

## MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 1, 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, Sanderson, Rushton and Still.

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

### AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2021
  - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #21174-21203 in the amount of \$115,497.83
  - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26112-26119 in the amount of \$53,122.78
- **PUBLIC HEARING** - Cancelled
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. Appointment of Council Member Position #3
  - B. Run to the Desert – Event Handling
- **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Soap Lake Police Department EVOC Use Agreement
  - B. Public Works Schedule
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1319; NEXT RESOLUTION #964**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

### MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The Public Hearing was cancelled because the developer will be moving forward with their own contractor and coordinating water/sewer work with the City's scheduled updates.

Last weekends Run to the Desert event was a success. Many people attended. There were a few issues with the permitting process, and these will be discussed and addressed later in the meeting.

The Hydro Races are being held on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. And, a bicycle course event by Vicious Cycles, will be starting at the High School parking lot on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

This morning a preconstruction meeting was held for the West Beach improvement project. Work will start in this area soon and the contractor will be trying to coordinate work around upcoming weekend events as to allow access to the beach during these times.

A reminder that the Grant County Health District is recommending people to wear masks indoors to help prevent spread of COVID-19.

### REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### OLD BUSINESS

- A. Appointment of Council Member Position #3 – **M/Bratton, S/Agliano**; to appoint Karen Woodhouse to Council Member Position #3 for the remainder of former Council Member Tweedy’s term. **Motion carried unanimously.** Ms. Woodhouse introduced herself. She has lived in the area for four years, is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and would like to be more involved in the community and that is why she became involved with the City Council.
- B. Run to the Desert – Event Handling – Event coordinator, Susan Carson, gave a summary of her experiences with her permitting process and her treatment by City employees during the event. She recommends that the City improve the permitting process and make clear distinctions as to areas of the park that are available for the vendors to set up in.  
Her biggest issues were (1) not being allowed to park vehicles in the park when she had asked for this on her permit, (2) bathrooms not being opened/cleaned for the event, and (3) tent camping being unavailable after reservations were made in advance for this event.  
She was able to bring in 35 vendors for the event and had a steady 200-300 people attending. The Poker Run raised \$590.00 for the food bank and about 600 lbs. of food was donated. The total for the cash donations was not available yet.  
She would like to continue working with the City to bring in more events, but as stated before, she really would like the permitting process and above mention issues addressed.  
**M/Bratton, S/Agliano**; to add an Executive Session to the agenda for performance of a public employee. **Motion carried unanimously.** Mayor added the session to be between #13. Comments and #14. Adjournment on the agenda.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Soap Lake Police Department EVOC Use Agreement – M/Rushton, S/Sanderson; to approve the agreement between the Soap Lake Police Department and the Port of Ephrata. Motion carried unanimously. The agreement has a user fee of \$145.00 for the year of 2021.
- B. Public Works Schedule – The City Attorney advised that since the Public Works Department and Teamsters are in negotiations with the City, it would be best to bring this discussion into a closed session.

**OATH OF OFFICE** – The Mayor administered the oath of office to Karen Woodhouse for City Council Member Position #3.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

**City Administrator Tijerina** – The state audit started last week and will probably last through the end of November. A total of four audits will be conducted: standard audit, accountability audit, USDA grants and FEMA grants.

**Fire Chief Sheppard** – The department handled 52 calls in August. In the City there were 25 medical calls, 1 vehicle accident and 3 fires.

Chief is still waiting to see if the FEMA grant for \$142,000.00 will be awarded for the purchase of new air packs. There are three new probationary fire fighters at the Blue Lake station. If the vaccine mandate holds for local firefighters, he may have some people quit on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Chief Cox** – Call volume is still high. Chief explained the policy on taking dogs into the City’s shelter. The City’s shelter is temporary and only for dogs that are from within the City’s limits. Dogs found outside of the City’s limits need to be taken in by the Grant County Sheriff.

Surplus funds from surplus sales have been used to pay off loan for patrol car.

School is back in session and the speed limit in front on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. is 20 MPH at all times.

The municipal court contract is being reviewed by the City Attorney. Once in place, citations will be issued for nuisance properties.

**City Planner Piercy** – Lumber prices have dropped, so start up building/improvements should begin again.

The RV park is moving forward with utility connections and site prep to include grading. They are asking about light fixtures and wi-fi poles that will meet City standards.

**Next Ordinance #1319; Next Resolution #964**

**COMMENTS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – For performance of a public employee. RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Start: 6:47 PM

For a time of 15 minutes.

Extended for 10 minutes.  
Extended for 5 minutes.  
Extended for 2 minutes.  
Ended at 7:20 PM  
No action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M/Rushton, S/Agliano; move to adjourn at 7:21 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Alex Kovach, Mayor

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Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant