS**

Councilmember Taylor asked about donations to the Benevolent Fund. Chief Cox said they can be dropped off at City Hall or mailed in. Just note that the money goes to the Benevolent Fund and a receipt can be provided.

Mayor Agliano wanted to remind Council that the Gray & Osborne presentation will be at the City Council Workshop scheduled for Monday, August 22, from 3-5 pm at the Senior Center. She would also like to schedule a budget meeting. After discussion, she will check for availability of the Senior Center for Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> from 4-6 pm.

A quick reminder that the Run to the Desert event will take place the last weekend in August, from the 26-28<sup>th</sup>.

Finance Clerk, Ruth, will be attending a week-long training for Springbook. And the Mayor has decided to keep using the fiscal consulting services to help with this year’s budgeting process.

Councilmember Bryson wanted to make sure that the City Attorney was still in the process of working on the lease agreement with the Senior Center.

Councilmember Sanderson would like to discuss increasing the salary for the Mayor. She said that the Mayor is working over 30 hours per week at the City and should be compensated for this. She requested that this be placed onto the next agenda.

Councilmember Woodhouse would like the City to look at options to help Fire District 7 with some ARPA funds to help replace fire truck transmission and fix a water truck. The Mayor will look to see if this is allowable.

Councilmember DuPuy asked about helping at the park with fixing some of the equipment. He will check with Public Works and fill out the volunteer form.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M/Sanderson, S/Bryson; move to adjourn at 6:34 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Michelle Agliano, Mayor

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Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant