

## MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 6, 2021

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kovach called the regular council meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

### ROLL CALL

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

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

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### ➤ **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2021
- B. Claim EFTs & Claims #21235-21278 in the amount of \$93,527.00
- C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26123-26127 in the amount of \$63,509.72

#### ➤ **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

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

#### ➤ **PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### ➤ **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Marina Romary Proclamation Day – October 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### ➤ **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Signage for West Beach
- B. Boom Lift Rental
- C. Street Fund Assessment
- D. An Ordinance of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Amending a New Chapter 6.08 to the Soap Lake Municipal Code to Allow for the Temporary Keeping and Use of Goats and Sheep to Maintain Vegetation; Containing a Severability Provision; and Setting an Effective Date
- E. Interagency Agreement Between the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and Soap Lake Police Department
- F. WEMS Grant Requirements Acknowledgement Form for High Visibility Enforcement Mobilizations
- G. Interagency Agreement Between the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and Soap Lake Police Department
- H. Estimate – Dog Kennel Septic Tank
- I. SLPD Budget Requests
- J. Mineral Water

#### ➤ **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**

#### ➤ **NEXT ORDINANCE #1319; NEXT RESOLUTION #965**

- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**M/Arnold, S/Bratton;** to add item (J) Mineral Water to New Business on the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.** Mayor Kovach asked for this item to be added.

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

Construction at City Hall will start next week with an estimated completion in February of 2022.

There are around 200 delinquent utility accounts with the City. If residents need help with payments or making payment plans, please reach out to City Hall. OIC information is on billing notices.

Mayor has been working with City Administrator Tijerina on preliminary budget. He asked for a utility rate study to see how the City's revenues will carry into the next year. He is also looking at public projects and the general fund.

A draft from the City Attorney for the Municipal Court Interlocal Agreement is still being worked on.

A Code Enforcement page will be added to the City's website.

A complaint was received from Grant County Health District concerning City property where some construction debris was dumped. The City Attorney has addressed this issue with the Health Department and the City is looking at options for a best course of action. The City may apply for an inert landfill permit or a grading permit or remove the debris. Someone had dumped wood scraps on the property, so the City is keeping the gate locked to prevent this from happening again.

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

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nic Janson: He had written to Grant County Health District in July to complain about the dumping on the property off of Road A. He wanted the dumping to cease and the property to be cleaned up. He wants to know why this was not addressed at council meetings.

Cindy Rang, 410 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE: she is the owner of a residential and business lot. Semi-trucks are still parking in front of her business and others along Daisy St. Many are refrigeration trucks that idle all night long. There was an ordinance passed by the City that no longer permits

semi-trucks from parking in this area. She would like signs to be installed referencing the ordinance.

Debbi Noah, 410 E Main: She agrees with statements made by Cindy Rang. She also said that when semi-trucks park by the park entrance, it blocks the view of on-coming traffic, making it difficult and dangerous to cross the street.

### OLD BUSINESS

- A. Marina Romary Proclamation Day – October 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> – Councilmember Still said that the plaque and street sign have arrived and are ready for installation. It was decided to have the Proclamation Day Ceremony on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Signage for West Beach – **M/Arnold, S/Bratton**; to have the Policy Committee review the RV parking ordinances. **Motion carried unanimously.** After discussion of the many different references to recreational vehicles in the City's Municipal Code, the Council decided to review current ordinances and make suggestions for updates to the Municipal Code to address parking at the beach areas and on the City streets.
- B. Boom Lift Rental – **M/Still, S/Rushton**; to rent a boom lift, possibly from the PUD, to replace the traffic light at Division and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, install marketing banners along Main St. and put up snowflakes along Main St. using funds from tourism fund. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. Street Fund Assessment – **M/Arnold, S/Bratton**; to move forward with resolution for a .2% sales tax on the February 2022 Special Election Ballot. **Motion carried unanimously.** Mayor Kovach shared a power point presentation summarizing the funding revenues that the City currently receives from car tab fees, gas tax and sales tax. The City will be operating at a deficit going forward if no action is taken by the City to increase revenues. After discussion of several options, Councilmembers decided to move forward with a .2% sales tax proposal. If passed during the special election in February of 2022, the tax would go into effect in July of 2022.
- D. An Ordinance of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Amending a New Chapter 6.08 to the Soap Lake Municipal Code to Allow for the Temporary Keeping and Use of Goats and Sheep to Maintain Vegetation; Containing a Severability Provision; and Setting an Effective Date- **M/Bratton, S/Still**; Council would like to review this proposed ordinance and would like it put on the next agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- E. Interagency Agreement Between the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and the Soap Lake Police Department – **M/Rushton, S/Arnold**; to accept the agreement between the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and the Soap Lake Police Department. **Motion carried unanimously.** This agreement allows the Soap Lake Police Department to participate in the Traffic Safety Commission events.

- F. WEMS Grant Requirements Acknowledgement form for High Visibility Enforcement Mobilizations –
- G. Interagency Agreement Between the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and Soap Lake Police Department – **M/Arnold, S/Bratton**; Items (F) & (G) were combined and the agreement between WTSC and SLPD was accepted by Council. **Motion carried unanimously**. This agreement acknowledges Chief Cox as a liaison for the local law enforcement agencies and allows for reimbursement for overtime hours and training.
- H. Estimate – Dog Kennel Septic Tank – **M/Arnold, S/Rushton**; to use sewer funds and grant money from the Columbia Basin Foundation to have a holding tank installed at the animal shelter. **Motion carried unanimously**. Installation of the holding tank will allow drain pipe to carry debris to a holding tank so the kennel can be cleaned and maintained accordingly. Total estimate is \$5626.40
- I. SLPD Budget Requests – **M/Arnold, S/Bratton**; to move forward with the contracts with AXON. **Motion carried unanimously**. Chief Cox gave a presentation that included cost estimates for new body camera and vehicle dash cameras from AXON. All law enforcement agencies are required by the state to be equipped with body cameras. The current cameras that the department is using will no longer be upgraded, so estimates from other suppliers were received. Annual cost for new body cameras for each officer and new dash cameras for each vehicle to include storage is estimated to be \$27,000 for the next five years. The first two years can be paid for with funds from ARPA. Subsequent years could be partially funded from grants.
- J. Mineral Water – Mayor Kovach provided a summary of the current mineral water supply problem for the City. Low lake water levels have exposed the end of the pipe that the water is pumped by. An effort was made by Public Works employees to extend the pipe to reach the lake water, but the pump was unable to prime and pump the water from the lake. Discussion of several different options ensued and the consensus was to look into a limited lease for water rights for the local hotels to help them keep their businesses viable to offer mineral water treatments.

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

**City Administrator Tijerina** – the state audit is underway and should be completed by the end of the year. Invites for the next budget retreat will be sent out soon.

**Chief Cox** – pot holes in the City are also causing damage to patrol vehicles. Axels have been replaced and some vehicles have bent rims. There are some people that are prowling vacant homes. With many homes vacant during winter months, please call in if you see something suspicious.

**Fire Chief Sheppard** – the Fire Department responded to 40 calls in September, 17 were EMS calls in the City, 2 outside fires, 1 smoke alarm and 1 alarm at the school. Due to the governor's

vaccination mandate, 4 employees have chosen to leave the department. FEMA denied grant monies for the needed air containers, but other grants were received in excess of \$25,000. so the air containers will be purchased.

**Volunteer Code Enforcement Officer Ross** – shared updates with Council on open/closed cases and warnings issued. He would like to see the interlocal agreement for Municipal Court put in place as soon as possible, since this has hindered issuance of citations for non-compliance of SLMC violations. He has also been helping City Hall with getting dog license notices sent out and business licenses updated.

**Next Ordinance #1319; Next Resolution #965**

**COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M/Bratton, S/Arnold; move to adjourn at 8:07 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Alex Kovach, Mayor

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Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant